



XX Regular Session of the General Conference
Mexico City, 22 November 2007.

RESOLUTION CG/Res.497

**DISCOUNT PROGRAM FOR THE PAYMENT OF CONTRIBUTIONS
CONTINGENCY/EMERGENCY FUND**

The General Conference,

Bearing in mind that the Treaty of Tlatelolco, Article 9, numeral 3, confers on the General Conference of the Agency the power to approve the budget and set the Scale of Contributions and establishes that the Member States have the obligation to cover their financial contributions to OPANAL;

Recalling that Article 6, numeral 1, of the Financial Regulations establishes that the contributions shall be due and payable within the first 30 days of January of each year;

Convinced that the financial crisis the Agency is now experiencing can only be overcome through the timely payment of the financial contributions by the Member States;

Taking into account Resolution CG/E/Res. 463 (E-XVII), which presented a “Discount Program for the Strengthening of OPANAL. Timely Payment of Contributions” and Resolution CG/E/Res.492 (E-XVIII) “Analysis of the Agency’s dire financial situation;”

Highlighting the recommendation of the Commission on Contributions and Administrative and Budgetary Matters (CCAAP) to encourage the creation of a mechanism for settling the debt that some Member States have with the Agency;

Endorsing the recommendation of the CCAAP to encourage prompt payment of the debts that some Member States have with the Agency,

Resolves:

1. **To approve** the discount program for the Member States which, prior to March 31, 2008, inform the Council in writing of their commitment to settle their debts with the Agency under one of the following modalities:
 - a) An **80-percent** discount on payments of the contributions owed up to the year 2007 for countries historically in arrears. The first payment, equivalent to 30 percent of the overdue debt, is to be made before March 31, 2009, without failing to make timely payment of its contribution for the year 2008. (Dominican Republic, El Salvador and Haiti).
 - b) A **50-percent** discount on payments of the contributions owed up to the year 2007. The first payment, equivalent to 30 percent of the overdue debt, is to be made before March 31, 2009, without failing to make timely payment of its contribution for the year 2008. (Antigua and Barbuda, Dominica, Grenada, Paraguay, Saint Kitts and Nevis, Saint Vincent and the Grenadines and Saint Lucia).
 - c) A **30-percent** discount on payments of the contributions owed up to the year 2007. The first payment, equivalent to 30 percent of the overdue debt, is to be made before March 31, 2009, without failing to make timely payment of its contribution for the year 2008. (Peru and Uruguay).
 - d) The Member State itself shall determine the amount of time in which it will cover the total amount of its payments with the discount within a maximum period of three years; that is, up to December 31, 2010.
 - e) If a Member State does not fulfill the terms of the discount program which it joins voluntarily; that is, if it does not make the initial payment of 30% or does not fulfill the deferred payment proposal presented by the State itself, then all the discounts on its original debt shall be suspended. If a Member State has paid some amount that falls under this

discount program, its value shall be deducted from the total amount of that State's debt as of the day on which this Resolution is adopted.

2. **To instruct** the General Secretariat of OPANAL to inform the Member States of the present resolution.
3. **To respectfully urge** the Member States in arrears in their payments to the Agency to make use of one of the modalities in the present program, whose purpose is to provide the Agency with monetary liquidity and make it financially viable.
4. **To make an attentive appeal** to the Member States that have debts owed to the Agency but are not included in the Discount Program to pay their respective contributions as soon as possible.
5. **To express again** OPANAL's recognition of the governments that are up to date in the payment of their contributions.
6. **To request** the General Secretariat use the funds to be collected through the Program of Discounts established by this resolution to present a proposal for the establishment of a Contingency/Emergency Fund and rules for the operation thereof during the transition period lasting until the XXI Regular Session of the General Conference.
7. **To also request** the General Secretariat to inform the Council and the Commission on Contributions and Administrative and Budgetary Matters (CCAAP) on the commitments and results arising from this resolution.

(Adopted at the 109th Session
held on November 22, 2007)