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**MULTILATERAL**

**“Andrés Bello” Convention concerning the educational, scientific and cultural integration of the countries of the Andean Region. Concluded at Bogotá on 31 January 1970**

*Authentic text: Spanish.*

*Registered by Colombia on 3 December 1984.*

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**MULTILATÉRAL**

**Convention « Andrés Bello » relative à l'intégration dans les domaines de l'éducation, de la science et de la culture des pays de la région andine. Conclue à Bogotá le 31 janvier 1970**

*Texte authentique : espagnol.*

*Enregistrée par la Colombie le 3 décembre 1984.*

## [TRANSLATION — TRADUCTION]

“ANDRÉS BELLO” CONVENTION<sup>1</sup> CONCERNING THE EDUCATIONAL, SCIENTIFIC AND CULTURAL INTEGRATION OF THE COUNTRIES OF THE ANDEAN REGION

The Governments of the Republics of Bolivia, Colombia, Chile, Ecuador, Peru and Venezuela,

Aware that the aim of education, science and culture, as factors for the progressive renewal of society, must be to secure the material and spiritual well-being of the peoples, within a framework of dignity and social justice;

Guided by the conviction that this development must be promoted through a joint and dynamic process of integration;

Inspired by the desire to take advantage of the benefits of the many spiritual, cultural and historical affinities of the countries of the region, faithful to the Latin American and cultural heritage and with a view to achieving real integration between their peoples;

Have decided to sign this Convention and, for that purpose, have appointed as Plenipotentiaries their respective Ministers of Education who, having exchanged their full powers, found in good and due form, have agreed as follows:

## CHAPTER I. TITLE AND OBJECTIVES

*Article 1.* In recognition of the work of the renowned American humanist, Andrés Bello, and in homage to his memory, this instrument shall be known as the “Andrés Bello Convention” concerning the educational, scientific and cultural integration of the Andean Region.

*Article 2.* The purpose of this Convention is to accelerate the integral development of the countries through combined efforts in education, science and culture so that the benefits derived from such cultural integration may ensure the harmonious development of the region and the conscious participation of the people as promoter and beneficiary of that process.

<sup>1</sup> Came into force on 24 November 1970, upon the deposit with the Government of Colombia of the third instrument of ratification, in accordance with article 41:

<i>State</i>	<i>Date of deposit of the instrument of ratification</i>
Bolivia .....	24 November 1970
Ecuador .....	19 August 1970
Venezuela .....	24 November 1970

Subsequently, the Convention came into force in respect of the following States on the date of deposit with the Government of Colombia of their instrument of ratification or accession, in accordance with article 43:

<i>State</i>	<i>Date of deposit of the instrument of ratification or accession (a)</i>
Peru .....	8 March 1971
Chile .....	6 April 1971
Colombia .....	15 November 1974
Panama .....	19 October 1981 <i>a</i>
Spain .....	9 July 1982 <i>a</i>

*Article 3.* The specific objectives of the Convention shall be:

- To promote understanding and fraternity among the countries of the Andean Region;
- To preserve the cultural identity of our peoples within the framework of the Latin American heritage;
- To intensify the mutual communication of the cultural property among those same peoples;
- To carry out joint efforts through education, science and culture for the integral development of its nations; and
- To apply science and technology to improve the standard of living of the peoples of the region.

CHAPTER II. ACTIVITIES TO PROMOTE MUTUAL UNDERSTANDING  
AND THE MOVEMENT OF PERSONS AND CULTURAL PROPERTY

The High Contracting Parties agree:

*Article 4.* To waive visa requirements for entry into and residence of up to thirty (30) days in any of the countries of the area; to exempt from all entry and exit taxes, both of the country of origin as well as the country of destination, all persons transferring to any signatory country for the purposes indicated in this Convention. Presentation of an appropriate identity document or passport — the decision being left to the receiving country — and a valid certificate attesting to the fact that the individual is travelling on a cultural mission, issued by the Ministry of Education of the country of origin, shall suffice for that purpose.

*Article 5.* To exempt from taxes and charges articles and goods that are imported temporarily for scientific, cultural or artistic exhibitions and book fairs, and that originate in any country of the Andean Region.

This exemption shall also apply to articles that are imported temporarily and that are donated to non-profit-making establishments with the authorization of the respective Ministry of Education.

Exhibitions and fairs shall be of a temporary nature and the operation shall be regulated by the Ministry of Education of each country.

*Article 6.* To establish, within and outside the area, institutes or special sections in existing institutes for the specific purpose of cultural exchange.

*Article 7.* To establish, in national libraries and in the libraries of the principal educational establishments of the signatory countries, bibliographic sections pertaining to each of the other countries.

*Article 8.* To send a sufficient number of the major works published by national authors to the principal cultural institutions of the signatory countries, on the basis of lists exchanged by the Ministries of Education.

*Article 9.* To organize special courses in educational centres or expand existing courses to promote dissemination of information regarding the history, geography, literature, economy, arts and folklore of the countries of the region.

*Article 10.* To encourage the social communication media of each country to provide more information about the other countries of the area or to intensify co-operation among them for timely exchange of information.

*Article 11.* To provide, through competitive examinations and in accordance with their fiscal possibilities, fellowships in areas of interest to the beneficiary country to students from other countries of the Andean Region who wish to carry out studies or scientific research.

The fellowship-holders referred to in this article shall have the same academic privileges and rights as are granted to national students.

Upon completion of their studies, fellowship-holders shall be required to serve in their country of origin for the minimum time established by it.

*Article 12.* To accept as valid, for the purposes of enrolling in advanced specialized study courses, the duly legalized diplomas or certificates awarded for scientific, vocational or technical studies and issued by the competent authorities of the signatory countries.

### CHAPTER III. ACTIVITIES FOR THE EXCHANGE OF EXPERIENCE AND REGIONAL TECHNICAL CO-OPERATION

The High Contracting Parties agree:

*Article 13.* To provide each other with technical assistance services in those sectors and areas which are relatively more in one developed country than in the others by sending specialists for varying periods and receiving officials from the country concerned to work in the institutions of the country offering the service.

In each case the Parties shall decide how the relevant costs are to be defrayed. Similarly, each country shall offer every possible facility to enable groups from the other countries to visit projects and institutions of interest to them for observation purposes.

*Article 14.* To organize periodic meetings of experts or officials in charge of various services to study special subjects or to exchange experience.

*Article 15.* To encourage the development of multinational and national programmes of research, experimentation, innovation and transfer of technology, in both public and private institutions.

*Article 16.* To co-ordinate the activities of the educational institutions dealing with similar problems so as to find solutions of mutual interest in the countries of the region.

*Article 17.* To exchange publications and to facilitate their distribution and the exchange of information between scientific, literary, artistic, journalistic and sports institutions.

*Article 18.* To centralize in the capital of one of the signatory countries the information provided by the Ministries of Education. Such information shall be published periodically in a bulletin containing summaries of the work carried out in the fields of education, science and culture and information about those activities.

*Article 19.* To promote unity between the scientific academies and institutions of the signatory countries so that they may combine their efforts for purposes common to them.

*Article 20.* To ensure that research workers from each country can work, if they so wish, for variable periods of time, in scientific research institutions in the other signatory countries. Similarly, to exchange information on research projects

that are under way or in preparation to see if they can be co-ordinated with similar efforts. Efforts shall also be made to ensure that the most advanced research institutes of the area offer their services to other countries if the latter wish to use these services in the search for solutions to their own problems.

#### CHAPTER IV. HARMONIZATION OF EDUCATIONAL SYSTEMS

The High Contracting Parties agree:

*Article 21.* To recognize primary or elementary studies carried out in any of the signatory countries. To establish a régime of equivalency in order to recognize certificates awarded in each country for studies at the secondary level, upon completion of or part-way through such studies, so that studies may be continued or completed within the region.

To recommend to institutions of higher education in the respective countries of the area within their sphere of competence that they determine, under conditions of reciprocity, quotas for students from the other countries who wish to enter or to continue their studies and who satisfy the requirements laid down by the relevant laws or regulations. To that end they recommend that representatives of the institutions of higher education should hold meetings.

*Article 22.* To organize the necessary machinery in the region to recognize levels of knowledge or occupational skills acquired outside the formal educational system and to establish a system which would permit entry at the corresponding educational levels.

*Article 23.* To establish a uniform system for the collection and processing of educational statistics in order to determine levels of comparability.

*Article 24.* To plan education and scientific and technological research in keeping with the needs of the region and above all the needs of economic integration of the signatory countries.

*Article 25.* To review syllabuses for the teaching of history as a means of strengthening the ties of solidarity and integration.

#### CHAPTER V. JOINT ACTION

The High Contracting Parties agree:

*Article 26.* To study various aspects of education, science and culture in order to compare their results and formulate common objectives in the educational systems.

*Article 27.* To work for the adoption and joint production of common school texts, audio-visual materials, teaching guides and other publications.

*Article 28.* To establish an editorial fund to publish and disseminate the literary and scientific values of each country in all the countries of the area.

*Article 29.* To devote special attention to how the social communication media are used, because of their power to educate and to encourage co-production of audio-visual programmes in order to ensure healthy development and recreation for the people and to preserve ethical and cultural values.

*Article 30.* To promote effective action within the legal framework of each country to offset the negative influence that the content of some social commu-

nication media, above all, television, films, radio and printed materials, may have on the development of youth, public morality and the nation's mental health.

*Article 31.* To combine efforts to carry out, with the co-operation of international bodies and other countries, feasibility studies of education via satellite in the signatory countries. Should the findings of such studies be positive, the signatory countries shall take steps to bring this about.

*Article 32.* To co-ordinate the use of international technical assistance in the fields covered by this Convention in order to improve its efficiency and take common action with respect to international bodies.

*Article 33.* To study and propose an agreement to protect historical and cultural heritage so as to prevent the works which form part of that heritage from leaving their territory and also from being introduced into and sold in member countries; to facilitate the return of any works listed on the national inventories of historical and cultural heritage which may have left their own territory illegally. It is understood that archaeological artifacts and other articles which constitute the historical and cultural heritage of the countries of the region shall remain subject to the special provisions laid down on the subject by the respective countries.

#### CHAPTER VI

*Article 34.* The organs responsible for monitoring the implementation and application of this Convention are:

- The Meeting of Ministers of Education;
- The Board of Heads of Planning;
- The Office of Co-ordination to be established by the Ministry of Education of the country hosting the next Meeting of Ministers;
- The Joint Commissions; and
- The Ministries of Education.

*Article 35.* The Meeting of Ministers is the supreme organ of the Convention.

It shall consist of the Ministers of Education of the signatory countries and shall be presided over by the Minister of the country hosting the meeting.

Its functions shall be:

- To formulate the general policy for the implementation of the Convention and to make the necessary arrangements;
- To consider the results of its implementation;
- To give instructions and guidelines for action to the Board of Chiefs of Planning;
- To study and propose amendments to this Convention to member countries;
- To draw up its own rules of procedure;
- To adopt resolutions to implement the provisions of this Convention and achieve its objectives; and
- To study and resolve all other matters of common interest.

*Article 36.* The Meeting of Ministers shall normally be held once a year, and exceptionally it shall be convened at the request of the President of the most recent regular meeting or of three of its members. At each regular meeting, the venue of the next meeting shall be determined.

In order to ensure the optimum co-ordination of functions between the President of the last regular Meeting of Ministers and the person who is to be President at the next meeting, necessary contacts shall be established well in advance to ensure the greatest possible efficiency in their respective tasks.

*Article 37.* The Board of Chiefs of Planning is the auxiliary technical body of the Convention, and it shall meet at least once a year in the city where the next regular meeting of ministers is to be held.

Its functions shall be:

- To carry out the mandates entrusted to it by the Meeting of Ministers;
- To study and recommend to the Ministers of Education formulae which are likely to lead within a short time to closer regional co-operation in the fields of education, science and culture;
- To programme concrete action leading to the desired integration, establishing desirable and possible procedures and time-limits;
- To draw up concrete projects for co-operation and mutual assistance;
- To inform the Meeting of Ministers, for evaluation purposes, of the results of the agreements adopted at previous meetings;
- To identify problems to which common solutions may be found; and
- To submit to the Meeting of Ministers an annual report on its activities.

*Article 38.* In each signatory country there shall be a Joint Commission to co-ordinate the Convention, consisting of the Minister of Education, who shall preside over it, the official in charge of cultural relations of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, the Chief of Planning of the Ministry of Education and the official in charge of that Ministry's international relations. The heads of diplomatic missions of the signatory countries of this Convention, or diplomatic officials designated for that purpose, may also be members of the Commission.

*Article 39.* If there are bilateral conventions or agreements containing more favourable provisions on the subjects covered by this Convention between the High Contracting Parties, the Parties may call for the implementation of the provisions they consider to be most advantageous.

*Article 40.* In view of the importance of this Convention for the integral development of their countries, the High Contracting Parties agree to bring it to the attention of the Inter-American Cultural Council of the Organization of American States (OAS).

*Article 41.* This Convention shall be subject to the constitutional formalities of each of the Parties and shall enter into force when at least three of the signatories have ratified it and deposited the instruments of ratification with the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Colombia.

*Article 42.* This Convention is of indefinite duration, but it may be denounced. However, denunciation shall not take effect until one year has elapsed from the time the notification was given to the depositary country.

*Article 43.* This Convention shall be open to accession by other countries, subject to any conditions the High Contracting Parties may establish, in accordance with the results of its implementation.

IN WITNESS WHEREOF the undersigned Plenipotentiaries have signed this Convention on behalf of their respective Governments, in the city of Bogotá, on 31 January 1970, in six original copies, all six copies being equally authentic.

For the Government of the Republic of Colombia:

[Signed]

OCTAVIO ARIZMENDI POSADA

For the Government of the Republic of Chile:

[Signed]

MAXIMO PACHECO GÓMEZ

For the Government of the Republic of Ecuador:

[Signed]

JOSÉ PONS VIZCAINO

For the Government of the Republic of Peru:

[Signed]

Brigadier General E. P. ALFREDO ARRISUEÑO  
CORNEJO

For the Government of the Republic of Venezuela:

[Signed]

HECTOR HERNÁNDEZ CARABAÑO

For the Government of the Republic of Bolivia:

[Signed]

MARIANO BAPTISTA GUMUCIO