
PAIGH
PAN AMERICAN INSTITUTE OF GEOGRAPHY
AND HISTORY



2018 REPORT

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INTRODUCTION

The Pan American Institute of Geography and History (PAIGH) was founded on February 7, 1928 by a resolution approved at the Sixth International Conference of the Americas held, in Havana, Cuba. In 1930, the government of Mexico constructed the building located on Ex Arzobispado number 29, "Observatorio" in Mexico City, for the use of PAIGH.

In 1949 an agreement was signed between PAIGH and the Organization of American States (OAS), thereby being constituted as its first specialized agency.

In accordance with the current Statutes, only States within the inter-American system can be members of PAIGH. Presently, there are 21 Member States; there is also the status of Permanent Observer, Spain, France, Israel and Jamaica are in this category.

The objectives of PAIGH as stated in Article 1 Statutes of the PAIGH are the following¹

1. To encourage, coordinate and publicize cartographic, geographic, historical and geophysical studies, as well as studies on related sciences of interest to the Americas.
2. To promote and carry out research, work and training in these fields.
3. To foster cooperation between the institutions specializing in these four fields in the Americas and among international organizations with similar interests.

This document describes the activities of the General Secretariat, corresponding to 2018, and is based on actions carried out in the Scientific, Financial and Administrative areas.

It should be mentioned that during 2018, priority was given to the preparation of the Strategic Institutional Development Plan (PDEI)² and the new draft proposal of quota contributions³.

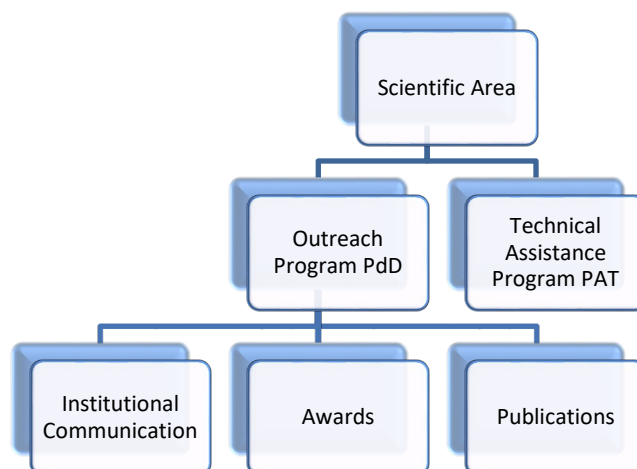
¹ Consult at https://www.ipgh.org/assets/organic_statute_rules_2018.pdf

² By decree of Resolution 3, "Development Strategy of PAIGH", 21st General Assembly, Panamá 2017, consult at [https://www.ipgh.org/assets/strategic_institutional_development_plan_2018-2021-\(002\)_rmf.pdf](https://www.ipgh.org/assets/strategic_institutional_development_plan_2018-2021-(002)_rmf.pdf)

³ By decree of Resolution 11 "Annual Quota contributions of the Member States effective in 2020", 21st General Assembly, Panamá 2017 consult at https://www.ipgh.org/assets/21st-ga_resolutions_1-33.pdf

A) SCIENTIFIC AREA

The scientific area is integrated by the activities included in the Technical Assistance Program (TAP) and Outreach Program. (PdD).



1. TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE PROGRAM (TAP)

The objective of this program is the implementation of specialized actions in the fields of Cartography, Geography, History, and Geophysics, which contribute to regional integration and sustainable development. Its specific themes adhere to the areas of adaptation to climate change, organization of territorial information, managing natural hazards and cultural heritage. These projects should be closely linked to the 2030 Agenda, Objectives of Sustainable Development of the United Nations Organization⁴ and to the implementation of the Pan American Agenda of PAIGH 2010-2020⁵.

The main features of the TAP are:

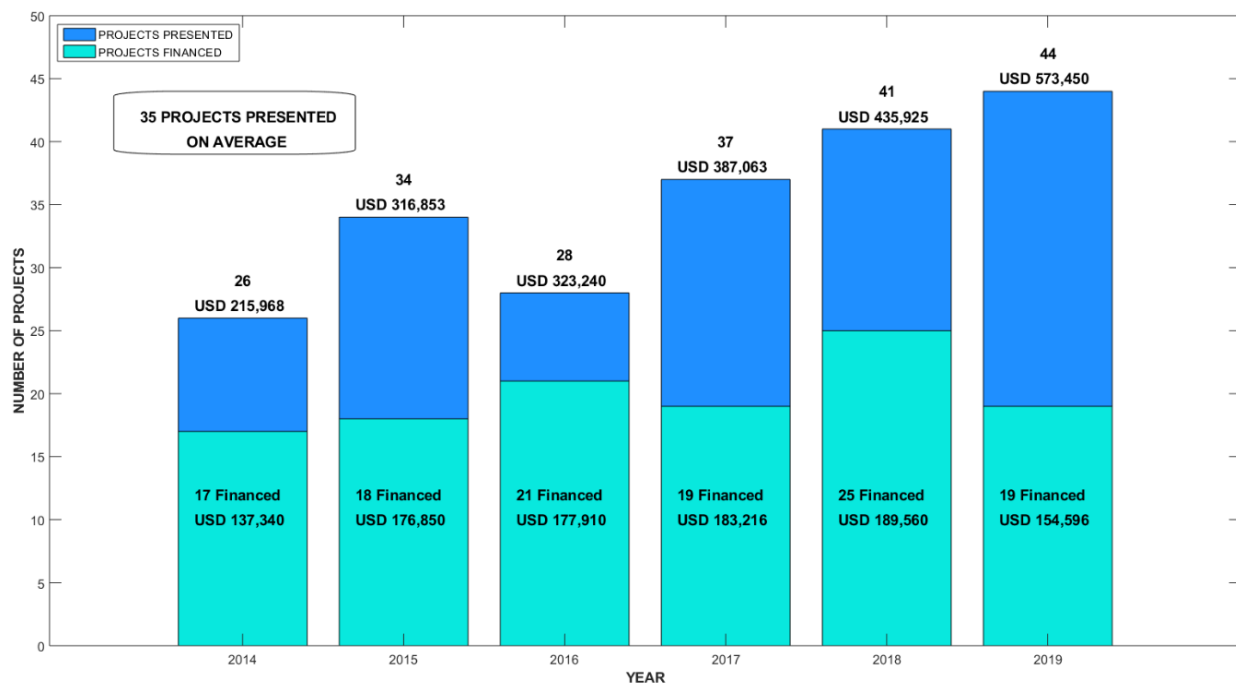
- To include at least two Member States of PAIGH, preferably three for Cartography.
- To prioritize multidisciplinary initiatives, the annual average funding per project on the part of PAIGH is in the amount of USD 8,000, with a minimum of USD 5,866.
- To support clearly identifiable scientific activities, such as workshops or seminars (per-diem, transfers and airfares, the co-sponsoring institution should cover one of these expenses), publications, specialized laboratory expenses, field activities, communications, internet connections, honorarium to experts, duly justified, among others.

The initiatives presented are classified within the following categories: Research and SEED Training.

4 Consult at <http://www.sela.org/media/2262361/agenda-2030-y-los-objetivos-de-desarrollo-sostenible.pdf>

5 Consult at https://www.ipgh.org/assets/pan_american_agenda_paigh.pdf

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A study was carried out to observe the patterns in the presentation of projects, with this information the projects presented and funded by the Commissions over the past six years was consolidated.

TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE PROJECTS 2018

During 2018 25 projects were funded, in the amount of USD 189,560, only 80% were executed (USD 151,639), and funds were reserved for 2019 of the remaining 20% which corresponds to USD 37, 921.

TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE PROJECTS (PAT) 2019

Following the call for the presentation of projects for 2019, 44 proposals were received in the amount of USD 573,450, of which 19 were approved for a total of USD 154,596. As the Technical Meetings of the Commissions will be held in 2019, the Chairmen of the Commissions have included the necessary funding in their budgets for the meetings, in the amount of USD 41,804 in total.

The call to participate in the Geophysics Master’s Program was also launched and a student from Colombia was awarded the scholarship.

MIAS WORKSHOP (INTEGRATED MAP OF SOUTH AMERICA)

The Integrated Map of South America (MIAS) is a cross-border project, the objective of which is the creation of an integrated, digital continental map, at 1:250,000, which contributes to the sustainable development, prevention and integral management of natural risks, climate change studies and their mitigation. Within the joint cooperation framework with the GEOSUR Program, linked to the existing contract with the Andean Development Corporation (CAF), financial support was received for the last two Workshops of the Integrated Map of South America (MIAS). The total value of the project was USD 276,000.

The methodology employed in the workshops should be highlighted, during a week of work for each workshop, it was possible for experts from the official cartographic agencies of the countries involved (PAIGH members or not), to work together, thereby facilitating a transfer of skills, experience and knowledge.

Background:

- The Commission on Cartography of PAIGH initiated the GEOSUR project in 2009, with the support of CAF and the United States Geological Survey (USGS).
- IMCA: Integrated Map of Central America at a scale of 1:250,000, is comprised of Belize, Guatemala, Honduras, El Salvador, Nicaragua, Costa Rica, Panama and southern Mexico. The project was finalized in 2013.
- Extension of the project in 2015: Integrated Map of the Andean Region, covering Bolivia, Colombia, Ecuador, Panama and Peru.

During 2018 two workshops were held.

4TH MIAS WORKSHOP

The workshop, was held in Santiago, Chile, from May 14-18, at the Military Geographic Institute, during which the Military Geographic Institute of Ecuador undertook the digitalization of 27 maps for Paraguay, free of charge. This action constitutes an example of solidarity and cooperation between these countries.

5TH MIAS WORKSHOP

The workshop, which was held in Santa Cruz de la Sierra, Bolivia, from September 10-14, was coordinated by the Military Geographic Institute of Bolivia, during which pending objectives were completed.

Considering the benefit of having a unified database, as well as official, digital, vector, standard and continuous geographic data at the scale of 1:250,000, during the 48th Meeting of the Directing Council, Resolution No. 16 “Integrated Map of Americas”⁶, was approved. It basically encourages the National Sections of PAIGH to utilize the Integrated Map of the Americas as a basis for future projects, which refer to statistics, climate change, and reduction of natural risks, among other areas, in order to avoid duplication of resources.

Likewise during the Fifth session of the Regional Committee of the United Nations on Global Geospatial Information Management for the Americas (UN-GGIM: Americas), Resolution “2018/6 Joint Action Plan”⁷ was approved, which recommends the use of the Integrated Map of the Americas in the Geospatial Statistics Framework for the Americas (MEGA).

⁶ Consult at <https://www.ipgh.org/assets/resolution-no.-16.pdf>

⁷ Consult at <http://www.un-ggim-americas.org/en/contenido/reuniones/Quinta-sesion-LAGF-2018/pdf/Resolutions%20of%20the%205th%20Session%20UN-GGIM%20Americas.pdf>

AGREEMENTS REACHED AND IN PROGRESS

- The Seventh Agreement with (CAF)

The Seventh Agreement with CAF was signed, the main points of which are: Cataloging of metadata, Geomatic Services, GEOSUR Meeting (Integrated Maps of the Americas, Policy Conversations on Open Geographical Data, GEOSUR acknowledgement of initiatives in the region, Promotion and publicity of GEOSUR actions) and Advising the Technical Committee, with a contribution of USD 40,120 on the part of CAF.

- Joint Agreement Metropolitan Autonomous University (UAM)

A joint agreement was signed between UAM and PAIGH, establishing the bases to take advantage of the infrastructure and experience of both parties, in order to collaborate in actions relating to research, training, advisory action, academic exchange, scholarships, projects and cultural dissemination.

- Pan American Development Foundation (PADF)

A Joint Agreement between PADF and PAIGH was signed, which defines the operational mechanisms and financial terms for an effective agreement, decentralized and regional in scope, thereby providing the framework for future joint agreements funded by either party or other entities.

- Universidad Tecnológica Metropolitana (UTEM)-(*Metropolitan Technological University*)

The Joint agreement between PAIGH and UTEM was renewed, seeking to achieve the maximum advantage for the Center of Tactile Cartography. PAIGH and UTEM are committed to collaborating in activities of common interest for both parties, and also to share information and documentation of benefit to both institutions.

- World Network of Universities (UNIGIS)

A joint collaboration agreement between UNIGIS and PAIGH was signed, which establishes that the Institute will be granted a half scholarship annually for research programs, and support in publicity exchanges.

ACADEMIC ACTIVITIES

A High-level Conference and Seminar held at PAIGH Headquarters were sponsored by the cooperating members; the main objective of which was to encourage, coordinate and promote the studies and activities of the Institute, and also to promote cooperation between the institutions, thereby achieving greater visibility within their scope of action; obtaining important exposure with the live broadcast of the seminar.

HIGH-LEVEL CONFERENCE

This Conference was held on August 14, during which Dr. Faviola Rivera of the National Autonomous University of Mexico (UNAM) delivered the keynote address entitled “The Latin American Philosophy of Leopoldo Zea”. This event of historical focus was attended by the diplomatic corps, academia, civil society and the private sector (cooperating members).

SEMINAR

On August 15, a seminar was held on Climate Change entitled “Dialogues on Climate Change: perspectives and challenges”, with the participation of speakers from the government, academia and private companies, which created an enriching experience for the attendees.

ACTIVITIES AND RELEVANT EVENTS WITH THE NATIONAL SECTIONS

- In August, the National Section of the Dominican Republic and the “José Joaquín Hungría Morell National Geographic Institute” (IGN-JJHM) celebrated the XVI Dominican Conference on Geographic Sciences, the main theme of which was “Education and natural risks: integration of geospatial information”. The main objective was to promote the education of physical, social, and human geography in order to connect the citizens to the country. The Secretary General of PAIGH participated in the conference, with a paper on “PAIGH and its relationship with Geographical Information, Disaster Mitigation and Education”, the Vice President of the Institute also made a presentation on “Inclusive Education and the Integration of Geospatial Information”.
- In August, the Regional Committee of the Americas held a meeting at the United Nations headquarters in New York, within the framework of the Eighth session of the United Nations on Global Geospatial Information Management (UN-GGIM) 2018. The main objective was to highlight the progress of the activities of the groups, lines of work and next steps. There was also a working meeting to analyze the progress of the Joint Action Plan.
- In October, the Secretary General participated in the 2018 Symposium on the Geocentric Reference System of the Americas (SIRGAS), held at the headquarters of the National Institute of Statistics and Geography (INEGI) in Aguascalientes. This symposium was to commemorate the 25 years of SIRGAS (created in 1993). It should be highlighted that pursuant to Article 4 of the Statutes of SIRGAS “The International Association of Geodesy (IAG) and PAIGH are members of SIRGAS with equal rights”.

Among the challenges presented, some should be highlighted: the unification of a height system, improvement of data standardization and the search for a greater participation of Central America and the Caribbean.

- In November, coordinated workshops on GPS and ArcGis were held at the OAS office in the Adjacency Zone between Belize and Guatemala, presented by experts from the Military Geographic Service of Uruguay, to the military personnel of both countries.
- During the 2018 Latin America Geospatial Forum (LAGF), the Secretary General participated as a moderator in this forum, which sought to strengthen the role and use of geospatial information in Latin America by connecting agents of the geospatial industry with user communities.

The 2018 conference was of particular interest because it marked 50 years of the official geographic information generation.

Simultaneously, the Fifth Session of the UN-GGIM was held in Mexico City, within the framework of the Latin America Geospatial Forum, with the participation of the Secretary General in Session V: Organizations, initiatives and Regional Networks, during which the concrete actions to be taken in 2019 were established.

2. DISSEMINATION PROGRAM

The Dissemination Program is divided into two basic activities, the Program of Publications (PdP), the second refers to Institutional Communication, particularly relating to publicity through social media networks (Webpage, Facebook, Twitter, Instagram and the new YouTube channel).

Another important activity of PAIGH are the awards presented by the Commissions.

2.1 PROGRAM OF PUBLICATIONS (PDP)

EDITORIAL POLICY

The Editorial Policy of PAIGH was created⁸ the main objective of which was to standardize the guidelines that will govern the editing, circulation, and dissemination processes, in collaboration with the editors' Working Group (GTE). The Regulations on Publications of the Institute was the basis of this policy, and the process of integrating PAIGH into the Open Journal System platform (OJS) was initiated.

During the 48th Meeting of the Directing, the resolution to modify Article 30 of the Regulation on Publications was approved.

“Article 30. The General Secretariat and the Commissions will safeguard at all times, the exercise of free speech in the publications, documents and other forms of publicity of the authors, who are solely responsible for the content of the work.”

AGREEMENT WITH THE NATIONAL LIBRARY OF ANTHROPOLOGY AND HISTORY AND EXCHANGE (BNAH)

There was coordination with the National Library of Anthropology and History (BNAH) in order to finalize the digitalization of the complete collection of the Periodical Publications of the Institute, through a collaboration agreement. Likewise, arrangements were made to sign an addendum to the Concession Agreement between the “José Toribio Medina” Bibliographic Fund (FBJTM) and the National School of Anthropology and History (ENAH), for the objective of integrating the catalogue of publications of the Institute, with the catalogue of publications of ENAH, in order to give greater visibility to the collection of PAIGH.

⁸ By mandate of Resolution 17 “Editorial Policy of PAIGH” 21st General Assembly, Panamá 2017, consult at https://www.ipgh.org/assets/21st-ga_resolutions_1-33.pdf

The institutions that have exchange agreements with the Institute were provided with links to each of the journals of the Institute⁹ and informed of the publication of new editions for publicity and consultation, in coordination with ENAH.

The Department of Publications of the Institute is responsible for the publication of the journals of the Commissions, which are divided into periodical and occasional.

PERIODICAL PUBLICATIONS

Regarding the periodical publications, there was coordination with the editors in order for them to be maintained current.

In 2016 some journals changed frequency, such as the Cartography Journal (Revista Cartográfica) and the History Journal (Revista Historia de América (RHA) which changed frequency from bi-annual to annual. The *Revista de Geofísica* (RGF) became bi-annual.

Two years later, in order to bring the editions current, the *Revista Cartográfica* and *Revista de Historia de América* became bi-annual.

2016	2017	2018
7 editions annually	8 editions annually	9 editions annually
43% published on time	62% published on time	66% published on time
5 annual journals	4 annual journals	3 annual journals
1 bi-annual journal (2)	2 bi-annual journals (4)	3 bi-annual journals (6)

Table Showing Progress of the Publications

OCCASIONAL PUBLICATIONS

During 2018 as the result of a project of the Technical Assistance Program, the book “El IPGH, Una Historia de 90 años” (*PAIGH, a 90-Year History*) by Héctor Oscar José Pena was published. Likewise, there were publications of “Historia Comparada de las Américas, Siglo XIX, Tiempo de Letras” (*Comparative History of the Americas, XIX Century, Age of Letters*), coordinated by the research scholars Liliana Weinberg and Rodrigo García de la Sierra.

⁹ By decree of Resolution 18 “Electronic Exchange”, 21st General Assembly, Panamá 2017, consult at https://www.ipgh.org/assets/21st-ga_resolutions_1-33.pdf

2.2 INSTITUTIONAL COMMUNICATION

The Department of Publications worked to provide greater visibility for the Institute, updating the web page, changing the structure of the pages of the Commissions. Greater publicity was given to the meetings of the Institute and to the calls for the presentation of projects (Technical Assistance Program), and Awards. Accounts were opened on the principal social media networks, generating greater publicity for the topics related to PAIGH and its Member countries.

Social Media Networks	2017	October 2018
Web Page	-	New page
Twitter	1250	1936
Facebook	-	7245
Instagram	-	1097
YouTube	-	26

Comparative Table of the activities on social media networks

2.3 AWARDS

The Institute has 12 awards in its fields of study, in order to motivate and encourage the countries and their respective experts.

During 2018 the following awards were presented: “Leopoldo Zea”, “Arch C. Gerlach”, “Wallace Atwood” and “Best Master’s Thesis in Cartography, Geodesy and/or Geographic Information; on the other hand, the Award for the Best Master’s Thesis in History was declared vacant, however, there were also two honorary mentions, and the “Silvio Zavala” Award.

The GEOSUR award was also presented. The award ceremony and technical presentation took place during the 11th GEOSUR Meeting held in October 2018, in Santa Cruz de la Sierra, Bolivia, within the framework of the 48th Meeting of the Directing Council of PAIGH. The award was presented to the Colombian Geological Service.

B) FINANCIAL AREA

OCCASIONAL ACTIONS

The quota contributions of the Member States are the basis of PAIGH funding, and in this regard, there were communications and coordination with the pertinent authorities of every Member State regarding the situation of each country.

As a result of the resolutions approved at the 21st General Assembly¹⁰, there were several proposals for a new scale of quotas. These proposals which were sent to the authorities of PAIGH and the Chairmen of the National Sections in advance, for their information, were reviewed and voted upon during the 48th Meeting of the Directing Council, resulting in the increase in quota contributions effective January 2020.

It should be mentioned that quota contributions did not increase in 2019.

PERMANENT ACTIONS

Additional income was generated from the annual contribution of the cooperating partners, which have increased in this period, from 11 to 21.

The Department of Technical Assistance (projects) continues to seek new sources of income, presenting new proposals through the signing of agreements, and in response to diverse calls for the presentation of projects.

¹⁰ Resolution no. 11 "Annual Quota Contributions Effective 2020", Panamá, 2017 https://www.ipgh.org/assets/21st-ga_resolutions_1-33.pdf

Scale of Quotas approved for 2019 and 2020
48th Meeting of the Directing Council
Santa Cruz, Bolivia, October 2018 ¹¹

<i>Member State</i>	<i>Scale of quotas</i>	
	2019 <i>(USD)</i>	2020 <i>(USD)</i>
United States	323,900	323,900
Brazil	64,896	80,030
Mexico	46,176	56,944
Argentina	37,206	45,882
Venezuela	24,336	30,011
Colombia	7,176	8,849
Chile	5,840	7,202
Peru	5,509	6,794
Ecuador	5,509	6,794
Uruguay	5,509	6,794
Dominican Republic	5,509	6,794
Costa Rica	5,509	6,794
Panama	5,509	6,794
Guatemala	5,509	6,794
Paraguay	5,509	6,794
El Salvador	5,509	6,794
Bolivia	5,509	6,794
Honduras	5,509	6,794
Belize	5,509	6,794
Haiti	5,509	6,794
Nicaragua	5,509	6,794
TOTAL	586.656	647.934

¹¹ Resolution no. 2 "New scale of quotas for Member States as of 2020", Santa Cruz de la Sierra, Bolivia, 2018. <https://www.ipgh.org/assets/resolution-no.-2.pdf>

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STATEMENT OF QUOTA PAYMENTS AS OF 2018

<i>Member State</i>	<i>Quota US\$</i>	<i>%</i>	<i>Arrears US\$</i>	<i>Pending Quotas</i>	<i>Payment in 2018</i>	<i>Future quotas</i>
Argentina	37,206.00	6.34	37,206.00	1	37,206.00	
Belize	5,509.00	0.94	-	0	14,930.00	
Bolivia	5,509.00	0.94	5,509.00	1	5,509.00	
Brazil	64,896.00	11.05	519,168.00	8		
Chile	5,840.00	1	-	0	5,840.00	
Colombia	7,176.00	1.22	-	0	7,176.00	
Costa Rica	5,509.00	0.94	-	0	5,509.00	143.66
Dominican Republic	5,509.00	0.94	-	0	5,509.00	
Ecuador	5,509.00	0.94	-	0	5,509.00	
El Salvador	5,509.00	0.94	-	0	5,509.00	
Guatemala	5,509.00	0.94	1,609.00	0.29	5,509.00	
Haiti	5,509.00	0.94	-	0	11,050.00	16,285.45
Honduras	5,509.00	0.94	4,848.81	1	3,528.45	
Mexico	46,176.00	7.87	-	0	46,176.00	
Nicaragua	5,509.00	0.94	2,551.49	0.5	16,333.89	
Panama	5,509.00	0.94	-	0	5,509.00	
Paraguay	5,509.00	0.94	7,815.43	1.3	1,678.98	
Peru	5,509.00	0.94	-	0	5,509.00	
United States	323,900.00	55.21	-	0	323,900.00	
Uruguay	5,509.00	0.94	-	0	5,509.00	
Venezuela	24,336.00	4.15	98,217.82	4	-	
TOTAL	586,656.00	100	676,925.55		517,400.32	16,429.11

C) ADMINISTRATIVE AREA

The Strategic Institutional Development Plan (SIDP) was prepared, which establishes the strategies for the Scientific, Financial and Administrative Areas. It begins with a diagnosis of the current situation and finalizes with a Plan of Action with concrete proposals for this Plan to materialize.

In 2018 the Secretary General carried out the following activities:

- Meeting with the President of the National Institute of Statistics and Geographic Information (INEGI), during which the activities carried out were presented, highlighting the points of interaction with the Institute.
- Presentation of the Annual Report of PAIGH to the Organization of American States (OAS), and also to the 48th Ordinary Session of the OAS General Assembly. At this time, the Secretary General also met with the Chief of Staff of the OAS Secretary General and with representatives of the US Department of State.
- 89th Meeting of Authorities in Reston Virginia, USA during which important objectives were presented such as resuming communications with Canada to encourage its return as a Member State.
- In March 2018, PAIGH received the Ratification Letter of the Constitutive Act of PAIGH from the Government of Brazil, in which the Ministry of State of Foreign Affairs confirms Brazil as a Member State, which represents the acceptance of all existing commitments with the Institute.
- Several Meetings of cooperating Members, creating ties and analyzing areas in which they can work jointly to obtain mutual benefit.
- Compliance with the resolutions approved by the 21st. General Assembly, Panama 2017.
- The 48th Meeting of the Directing Council in Santa Cruz de la Sierra, Bolivia, during which the proposed resolutions were approved, mainly those referring to the increase of quota contributions and the Department of Publications.¹²

INFRASTRUCTURE

From the start of this current mandate, maintenance work was undertaken in some areas of the headquarters: the Gallery of historians and geographers of the Americas was expanded, totally refurbishing the publications' warehouse. Likewise, there have been updates in technology with the purchase of two computers and a server to back up all the data at the General Secretariat.

¹² Consult at <https://www.ipgh.org/48-directing-council-resolutions.html>