



PAN AMERICAN INSTITUTE OF
GEOGRAPHY AND HISTORY

SPECIALIZED ORGANIZATION OF THE OAS

**PAN AMERICAN INSTITUTE OF GEOGRAPHY AND HISTORY
ORGANIC STATUTE**

FINAL PROPOSAL¹

¹ Document sent to the National Sections of the PAIGH and to the pertinent organ of the OAS on June 24, 2021, to be submitted for approval at the PAIGH 22nd General Assembly on October 27, 2021.

FINAL PROPOSAL OF THE ORGANIC STATUTE OF THE PAN AMERICAN INSTITUTE OF GEOGRAPHY AND HISTORY

DECLARATION OF REASONS

Few institutions can be proud of having encouraged and pushed forwards the areas of study in the Earth Sciences and History in the way that the PAIGH has been doing for over more than 90 years. During that time, the ways, means and contents that enable the Institute to keep fulfilling its mission completely have been put together.

Currently, change is at a faster rate, some of it without the necessary forethought and analysis. To face this, the PAIGH has chosen to maintain its tradition, that is, keep the transmission of standards, customs and processes from one generation to the next. It is there that the strengths of the Institute are rooted, while at the same time it needs to adapt.

Adaptation and innovation complement each other as concepts. In the end, it is thought that adaptation cannot exist without there being innovation, that is to say, if there is no commitment to add value to that which already exists.

As a result of the critical assessment of the Institute, the need to modernize its Organic Statute arose. The objective has been to strengthen the procedures and standards that have benefited the progress made by the PAIGH, and thus, also, reinforcing its component bodies.

Substantial changes have been made, such as running the General Assembly annually, with the aim of making decision-making more flexible, also the inclusion of principles, with the freedom of expression to be highlighted among these.

Moreover, changes to style and appearances have been made in, for example, a clearer drafting style that takes in account the principles of legal drafting style; the unification of terminology that appears throughout the Statute in various ways; and moreover the goals of the PAIGH have been restated in order to align them within a single mission and vision.

The way that leads us to make significant changes has been chosen, in preference to that which would lead to modifying only the appearances and style. With enthusiasm, work has been done while keeping in view that which is necessary; this involves commitment, time and effort.

Thus, the new Organic Statute is the result of that commitment, it constitutes a non-legally binding tool of governance. It is the product of reality and circumstances, while balancing between convictions and responsibility. Reached by consensus, it is a bridge between that which has been necessary (modified so as to adapt) and that which is possible (achieved by agreement).

To summarize, this Project aims to strengthen the PAIGH, taking into account its traditions. This new document has been set up based on the wisdom that has come before us, with the purpose of combining tradition with innovation.

Finally, it is important to thank all those people who selflessly gave their time for assessing the Statute and proposing necessary changes to it. Their work has helped to continue strengthening the PAIGH as it approaches its centenary, and to preserve its legacy: reinforcing, coordinating and distributing scientific knowledge in America.



César Rodríguez Tomeo

Secretary General



SECRETARIA GENERAL

PAN AMERICAN INSTITUTE OF GEOGRAPHY AND HISTORY ORGANIC STATUTE

CHAPTER I NATURE OF THE PAIGH

Article 1. The PAN AMERICAN INSTITUTE OF GEOGRAPHY AND HISTORY is an inter-American specialized organization of a scientific-technical nature, of the ORGANIZATION OF AMERICAN STATES (OAS), established in accordance with the "Charter of the Organization of American States."

The Pan American Institute of Geography and History uses the acronym "PAIGH" in English, and "IPGH" in Spanish, French and Portuguese.

The PAIGH enjoys the widest technical and financial autonomy in the exercise of its functions, within the limits set by the current Statute.

CHAPTER II MISSION, VISION AND PRINCIPLES

Article 2. As a specialized organization of OAS, it is the mission of the PAIGH to:

1. Encourage, coordinate and distribute studies pertaining to its areas of interest which are cartography, geography, history, geophysics and those related sciences for the benefit of the Americas;
2. Support initiatives, innovation and the creation of knowledge in matters of its competence, by means of studies, tasks and trainings of its Commissions;
3. Encourage interdisciplinary cooperation among related institutes in America and with international organizations.

Article 3. The PAIGH has as its vision:

1. Becoming an organization of excellence that is made up of specialists and researchers of its areas of interest;

2. Operating as an institution that facilitates and supports research that provides scientific-technical assistance to its Member States, to the OAS, and to all those entities, which request it within the limits of the possible and of the PAIGH instruments;
3. Articulating and promoting relationships concerning its areas of interest among Member States, civil society, as well as international scientific, academic, and private initiative organizations.

Article 4. The PAIGH is governed under the following principles:

1. The PAIGH prioritizes scientific activities, through its Technical Assistance Program, as well as the dissemination of specialized knowledge through its Publications Program, or those programs established for these purposes in the future;
2. The PAIGH encourages attention to the relationship among disciplines in its studies, projects and publications with an emphasis on science, technology and critical thinking;
3. The PAIGH stimulates activities of multinational interest;
4. The PAIGH recognizes the importance of equality, non-discrimination, respect and tolerance for all human beings;
5. The PAIGH respects the freedom of expression of its authors, who bear sole responsibility for their respective contents;
6. The PAIGH does not start up or encourage any work that is considered to be biased towards political or religious proselytism;
7. The PAIGH supports open access to its studies and research produced by its programs.

CHAPTER III MEMBER STATES

Article 5. Only American States may be members of the PAIGH. A request for admission is subject to approval of the General Assembly.

Article 6. A Member State may leave the PAIGH, in which case it is expected to provide two years' advance notice.

The notice of withdrawal does not excuse that State from paying outstanding membership quotas nor those which apply until the effective withdrawal.

The re-admission of a Member State that has previously withdrawn by its own decision may be requested at any moment to the General Secretariat and approved by the General Assembly.

CHAPTER IV PERMANENT OBSERVERS

Article 7. A request to become a Permanent Observer of the PAIGH may be submitted by:

1. Those States proposed by a Member State eligible to vote or by the General Secretariat; and
2. Intergovernmental organizations and other entities whose activities are compatible with the mission, vision and principles of the PAIGH, proposed by a Member State or by the General Secretariat.

It is the task of the General Assembly to decide, by consensus, the admission of a Permanent Observer, as well as the contributions that the requesting State or organization offers to the programs of the PAIGH.

Article 8. The General Assembly may consider, inter alia, whether the circumstances in which its acceptance was determined have changed significantly or have disappeared and, for this or any other reason, may revoke the status of Permanent Observer granted.

The re-admission of a Permanent Observer, which has previously chosen to withdraw from the PAIGH, may be requested at any time through the General Secretariat, to be resolved by the General Assembly.

CHAPTER V ORGANIZATION OF THE PAIGH

Article 9. The PAIGH is made up of the following Pan American component bodies:

1. General Assembly;
2. Authorities;
3. General Secretariat; and
4. Commissions.

Article 10. Each Member State officially designates and sets up a National Section whose functions and structure are stipulated in Chapter XI of this Statute.

CHAPTER VI QUORUM AND VOTING

Article 11. The quorum for the decision-making bodies of the PAIGH is:

1. For the General Assembly, two thirds of the Member States eligible to vote;
2. For the Consultation Meetings of the Commissions, half-plus-one of the Member States eligible to vote.
3. For the Meeting of the Authorities, half of its members plus one.

Once constituted for beginning a session, the quorum for conducting business is two thirds of the Member States eligible to vote that have constituted that session.

Article 12. For the purposes of this Statute, the Member States who are eligible to vote are those that at the moment in which the General Assembly is held, conform with the provisions of the "Financial Rules of Procedure" regarding the status of quotas.

Article 13. Except as otherwise provided in this Statute, decisions requiring a vote are adopted, in the case of the General Assembly by a majority of the Member States eligible to vote, and in the case of Consultation Meetings of the Commissions by a majority of the participating Member States eligible to vote. In the case of the Meeting of Authorities, by a simple majority.

The following topics are exceptions for the General Assembly, for which the affirmative votes of two thirds of the Member States eligible to vote are required:

1. Approval of the budget and the establishment of the annual membership quotas;
2. Re-election of Authorities;
3. Creation or dissolution of Commissions;
4. Cases not covered by this Statute neither by any other rules of procedure of PAIGH;
5. Modification of this Organic Statute.

Article 14. For the purposes of this Statute, "official vote" is defined as the vote cast by the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, whoever acts in representation of the Member State, or by the president of the National Section, as applicable.

Article 15. In the sessions of any body of the PAIGH in which decisions are required, the official vote can be requested remotely. This vote can be sent by regular mail or reliable electronic means of communication.

CHAPTER VII GENERAL ASSEMBLY

Article 16. The General Assembly is the supreme decision-making body that sets the scientific, administrative, and financial directives of the PAIGH.

The General Assembly meets once a year under normal circumstances.

Due to special situations that have been appropriately determined, it could meet by means of virtual media, if approval has been obtained by the vote of a simple majority of Member States eligible to vote.

Article 17. The General Assembly decides the location, host, and date of the following meeting and its reserve alternative, with prior consent of the relevant National Sections.

During the period between the meetings of the General Assembly, the President of the PAIGH, in conjunction with the General Secretariat may request that decisions be made on urgent matters by means of the official vote of Member States eligible to vote.

Article 18. Extraordinary meetings of the General Assembly may be held, exclusively for the purpose for which they are convoked by a simple majority of the Member States eligible to vote.

Article 19. The General Assembly is made up of:

1. The delegations designated by the Member States, each of which has the right to one vote consistent with Article 12 of this Statute;
2. The Authorities of the PAIGH, with speaking rights, but without the vote;
3. Permanent Observers, invited through the General Secretariat in coordination with the organizing committee, who may speak upon invitation of the President of the General Assembly, but without the right to vote; and

4. Invited observers, proposed through the General Secretariat in coordination with the organizing committee. These proposals are expected to be distributed to Member States before each General Assembly and are subject to acceptance by consensus, before sending the convocation unless otherwise decided by consensus. Their ability to speak, granted by the President of the General Assembly, will be subject to the absence of objections by the Member States, and they do not have the right to vote.

Article 20. The National Section of the country to host the General Assembly is in charge of naming an organizing committee to take charge, in cooperation with the PAIGH General Secretariat, of the preparation of the Assembly and develop the schedule of activities to be run.

Article 21. The General Secretariat is in charge of preparing the draft of the agenda and of the “Rules of Procedure of the General Assembly”, as well as considering the schedule of activities, together with the organizing committee.

To prepare the draft of the agenda, the General Secretariat considers the scientific, administrative, and financial areas of the PAIGH, as well as the topics proposed by the Member States, through their National Sections.

Four months before the meeting, the General Secretariat sends to the PAIGH Member States the draft of the agenda and of the “Rules of Procedure of the General Assembly” with the pertinent modifications, together with the schedule of activities and the announcement of the Assembly.

Article 22. The preliminary agenda of the General Assembly requires the approval of a simple majority of the Member States present and eligible to vote.

The General Assembly only covers and processes those points included in the definitive agenda. Enlarging the agenda after its adoption requires the approval of two-thirds of the participating Member States present and eligible to vote.

Article 23. The authorities of the General Assembly are:

1. President of the General Assembly;
2. Vice-President of the General Assembly; and
3. Secretary of the General Assembly.

Article 24. The functions and powers of the General Assembly include, among others:

1. Elect its own authorities;
2. Elect the President, Vice-President and Secretary General of the PAIGH in conformance with Articles 27 and 32 of this Statute;
3. Ratify the Presidents of the Commissions, elected in the Meetings of Consultation in accordance with Articles 27 and 38 of this Statute;
4. Consider the annual reports and other communications presented by the PAIGH Authorities and the National Sections;
5. Approve the draft budget presented by the Secretary General in conformance with Article 56 of this Statute;
6. Approve the annual scale of quotas, which are the financial contributions that each Member State makes in accordance with the "Financial Rules of Procedure;"
7. Approve the program of scientific activities drafted by the Commissions;
8. Approve the terms of cooperation that the Commissions or the General Secretariat propose with governments, international organizations, and private institutions, while keeping to the terms of existing arrangements between the PAIGH and the OAS;

9. Create or close down Commissions where this is judged as convenient, in accordance with Article 13 of this Statute;
10. Set up the special committees in an advisory capacity that are considered necessary for the success of the activities of the PAIGH, concerning matters within the scope of more than one Commission, and approve their plans and activities;
11. Approve the structure of the General Secretariat;
12. Approve the rules of procedure of the bodies and activities of the PAIGH;
13. Modify this Organic Statute, in accordance with Article 62 of this Statute;
14. Approve the location and alternative or reserve location for the following meeting of the General Assembly;
15. Grant honorary awards, in accordance with Article 60 of this Statute;
16. Call elections or name a substitute in the case of resignation, incapacity, or death of any of the Authorities, to act until the election of the successor.

CHAPTER VIII AUTHORITIES

Article 25. The Authorities constitute the body in charge of overseeing and coordinating the fulfillment of the resolutions of the General Assembly, as well as proposing initiatives in matters within its competence.

The Authorities of the PAIGH meet every six months and they can arrange to do so virtually due to situations that merit it.

Article 26. The Authorities of the PAIGH are:

1. President;

2. Vice-President;
3. Secretary General and
4. Presidents of the Commissions.

Article 27. The candidates for positions of an Authority are expected to comply with the following requirements and limitations:

1. The candidates may have the nationality of any of the Member States, in accordance with Article 28 of this Statute;
2. There may not be two Authorities of the same nationality;
3. An Authority may not be succeeded in that position by another person of the same nationality, except the Secretary General and Presidents of Commissions, who can be succeeded by people of the same nationality to complete the stipulated period in the case of resignation, incapacity, or death;
4. They work in the position as Authority for a period of four years, except for the Secretary General and Presidents of Commissions who may be reelected for another period in accordance with Articles 32 and 38 respectively of this Statute;
5. The President and the Vice-President of the PAIGH may not be re-elected as an Authority until four years after having completed their functions;
6. The candidacies for positions as Authorities are expected to be submitted, by a Member State in accordance with Article 28 of this Statute, six months in advance of the date of the start of the respective General Assembly, with all of their background information;
7. The candidates are expected to be persons of technical capability recognized internationally in any of the areas of interest of the PAIGH and to be competent in the matters related to the functions of the position.

Article 28. Only nationals of Member States that, on the date the General Assembly begins, are in conformity with what is stipulated on the “Financial Rules of Procedure” in regards to the payment of the quotas may be elected to a position of Authority of the PAIGH.

Article 29. Subject to the direction of the General Assembly, the Authorities have the following functions:

1. Fulfil those resolutions and decisions of the General Assembly that are within their responsibility;
2. Propose initiatives for consideration by the General Assembly;
3. Consider the periodic reports and other communications of the General Secretariat;
4. Consider the biannual reports and other communications of the Presidents of the Commissions;
5. Evaluate the Technical Assistance Program projects that are in progress and analyze the requests for the following year, for submitting a proposal to the General Assembly;
6. Propose, annually, the base salary of the Secretary General for the approval of the General Assembly. The Secretary General may not participate in consideration of this decision;
7. Study the proposals for honorary awards, according to Article 60 of this Statute, and give an opinion on this matter to the General Assembly;
8. Issue an opinion on those matters that the General Secretariat puts into consideration;
9. Consider and resolve, as the unique venue of appeal, the decisions adopted by the General Secretariat;
10. Take any other action necessary to fulfill their functions in accordance with this Statute, as determined by the General Assembly.

CHAPTER IX GENERAL SECRETARIAT

Article 30. The General Secretariat of PAIGH is the body that has as its goal:

1. To perform administrative tasks of the PAIGH;
2. To coordinate the activities of the other PAIGH bodies;
3. To provide the necessary assistance for the correct performance of the bodies of the PAIGH and the National Sections;
4. To put into effect those activities entrusted by the General Assembly; and
5. To oversee that the decisions adopted by the bodies of the PAIGH are fulfilled.

A Secretary General under the supervision of the General Assembly manages the General Secretariat.

Article 31. The General Secretariat is based in the city that hosts the PAIGH central office and the Secretary General resides there.

Article 32. The Secretary General is elected by the General Assembly for a period of four years.

In exceptional circumstances, the General Assembly may re-elect the Secretary General for one period; for this, the approval of two thirds of the Member States eligible to vote is required.

The Secretary General may not be succeeded by any person of the same nationality, except to complete the stipulated period in the case of resignation, incapacity, or death.

Article 33. The candidates for leading the General Secretariat are to be proposed to the General Assembly by a Member State, with relevant background information, and according to Article 28 of this Statute.

The candidates are expected to prove that they have technical capability recognized internationally in any of the areas of interest of the PAIGH and to be competent in the matters related to the functions of the position.

The curriculum vitae of the candidates and the work plan proposal for their period are expected to be sent to the General Secretariat six months before the General Assembly at which the election is planned.

The General Secretariat retransmits this information to the Member States no later than four months before that General Assembly.

Article 34. Subject to the direction of the General Assembly, the functions of the Secretary General are:

In the scientific area:

1. To coordinate activities for creating, encouraging and distributing scientific-technical knowledge in the areas of interest of the PAIGH;
2. To press for the actions of the PAIGH scientific agenda, in particular the Technical Assistance Program and the Publications Program;
3. To encourage relationships between governments, academic institutions, multilateral organizations and private initiatives, with the aim of fulfilling the mission of the PAIGH;
4. To put into effect actions for strengthening the National Sections and for linking them with academic, private, and governmental institutions related to the areas of interest of the PAIGH.

In the administrative area:

5. To act as the liaison between the component bodies of the PAIGH and the Member States, while keeping PAIGH Authorities informed;

6. To appoint the personnel competent for the performance of specific tasks for the General Secretariat to function, within the budgetary allocations that the General Assembly sets for these purposes;
7. To coordinate the modification of the rules of procedure of the activities of the PAIGH;
8. To prepare the draft for the agenda and the procedures of the General Assembly meetings, in accordance with Article 21 of this Statute;
9. To submit to the General Assembly and to the Authorities a report about the activities of the General Secretariat, including the financial state of the PAIGH during the corresponding year, as well as the reports that may be requested by the General Assembly or those that may be stipulated in the rules of procedure;
10. To implement the decisions of the General Assembly and the requests made by the Commissions and, in the name of the PAIGH, encourage the implementation of the recommendations from these bodies by the Member States;
11. To publish the texts of works sent for this purpose by the General Assembly, the Commissions and other technical bodies, consistent with applicable rules and regulations and within the respective budgetary authorization;
12. To compile and transmit to the governments and the National Sections, as required, the proceedings and minutes of the General Assembly and of the various Commissions;
13. To cooperate the arrangements for the meetings of the General Assembly and of the several Commissions;
14. To oversee and cooperate with the secretariats of the General Assembly and of the Commissions;

15. To transmit, to the appropriate body of the OAS, an annual report about the performance of the activities of the PAIGH, including a report about its financial situation;
16. To maintain the tangible and intangible assets of the PAIGH;
17. To implement any other functions entrusted to him or her by the General Assembly;
18. To exercise the legal representation of the PAIGH both within and outside judicial processes.

In the financial area:

19. To put into effect the respective studies and proposals, in accordance with decisions of the General Assembly, for calculating the quotas that the Member States should pay;
20. To submit to the General Assembly the annual budget project in accordance with Article 56 of this Statute;
21. To have the accounts and state of the finances of the PAIGH checked and analyzed annually by external auditors.

The Secretary General may also perform such other functions as may be determined by the General Assembly.

CHAPTER X COMMISSIONS

Article 35. The Commissions of the PAIGH constitute the bodies in charge of promoting, coordinating, and disseminating the scientific and technical development of their respective fields of action in the Member States through the programs of the PAIGH.

In the performance of their tasks, the Commissions are supported by the General Secretariat and the National Sections.

Article 36. The Commissions of the PAIGH are:

1. The Commission on Cartography;
2. The Commission on Geography;
3. The Commission on History;
4. The Commission on Geophysics; and
5. Any commissions that the General Assembly establishes with the favorable vote of two thirds of the Member States eligible to vote.

Article 37. Each Commission consists of the representatives designated by the governments of the Member States, which are also responsible for designating the respective alternate representative, consistent with the "Rules of Procedure of the Commissions."

These National Members are expected to be persons of recognized competence in the specializations specific to the Commissions for which they were designated.

Article 38. Each Commission elects its President and Vice-President, from among the nationals of a single Member State for a period of four years, to be then ratified by the General Assembly.

In extraordinary circumstances, upon a resolution with justification by the General Assembly and when it is thus convenient for the interests of the PAIGH, then with the vote of two thirds of the Member States, eligible to vote, the President and Vice-President may be re-elected for a second period of four years.

The Presidents and Vice-Presidents of the Commissions cannot be succeeded by others of the same nationality, except to complete the stipulated period in case of resignation, incapacity, or death.

Article 39. The candidates for President and Vice-President of each Commission are expected to send to the General Secretariat their curriculum vitae and their proposed work plan for their period, through the government of their country, no later than six months before the election, and considering what is stipulated in Article 28 of this Statute.

The General Secretariat forwards the information of the candidates to the Member States no later than four months before the General Assembly in which the election of Authorities will take place.

Article 40. The President and Vice-President act in the name of the PAIGH in the functions belonging to these positions.

Article 41. The representative seat of each Commission is located in the country of its President and Vice-President.

Article 42. The Presidents of the Commissions work in cooperation with the General Secretariat, to which they report about the work done by their respective Commissions, in accordance with the "Rules of Procedure of the Commissions."

Article 43. Each Commission annually provides to the General Secretariat a report about all of its activities during the last year and about its projects for the following year.

Article 44. Each President of Commission designates their respective Secretary consistent with the "Rules of Procedure of the Commissions."

Article 45. For each four-year management period, each Commission may establish such Committees and Working Groups as are necessary for putting into effect the scientific strategy defined by the General Assembly, through the work performed jointly and coordinated with the proposals of the specialists.

The Committees consist of the national representatives from those Member States who make clear their interest in participating in one of the committees. For this, the national representatives are expected to have the explicit approval of the respective National Section. Their assignment to the Committee lasts for four years and they may be re-appointed.

The Working Groups consist of the specialists designated by each Commission for a specific mission, in consultation with the respective National Sections.

Unless there are instructions to the contrary by the institutions in which they work, the members of the Committees and Working Groups perform their tasks in their individual expert capacity.

The structure and system for work of the Committees and Working Groups are established in the "Rules of Procedure of the Commissions."

Article 46. The Commissions hold ordinary Consultation meetings every four years, including a joint meeting made up of all the Commissions. These meetings are held prior to the General Assembly in which the election of the Authorities takes place.

The General Assembly determines the venue for the Consultation meetings; in the case of there being no offer, the meeting may be held in virtual mode.

There can be extraordinary Consultation Meetings convened by a decision of half of the Member States eligible to vote, plus one, decided at the General Assembly.

Article 47. The objectives of the Consultation Meetings of the Commissions are among others:

1. To elect the Authorities of the Commissions;
2. To re-assess the structure of the Commissions;
3. To evaluate the activities carried out during the four-year period finishing at that time;
4. To set the scientific policy and work plan for the following four-year period.

The recommendations of the Consultation Meetings of the Commissions are submitted for consideration by the General Assembly.

Article 48. The Commissions hold Technical Meetings every four years, half-way through the period between two ordinary Consultation Meetings.

The Commissions can hold the Technical Meetings virtually if they merit so.

Article 49. The objectives of the Technical Meetings of the Commissions are among others:

1. To assess the progress of the projects of the respective Commissions;
2. To receive the reports of the Presidents of the Commissions;
3. To receive the reports of the Committees and Working Groups;
4. To perform technical and academic presentations by highly qualified specialists with special emphasis on communicating activities and the progress made in the framework of the Technical Assistance Program;
5. To encourage relationships among the Commissions so that joint projects may be approved.

CHAPTER XI NATIONAL SECTIONS

Article 50. Each National Section is the body established by each Member State, for the fulfillment of the mission, vision, principles, and scientific strategy of the PAIGH, in the national sphere, and relies, for this purpose, on the financial support of its government.

Article 51. The government of each Member State designates the President and the Vice-President of its National Section, in accordance with this Statute and the internal procedural rules of that Member.

The government of the Member State or the President of a National Section designates the rest of the members of the National Section. All of the persons named as representatives to the various bodies of the PAIGH are part of the respective National Section.

Article 52. In accordance with their internal regulations, the National Sections are composed of the following:

1. President;
2. Vice-President;
3. Executive Secretary;
4. One principal member for each of the Commissions in the PAIGH;
and
5. Official contributors to each of the Committees and Working Groups of interest to the respective Member State.

Article 53. Each National Section elaborates and sets up its internal rules of procedure consistent with this Statute.

Article 54. The following, among others, are functions of the National Sections:

1. To encourage, coordinate, and distribute studies pertaining to the areas of interest of the PAIGH at the national sphere;
2. To strengthen continually, at the national level, the relationship among governments, academic institutions, as well as companies and civil organizations, in order to fulfill the Mission of the PAIGH;
3. To perform concrete actions that encourage studies, work programs and training of national interest, by means of regularly scheduled open meetings, or of other initiatives;
4. To submit for consideration by the decision-making bodies of the PAIGH matters arising in their competence;
5. To request that their respective governments implement the resolutions and recommendations of the General Assembly of the PAIGH;
6. To report their activities to the General Assembly of the PAIGH. Such reports are expected to include the salient achievements of the National Section and also the list of its members.

CHAPTER XII FINANCES

Article 55. The economic basis supporting the PAIGH is constituted through the contributions of the annual quotas that the Member States provide approved by the General Assembly.

The membership quotas are calculated taking as an initial reference the scale of contributions used by the General Secretariat of the OAS and, according to what PAIGH Member States arrange; provided that the General Secretariat of PAIGH carries out the respective studies and proposals with the following considerations:

1. The minimum membership quota of any Member State of the general budget is 0.5%; and
2. The maximum membership quota of any Member State may not exceed 49.99% of the general budget.

Article 56. The proposal for the PAIGH budget is prepared by the General Secretariat considering the programs that have to be put into effect by the Commissions and Committees, as well as those that are assigned to the General Secretariat.

The PAIGH Authorities are consulted by the General Secretariat regarding the preparation of the proposed budget, which is expected to be sent to the Member States and to the relevant body of the OAS at least two months before the meeting at which it is to be considered and adopted.

Prior to the General Assembly, the Authorities meet in order to examine the proposal for the budget in light of any observations made by the Member States and the relevant body belonging to the OAS, for the purpose of setting up its final consolidation and consideration by the General Assembly of the PAIGH.

In approving the general budget of the PAIGH, it is expected to be kept in mind that the funds assigned to scientific-technical activities are expected to be significantly greater than those which are applied to the administrative maintenance of the PAIGH.

Article 57. The funds of the PAIGH are deposited in its name in accounts at banking institutions located in the cities where the General Secretariat or the other constituent bodies of the PAIGH are located.

Article 58. The Advisory Financial Planning and Assessment Committee (AFPA) has the functions of studying in a detailed manner the reports about finances, auditing, the budget, and of drafting a suitable financial policy to serve as a guide for the Authorities of the PAIGH.

The AFPA Committee is chaired by the President of the PAIGH, and includes two other members who understand the working of the PAIGH, are committed to its interests, and are from Member States eligible to vote, excluding those countries with nationals in positions of Authority.

Except the President, the members of the AFPA Committee are elected in accordance with the provisions of the "Rules of Procedure of the Advisory Financial Planning and Assessment Committee (AFPA)."

CHAPTER XIII COOPERATING PARTNERS

Article 59. The General Assembly may decide, by consensus, to accept as a cooperating partner any suitable person, whether an individual or a legally constituted entity, that desires to establish a link with the activities of the PAIGH to the extent its objectives are aligned with the mission, vision and principles of the PAIGH, stipulated in Chapter II of this Statute.

To retain this status, the Cooperating Partner is expected to annually make a monetary contribution that is assigned to the Technical Assistance Program.

The guidelines for granting the status of Cooperating Partner are established in the "Rules of Procedure of Cooperating Partners."

CHAPTER XIV HONORARY AWARDS

Article 60. The General Assembly is able to grant, by unanimity of Member States participating and eligible to vote, honorary awards to those persons who have rendered exceptional services to the PAIGH.

CHAPTER XV GENERAL PROVISIONS

Article 61. Through the relevant component bodies of the PAIGH, consistent with this Statute, and with the assistance of the Secretary General, Member States may draft and adopt procedural rules for the component bodies, committees, and work groups of the PAIGH.

Article 62. This Statute may be modified by the General Assembly in accordance with the affirmative vote of two-thirds of the Member States eligible to vote.

The respective draft modifications are expected to be communicated by the General Secretariat of the PAIGH to the governments of the Member States and to the relevant body within the OAS, within the procedures of the agreement between the PAIGH and the OAS, at least four months before the date set for holding the General Assembly of the PAIGH.

Article 63. This Statute is to be published in the four official languages of the PAIGH: Spanish, English, Portuguese, and French.

Article 64. Matters not covered in this Statute, and any point concerning the interpretation of this Statute, may be resolved by the General Assembly by a vote of two thirds of the Member States eligible to vote.

Article 65. This Statute becomes operative immediately upon its adoption by the General Assembly.