



DECISION N° 557

BUDGET PROCESS OF SELA

THE LATIN AMERICAN COUNCIL,

HAVING SEEN:

Article 2 of the Panama Convention;

Article 15, paragraph 5, of the Panama Convention;

Article 31, paragraph 6, of the Panama Convention;

Decision n. 440 ("Restructuring SELA"), adopted by the XXVIII Regular Meeting of the Latin American Council (7 to 9 April 2003);

CONSIDERING:

The advisability for Member States to assess in advance projects and support information for the preparation and approval of the annual budget of SELA;

The need to ensure appropriate levels of funding for the activities promoted by SELA, in accordance with the Work Programmes approved by the Latin American Council;

That the formulation of the annual budget of the Permanent Secretariat has to reflect the priorities established by the Member States and is based on the criteria of rationality and efficiency of expenses;

That the Informal Working Group, created by Decision No. 379 and ratified by Decision No. 404, was instructed to establish a Budget and Work Programme Subgroup, in accordance with Article 7 of Decision No. 440.

The purpose of favouring transparency and suitability in the allocation of public resources in each Member State;

That in preparing the institutional budget, it is desirable for the Permanent Secretariat to try to adapt itself to methodologies and criteria of modern organizational management and strategic planning on a budget by subjects, with tangible goals and objectives, as well as mechanisms for monitoring, measuring and evaluating the progress;

DECIDES:

Article 1: Instruct The Permanent Secretariat to present a preliminary draft annual budget to the Member States at least 90 days prior to the date scheduled for the Regular Meeting of the Latin American Council, so that it is submitted for consideration and eventual approval.

Article 2: Request the Informal Working Group to assess and suggest the necessary adjustments to the preliminary draft annual budget within 30 days following the reception of the aforementioned draft by the Member States.

In this exercise, the Informal Working Group shall consider initiatives that contribute to improve the collection and payment of the budget quotas, particularly in the case of those arrears considered to be historic. The additional resources obtained could be used to strengthen the activities and actions aimed at supporting the development and integration of the countries of Central America and the Caribbean.

Article 3: Request the Informal Working Group to present the corresponding suggestions as regards the Budget and the Work Programme so that the Permanent Secretariat can send the Draft Annual Budget to the Member States, for study and consideration, at least 45 days prior to the date of start of the Regular Meeting of the Latin American Council that shall approve the annual budget of SELA.

Article 4: Entrust the Informal Working Group with the task of examining, in coordination with the Member States and the Permanent Secretariat, since its first meeting in 2016, the possible adoption of the new working method for the preparation of the institutional budget of SELA with a strategic vision.