

CONSEJO PERMANENTE



OEA/Ser.G
CP/ACTA 1185/99
24 marzo 1999

ACTA
DE LA SESIÓN ORDINARIA
CELEBRADA
EL 24 DE MARZO DE 1999

Aprobada en la sesión del 28 de abril de 1999

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(SE PUBLICAN POR SEPARADO)

CP/doc.3166/99, Informe anual de la Comisión Interamericana de Mujeres a la Asamblea General

CP/doc.3156/99, Informe anual del Instituto Panamericano de Geografía e Historia a la Asamblea General

CP/doc.3170/99, Informe anual de la Comisión Interamericana de Telecomunicaciones a la Asamblea General

RE/CIDIP-VI/doc.9/98, Informe de la Reunión de Expertos para la Conferencia Especializada Interamericana sobre Derecho Internacional Privado (CIDIP-VI)

CP/CAJP-1453/99 rev. 1, Proyecto de resolución - Proyecto de temario de la Conferencia Especializada Interamericana sobre Derecho Internacional Privado (CIDIP-VI)

CP/CAJP-1479/99, Proyecto de temario de la Reunión de Expertos Gubernamentales sobre Lucha contra el Crimen y Prevención de la Delincuencia

CP/doc.3164/99, Informe anual de la Oficina del Inspector General - 1 de enero al 31 de diciembre de 1998

CP/doc.3174/99, Mecanismos de la OEA para reducir y enfrentar situaciones de desastre (Proyecto de resolución presentado por la Delegación de Antigua y Barbuda)

CONSEJO PERMANENTE DE LA ORGANIZACIÓN DE LOS ESTADOS AMERICANOS

ACTA DE LA SESIÓN ORDINARIA CELEBRADA EL 24 DE MARZO DE 1999

En la ciudad de Washington, a las nueve y treinta de la mañana del miércoles 24 de marzo de 1999, celebró sesión ordinaria el Consejo Permanente de la Organización de los Estados Americanos. Presidió la sesión el Embajador Lionel Alexander Hurst, Representante Permanente de Antigua y Barbuda y Presidente del Consejo Permanente. Asistieron los siguientes miembros:

Embajadora Sonia Merlyn Johnny, Representante Permanente de Santa Lucía y Vicepresidenta del Consejo Permanente
Embajador M.A. Odeen Ishmael, Representante Permanente de Guyana
Embajador Carlos Víctor Montanaro, Representante Permanente del Paraguay
Embajador Osbert W. Liburd, Representante Permanente de Saint Kitts y Nevis
Embajador Mauricio Granillo Barrera, Representante Permanente de El Salvador
Embajador Arlington Griffith Butler, KCMG, Representante Permanente del Commonwealth de las Bahamas
Embajador Antonio Mercader, Representante Permanente del Uruguay
Embajador James Schofield Murphy, Representante Permanente de Belice
Embajador Flavio Darío Espinal, Representante Permanente de la República Dominicana
Embajador Peter M. Boehm, Representante Permanente del Canadá
Embajador Victor Marrero, Representante Permanente de los Estados Unidos
Embajador Michael Anthony Arneaud, Representante Permanente de Trinidad y Tobago
Embajador Alfonso Quiñónez Lemus, Representante Permanente de Guatemala
Embajadora Marlene Fernández del Granado, Representante Permanente de Bolivia
Embajadora Laura Elena Núñez de Ponce, Representante Permanente de Honduras
Embajador Carlos Alberto Leite Barbosa, Representante Permanente del Brasil
Embajador Claude Heller, Representante Permanente de México
Embajador Hernán R. Castro H., Representante Permanente de Costa Rica
Embajador Luis Alfredo Ramos, Representante Permanente de Colombia
Embajador Patricio Vivanco, Representante Permanente del Ecuador
Ministro Consejero Guy Pierre, Representante Interino de Haití
Embajador Juan M. Pons, Representante Interino de Panamá
Consejero Fernando Varela, Representante Interino de Chile
Ministro Juan José Arcuri, Representante Interino de la Argentina
Embajador Víctor M. Silva, Representante Alterno de Nicaragua
Ministro Consejero Ricardo Mario Rodríguez Jiménez, Representante Alterno de Venezuela
Ministra Elizabeth Astete, Representante Alterna del Perú
Ministra Consejera Deborah-Mae Lovell, Representante Alterna de Antigua y Barbuda
Ministra Vilma McNish, Representante Alterna de Jamaica
Consejero David Bulbulia, Representante Alterno de Barbados
Segundo Secretario Henry Leonard MacDonald, Representante Alterno de Suriname

También estuvo presente el Secretario General Adjunto, Embajador Christopher R. Thomas, Secretario del Consejo Permanente.

HOMENAJE A LA MEMORIA DEL SEÑOR LUIS MARÍA ARGAÑA,
VICEPRESIDENTE DEL PARAGUAY

El PRESIDENTE: Let me begin this meeting by expressing our dismay and shock at the brutal assassination of the Vice President of the Republic of Paraguay, Dr. Luis María Argaña. This Council emphatically condemns the reprehensible act and expresses the hope that those responsible for this crime will be brought to justice.

Dr. Luis María Argaña was a public servant whom we all held in very high regard and who served his country for many years. On behalf of the Permanent Council, I convey our deepest condolences to the family of Dr. Argaña and to the Government and people of Paraguay.

I ask the Council to observe a minute of silence in memory of Dr. Argaña.

[El Consejo, de pie, observa un minuto de silencio.]

Thank you.

I give the floor to the Representative of Paraguay.

El REPRESENTANTE PERMANENTE DEL PARAGUAY: Gracias, señor Presidente. En nombre del pueblo y Gobierno de la República del Paraguay y de esta Misión Permanente, debo expresar el profundo agradecimiento por las manifestaciones de condolencias y de apoyo y solidaridad de usted, señor Presidente, del Consejo Permanente y, en especial, de aquellos representantes que se hicieron sentir personalmente desde tempranas horas de ayer.

Demás está decir que nuestro pueblo vive momentos, además de difíciles, de dolor y de luto. Quisiera dar lectura rápidamente a un comunicado de prensa del Ministerio de Relaciones Exteriores de mi país.

El Ministerio de Relaciones Exteriores de la República del Paraguay tiene el penoso deber de informar que el señor Vicepresidente constitucional de la República, doctor Luis María Argaña, acaba de fallecer, víctima de un atentado criminal en la vía pública.

Ante tan trágico acontecimiento, el Presidente de la República del Paraguay ha ordenado a la policía y a los servicios de seguridad la más completa e intensa investigación para el inmediato esclarecimiento de los hechos en el marco de la ley. Asimismo, el primer mandatario a hecho un llamado a la cordura y a la moderación en un momento tan difícil como el presente requiere.

El doctor Luis María Argaña tuvo una larga y destacada carrera en el servicio público, llegando sucesivamente a desempeñar las funciones de Diputado nacional, Presidente de la Corte Suprema de Justicia, Ministro de Relaciones Exteriores y Vicepresidente de la República. En el plano político, el doctor Argaña ejerció la Presidencia de la Asociación Republicana Partido Colorado.

El Gobierno nacional ha decretado duelo nacional por el espacio de tres días y oficial por 15 días. Las representaciones diplomáticas en el exterior abrirán un libro de condolencias para quienes desean rendir un postrero homenaje a tan reconocida figura política paraguaya.

Gracias, señor Presidente.

El PRESIDENTE: I thank the Representative of Paraguay for those remarks, and I give the floor to the Representative of Argentina.

El REPRESENTANTE INTERINO DE LA ARGENTINA: Muchas gracias. Señor Presidente, en representación de los países del MERCOSUR y de Chile, queremos hacer una breve intervención para manifestar que con profundo pesar los pueblos y los Gobiernos de nuestros países han tomado conocimiento del asesinato del señor Vicepresidente de la hermana República del Paraguay, doctor Luis María Argaña.

Sobre la base de experiencias propias dolorosas, repudiamos el ejercicio de la violencia desde todo punto de vista. El atentado que cobró la vida del doctor Argaña constituye un hecho de extrema gravedad y una agresión a las instituciones democráticas paraguayas, lo que enluta al MERCOSUR.

Los países de nuestra región han superado ya enormes desafíos y han encontrado en cada uno de ellos la ocasión para fortalecer aún más su vocación democrática.

Nuestros Gobiernos han ofrecido ya al señor Presidente Raúl Cubas Grau toda la colaboración necesaria en los esfuerzos que viene desarrollando el Gobierno paraguayo con miras a esclarecer el crimen y juzgar a sus responsables.

En esta hora difícil, la ciudadanía y la dirigencia política del Paraguay sabrán ratificar su compromiso con la paz, las instituciones democráticas y el Estado de Derecho, valores estos compartidos por todos nuestros países.

Nuestros Gobiernos, señor Presidente, y nuestros pueblos acompañan en su dolor a la familia del doctor Luis María Argaña. Muchas gracias.

El PRESIDENTE: I thank the Representative of Argentina, who spoke on behalf of the MERCOSUR states. I give the floor to the Representative of the United States.

El REPRESENTANTE PERMANENTE DE LOS ESTADOS UNIDOS: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. My government issued a statement expressing its condolences to the Government and people of Paraguay and especially to the family of Paraguay's Vice President, Luis María Argaña. In that statement, we strongly condemned the killing of Vice President Argaña and urged that violence of this kind, as a means to resolve any kind of political difference, be eliminated from the political process.

Mr. Chairman, there is no greater challenge for a democratic society than to suddenly have its executive authorities struck down by assailants. Many of us have learned this lesson from tragic experiences in the history of our countries. In this light, we should recall that under the Charter of the Organization of American States, we have a special responsibility to promote and consolidate representative democracy with due respect for the principles of nonintervention.

This is a time of solidarity and support for the Government and people of Paraguay in a tragic moment for their democracy. I urge the Secretary General to play close attention to the situation in Paraguay, and I depend greatly upon his counsel, should Paraguay require assistance from the Organization in confronting any challenge to its democratic institutions.

We had intended, Mr. Chairman, to discuss this issue under "Other business" during today's meeting. In light of this occurrence and what may result, and without prejudging or going into the situation in Paraguay, this Council may need to raise a larger question. The Council could discuss ways to strengthen the Organization's mechanisms for dealing with situations not covered strictly under the current provisions of resolution AG/RES. 1080 (XXI-O/91). We may need to look at mechanisms that would encompass possible threats, such as those carried out by assassination. But we will reserve our opportunity to discuss that in the future. Thank you.

El PRESIDENTE: I thank the Representative of the United States, and I give the floor to the Representative of Bolivia.

La REPRESENTANTE PERMANENTE DE BOLIVIA: Muchas gracias. El Presidente de Bolivia, Hugo Bánzer Suárez, emitió ayer una declaración expresando su más profunda condena por el asesinato del Vicepresidente del Paraguay, doctor Luis María Argaña.

El Gobierno de Bolivia cree que no hay lugar para la violencia en un proceso democrático y que este penoso acontecimiento priva a un país hermano de un importante dirigente político. Reiteramos nuestra convicción de que la tolerancia, el diálogo y la concertación son bases sólidas de la democracia.

Al lamentar este acontecimiento, el Gobierno de Bolivia exhorta al Gobierno del Paraguay a llevar a cabo una investigación exhaustiva para identificar y castigar a los responsables.

Al tiempo de expresar su solidaridad con el Gobierno y pueblo del Paraguay en este difícil momento, el Gobierno de Bolivia expresa, asimismo, sus condolencias a la familia del doctor Argaña. Gracias, señor Presidente.

El PRESIDENTE: I thank the Representative of Bolivia, and I give the floor to the Representative of Guatemala.

El REPRESENTANTE PERMANENTE DE GUATEMALA: Gracias, señor Presidente. Quisiera expresar, en nombre de El Salvador, Honduras, Nicaragua, Costa Rica y Panamá, y en el de los Representantes Permanentes de estos países, nuestras más sinceras y sentidas condolencias por el trágico fallecimiento del Excelentísimo señor Vicepresidente del Paraguay, doctor Luis María Argaña. Hacemos extensivas estas condolencias tanto a la familia de este distinguido hombre público como al Paraguay entero.

Quisiera también expresar nuestra condena y repudio por el vil y deleznable acto de violencia del que fue objeto y hacer votos para que la calma, la cordura y la concordia prevalezcan en estos momentos tan difíciles por los que transita este país hermano. Muchas gracias, señor Presidente.

El PRESIDENTE: I thank the Representative of Guatemala, who spoke on behalf of the Central American states. I now give the floor to the Representative of Guyana.

EL REPRESENTANTE PERMANENTE DE GUYANA: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. On behalf of the delegations of the CARICOM member states, I express our deepest sympathies to the Government and people of Paraguay and the family of Dr. Argaña on the loss of the esteemed Vice President of Paraguay.

Mr. Chairman, in our hemisphere we have a number of fledgling democracies. Certain elements within those societies do not want those democracies to grow, and from time to time these elements will practice their forms of localized terrorism to try to stop progress. Such cases are springing up in various parts of this hemisphere, and it's unfortunate that the distinguished Vice President of Paraguay has fallen victim to such a cause.

The CARICOM delegations hope that our distinguished friend, the Permanent Representative of Paraguay, will convey our message to the Government and people of Paraguay. Thank you.

EL PRESIDENTE: I thank the Representative of Guyana, who spoke on behalf of the CARICOM states. I give the floor to the Representative of Canada.

EL REPRESENTANTE PERMANENTE DEL CANADÁ: Thank you very much, Mr. Chairman. It's a sad day in the Americas today and, like other member states, we were shocked to learn of yesterday's assassination of the Vice President of Paraguay, Luis María Argaña. We extend our condolences to his family and to the people and Government of Paraguay. Minister Lloyd Axworthy has written to Minister Florentine Bogado and has expressed the same.

The circumstances of the assassination are not yet clear; however, we energetically condemn this assassination. We welcome the efforts of the Government of Paraguay, as stated in the comments by the distinguished Permanent Representative, to conduct a comprehensive investigation into this most heinous crime. We know that the Government of Paraguay will continue to act with the greatest respect for democracy and constitutional order in bringing closure to this sad, sad affair and to strengthen democracy. Thank you.

EL PRESIDENTE: I thank the Representative of Canada, and I give the floor to the distinguished Representative of Peru.

La REPRESENTANTE ALTERNA DEL PERÚ: Muchas gracias, señor Presidente. Mi Delegación quisiera, en primer lugar, sumarse a las expresiones de condena y de pesar que han sido manifestadas por las delegaciones que me han antecedido en el uso de la palabra.

Quisiera proceder a dar lectura al comunicado de prensa que el Gobierno del Perú emitió el día de ayer con motivo de tan penoso acontecimiento:

El Gobierno del Perú condena de la manera más enérgica el cobarde asesinato del señor Luis María Argaña, Vicepresidente de la República del Paraguay, hecho ocurrido en Asunción en la fecha.

De la misma forma, el Gobierno del Perú confía que, ante este luctuoso acontecimiento, la sociedad paraguaya fortalecerá aún más sus convicciones democráticas y afrontará esas difíciles circunstancias afirmando su vocación por la paz y ejerciendo el diálogo y la tolerancia.

El Presidente de la República ha enviado al Ingeniero Raúl Cubas Grau, Presidente del Paraguay, un mensaje en el que le transmite la solidaridad y el apoyo del pueblo y del Gobierno del Perú y su condena a este acto criminal.

Gracias, señor Presidente.

El PRESIDENTE: I thank the Representative of Peru for those remarks, and I give the floor to the Representative of Mexico.

El REPRESENTANTE PERMANENTE DE MÉXICO: Muchas gracias. Señor Presidente, mi Gobierno deplora la trágica desaparición del Vicepresidente del Paraguay y expresamos nuestros sentimientos de solidaridad a su Delegación ante la Organización de los Estados Americanos.

Hacemos votos para que el pueblo paraguayo supere, con la brevedad posible, este difícil momento para sus desarrollo institucional. Muchas gracias.

El PRESIDENTE: I thank the Representative of Mexico for his remarks and give the floor to the Representative of Venezuela.

El REPRESENTANTE ALTERNO DE VENEZUELA: Gracias, señor Presidente. La Delegación de Venezuela desea también expresar la condolencia del Gobierno y del pueblo de Venezuela al pueblo y Gobierno del Paraguay por el asesinato de su Vicepresidente, doctor Luis María Argaña, distinguido servidor público de reconocida y larga trayectoria. Al mismo tiempo, quiere reiterar su rechazo a la violencia como método político. Gracias.

El PRESIDENTE: I thank the Representative of Venezuela for his remarks, and I now give the floor to the Representative of Colombia.

El REPRESENTANTE PERMANENTE DE COLOMBIA: Gracias, señor Presidente. Queremos reiterar nuestra expresión de solidaridad y condolencia a la Delegación del Paraguay, al pueblo paraguayo y a su Gobierno por el asesinato del Vicepresidente del Paraguay, doctor Luis María Argaña.

Nuestro Gobierno expidió un comunicado en el día de ayer en el cual condena los hechos. Todos los países de América y del mundo conocen la hermandad que une a Colombia con el pueblo del Paraguay. Nuestro Gobierno y nuestro pueblo esperan que Paraguay supere este difícil momento. Muchas gracias, señor Presidente.

El PRESIDENTE: I thank the Representative of Colombia, and I give the floor to the Representative of the Dominican Republic.

El REPRESENTANTE PERMANENTE DE LA REPÚBLICA DOMINICANA: Muchas gracias, señor Presidente. La Delegación de la República Dominicana desea unirse a las otras delegaciones que han expresado su contrariedad y condena profunda al asesinato del Vicepresidente del Gobierno del Paraguay, doctor Luis María Argaña.

Asimismo, deseamos identificarnos con todas las voces que en el Hemisferio han demandado que a los responsables de este acto les caiga todo el peso de la justicia.

La oportunidad es propicia para reafirmar el compromiso de la comunidad interamericana y de la Organización de los Estados Americanos con la democracia y expresar la esperanza de que este terrible acto no se constituya un factor que socave la democracia en el hermano pueblo del Paraguay. Muchas gracias, señor Presidente.

El PRESIDENTE: I thank the Representative of the Dominican Republic. This Council takes note of the condolences expressed to the people of Paraguay on the loss of their Vice President and to the family of Dr. Argaña. We also take note of the condemnation of this criminal act.

There being no further requests for the floor, we will suspend discussion on this item for "Other business." The Representative of the United States has indicated that he will raise this issue at that time.

This being the case, we will now move to consider the items on the order of business, document CP/OD.1185/99.

[El orden del día contiene los siguientes puntos:

1. Presentación sobre "El calentamiento de la Tierra y los efectos adversos de los cambios climáticos", a cargo del Embajador Tuiloma Neroni Slade, del Estado Independiente de Samoa y del señor Robert Watson, Director del Departamento de Medio Ambiente del Banco Mundial
2. Observaciones y recomendaciones del Consejo Permanente (artículo 91 (f) de la Carta de la OEA) sobre los siguientes informes anuales
 - a. Informe anual de la Comisión Interamericana de Mujeres a la Asamblea General (CP/doc.3166/99)
 - b. Informe anual del Instituto Panamericano de Geografía e Historia a la Asamblea General (CP/doc.3156/99)
 - c. Informe anual de la Comisión Interamericana de Telecomunicaciones a la Asamblea General (CP/doc.3170/99)
3. Presentación sobre la participación de los Estados miembros de la OEA en la Conferencia de Maputo de los Estados Parte de la Convención de Ottawa sobre la Prohibición del Empleo, el Almacenamiento, la Producción y la Transferencia de Minas Antipersonal y sobre su Destrucción (Convención de Ottawa)
4. Comisión de Asuntos Jurídicos y Políticos:
 - a. Sexta Conferencia Especializada Interamericana sobre Derecho Internacional Privado (CIDIP-VI):

Informe de la Reunión de Expertos para la Conferencia Especializada Interamericana sobre Derecho Internacional Privado (CIDIP-VI) (RE/CIDIP-VI/doc.9/98)

Proyecto de resolución - Proyecto de temario de la Conferencia Especializada Interamericana sobre Derecho Internacional Privado (CIDIP-VI) (CP/CAJP-1453/99 rev. 1)

- b. Proyecto de temario de la Reunión de Expertos Gubernamentales sobre Lucha contra el Crimen y Prevención de la Delincuencia (CP/CAJP-1479/99)
- 5. Informe anual de la Oficina del Inspector General - 1 de enero al 31 de diciembre de 1998 (CP/doc.3164/99)
- 6. Mecanismos de la OEA para reducir y enfrentar situaciones de desastre (Proyecto de resolución presentado por la Delegación de Antigua y Barbuda) (CP/doc.3174/99)
- 7. Aprobación de las actas de las sesiones celebradas el 21 de enero de 1998 (CP/ACTA 1146/98), 13 de enero de 1998 (CP/ACTA 1145/98) y 18 de diciembre de 1997 (CP/ACTA 1144/97)
- 8. Otros asuntos.]

The Chair intends to end this meeting at about noon so that the Preparatory Committee of the General Assembly can commence its meeting at about 12:15 p.m.

PRESENTACIÓN SOBRE “EL CALENTAMIENTO DE LA TIERRA Y LOS
EFECTOS ADVERSOS DE LOS CAMBIOS CLIMÁTICOS”, A CARGO
DEL EMBAJADOR TUILOMA NERONI SLADE, DEL ESTADO
INDEPENDIENTE DE SAMOA Y DEL SEÑOR ROBERT WATSON,
DIRECTOR DEL DEPARTAMENTO DE MEDIO AMBIENTE
DEL BANCO MUNDIAL

El PRESIDENTE: This Council is honored this morning by the presence of Ambassador Neroni Slade of Samoa, Chairman of the Alliance of Small Island States (AOSIS) at the United Nations and member of the Climate Change Bureau; and Dr. Robert Watson, Director of the Environmental Department at the World Bank and Chairman of the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC). Ambassador Slade and Dr. Watson will address the Council on matters relating to global warming and the ill effects of climate change.

Ambassador Slade has very impressive academic credentials. He is by training an attorney-at-law and has served as his country's chief justice and as its attorney-general.

Since 1993, Ambassador Slade has served as Samoa's Ambassador to the United States and Canada and Permanent Representative to the United Nations. He was elected to chair the 41-member Alliance of Small Island States (AOSIS) at the United Nations and was Vice Chair of the Conference of the Parties to the UN Framework Convention on Climate Change (FCCC) in both 1995 and 1997.

He was the Vice Chair of the Global Conference on the Sustainable Development of Small Island Developing States, a milestone UN conference that took place in Barbados in 1994. He has served as Chairman and Moderator of the South Pacific Forum, a seminar on nuclear issues, and as Chairman and Moderator of the Sixth Asia-Pacific Seminar on Climate Change. Ambassador Slade is in demand, everywhere.

Ambassador Slade serves as the constituency representative for the Pacific Island States on the Global Environment Facility (GEF), and he has chaired several workshops and seminars on the GEF. He is the small island states' spokesperson on global climate change.

I thank him for giving us his time this morning. Ambassador Slade, you have the floor.

EL EMBAJADOR DEL ESTADO INDEPENDIENTE DE SAMOA: Mr. Chairman, thank you very much. An invitation from you is irresistible and a gesture of generosity. For me to be able to address this Permanent Council on an issue of vital importance is an added measure, a particular honor, and deeply appreciated.

Excellencies, ladies and gentlemen, from the perspective of a small island state such as my own, Samoa, climate change is foreboding in almost every respect. What we know about climate change is cause for the most serious concern. What we do not know is equally worrying. And what we know we must do has become a major responsibility for small island states. This morning I want to be able to say a few words about each of these aspects.

In a word, climate change is real. We know this from what is happening to our islands—whether from excessive rainfall or drought brought on by El Niño or La Niña or through the destructive forces of increasingly more frequent hurricanes and storms. Our experience is consistent with what we know from science. The World Meteorological Organization (WMO) has identified the 10 hottest years in recorded history as having all occurred since 1980, and now record-setting weather extremes seem more the pattern than the exception. In its second annual assessment report, in 1995, the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC) announced that the earth had entered a period of climate instability likely to cause “widespread economic, social, and environmental destruction over the next century.”

I should say, Mr. Chairman, that I feel especially privileged to be on this podium with Dr. Watson, to whom I extend personal admiration for his leadership of the IPCC and the important work being undertaken by that body.

The effects of climate change strike directly and deeply at the heart of development efforts in all our countries. Successive major hurricanes in my own country earlier in this decade literally destroyed the banana industry and root crop production. One can recite many such instances among small island developing states from the Mediterranean to the Pacific, from the Indian Ocean to the Caribbean.

Indeed, in the region represented by this Council—the Caribbean and the Americas—instances are all too recent, as recent as the last hurricane season. You well know it takes years to restore the environmental balance and to rebuild infrastructure. Severe economic consequences are inevitable, especially where the country concerned is dependent—as many small island states tend to be—on single crops, be they bananas or sugar cane, or a single industry, such as tourism. For small

island states, the real point is that because of smallness, the effect of a major hurricane can be total. There is little alternative; indeed, there is really nowhere else to go.

It is clear that small islands are not alone in facing the problem of climate change. The IPCC has drawn attention to the serious consequences of inundation in the major deltaic areas of Bangladesh and Egypt, for instance. These areas are heavily populated. From no less an authority than the President of the United States, we have heard that a one-meter sea level rise will devastate hundreds of miles of Florida and Louisiana. But for large countries like the United States, there is time and space to retreat.

Sea level rise is profoundly the most dangerous threat to low-lying and small island states. Dr. Watson will no doubt correct me, but my understanding is that by current IPCC projections, there could be a global average temperature increase by the end of the next century of 1.5 to 4.5 degrees Celsius, with a consequent sea level rise of 15 to 95 centimeters or roughly 3 feet.

For more precise results, it is necessary to understand these projections in the context of their local and regional impacts. Some studies in the Pacific, for example, indicate that temperature increases in our region of 0.3 degrees Celsius to 0.8 degrees are well in excess of global projection of 0.1 degrees. Sea level rise in parts of the Pacific of up to 25 millimeters per year is some ten times the global trend this century of 2 millimeters per year. Here again, the point is that whether or not there is debate or agreement on these regional findings, it is clear that the global climate system is changing and that countries most vulnerable to the impact stand to be severely affected.

Fresh water supplies have been significantly affected by sea water and the rising tides in several small island states. This is the case in the Maldives, the Marshall Islands, Tuvalu, Kiribati, and other low-lying islands in the Pacific; and in the Caribbean, in The Bahamas. Well before any of these islands are overwhelmed by the seas, communities would need to abandon their lands because of the lack of fresh water.

As it is, in my part of the world, the sea has already claimed historical areas and burial sites in a number of countries—in Kiribati, Niue, and Micronesia. When populations are forced to move, it is not simply the abandonment of homelands, but also the demise of cultural links and the societal environment. These are serious moral dimensions that should not be overlooked.

There is much that we do not know in critical areas regarding the mysteries of climate change, including the impacts of climate change at the local and regional levels. The ocean exerts a major influence on all islands, and we need greater understanding of the relative forces. Of particular importance to small island states is the need for more precision in forecasting and predictive science and technology. This means that in the long term, we need to train our own scientists and technical people and ensure that they become engaged in the work of key forums like the IPCC.

Given the situation of vulnerability and exposure, small island states have been determined to do what they can to put before the international community their concerns, especially in the following areas.

One, the need for a deeper understanding of the impact of global climate change and a consequent serious global response from the international community to the vulnerability of countries like small island states.

Two, a proper focus on issues of equity, for small island states make comparatively negligible contributions to global greenhouse gas emissions, yet are the first to face the full impacts of climate change.

Three, the need for urgent and effective action by the industrialized countries, given their historical role in the buildup of greenhouse gases in the atmosphere and their continuing high rates of emissions.

Four, in the long term, for effective protective action for the global climate system, in accordance with the precautionary principle, the IPCC has warned that it is imprudent to gamble and to continue to do so with the future.

To give voice to these concerns, small island states have become seriously involved in the negotiations of the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (FCCC), as well as the Kyoto Protocol. We're able, I believe, in both cases, to make some useful input. However, while the Convention recognized the vulnerability of small island states, it failed to provide binding emissions reduction targets and therefore failed to provide effective means to address the problem with any degree of urgency.

Through the Alliance of Small Island States (AOSIS)—and it has always been more effective to hear the chorus of 40 voices than the wailing of two—small island states have sought international support in their protocol proposal for a 20 percent cut in emissions by the industrialized countries by the year 2005. The AOSIS proposal of 20 percent was, in our view, modest when measured against the immediate 60 percent cut necessary in order to stabilize greenhouse gas concentrations by the end of the next century, as advised by the IPCC. Acceptance, however, was not to be, because the AOSIS proposal was considered a threat to many modern economies.

Instead the international community, in 1997, agreed on the Kyoto Protocol, which now provides for clear legally binding commitments. However, the emissions reduction targets for the industrialized countries do not, in our view, match the level of ambition required by the climate change problem, nor do they respond to the dictates of the science, as advised by the IPCC.

We small island states cannot be unrealistic. We do understand the real burden of this issue is its sheer global complexity in almost every respect—scientific, economic, and political. We do not have all the answers. We certainly do not have the wealth nor the capacities to deal with the many critical issues of a problem which, I must emphasize, is global.

So, what must we do? Small island states accept the responsibility to bring this issue before the international community in every possible way. We make no apology for the fact that, on this issue, we are driven by our fear and concerns for the safety and survival of our islands and communities. However, we believe very deeply that there is a fundamental question of equity and justice at stake. This is not an issue of our making, yet we are the first and most severely at risk.

So while we come to these global negotiations with clean hands, we fear that in the absence of clear and effective undertakings and commitment for early and effective action by the international community and for assistance to countries such as ours, we will go away with empty hands. But we will continue to act as best we can.

One of our preoccupations is the question of adaptation to climate change: the need to take physical action to preserve and to protect our coral reefs and properties in the coastal areas. Clearly, these are enormous tasks and quite beyond our own national resources. We are therefore working very seriously to develop, along with the rest of the international community, some of the new mechanisms introduced by the Kyoto Protocol; namely, the Clean Development Mechanism. In these negotiations, our efforts are being controlled by the following considerations.

First, the need for all states, especially the small and affected ones like our own countries, to be fully engaged and to become involved in this issue. We believe we have an important contribution to make to the international negotiations. Therefore, we need to be assisted and assured of all possible opportunities for participation.

Second, the need for agreed rules and norms of international law to govern all issues and activities under the Convention and the Kyoto Protocol. The existence of agreed principles and rules to govern all states parties and their behavior is ultimately the real protection for small states.

Third, small island states have consistently called for the establishment of rules, procedures, and institutions that would enable the climate regime to participate, prevent, identify, and respond to situations of noncompliance. The adoption, through the Kyoto Protocol, of legally binding and quantified commitments and the introduction of market-based mechanisms make the development of such noncompliance procedures quite imperative.

Fourth, it is vital that there be agreed rules for the monitoring and regulation of these activities and for the collection, verification, control, and use of data. This is for the same reasons mentioned earlier, particularly as parties seek to perform some of their basic obligations with the involvement of the private sector and of other nongovernmental actors and to perform these beyond national borders.

Mr. Chairman, the climate change negotiations are extraordinarily complex and difficult. Rightly, I think, there has been a focus in recent times on the economic aspects. Unfortunately, there has been too much emphasis on the negative so that there has been preoccupation with the burden of tackling climate change and the threats to national economies and livelihood. Rather, I believe that much more should be made of the business opportunities and the new challenge to the human mind and to the human spirit.

Lastly, Mr. Chairman, let me say just a word about the developing countries. Most small island states that I have the honor to speak for are developing, and we support fully the position taken by the developing countries on this issue. In large measure, the climate change debate is about the objectives and the ethics of sustainable development. What is often not recognized is that under both the Convention and the Kyoto Protocol, every country, developed and developing, has substantive obligations. Developing countries are, in fact, faithfully discharging these obligations.

However, given the size and the long-term nature of global climate change, I believe that all countries, including especially the rapidly industrialized developing countries, should do more to agree on specific greenhouse gas emissions reduction targets. This, I believe, would be vital for the protection of the global climate system.

Mr. Chairman, thank you very much again for this special opportunity.

El PRESIDENTE: Let me thank Ambassador Slade for his remarks this morning. We now turn to Dr. Robert Watson.

Dr. Watson is Director of the Environment Department at the World Bank. He is a scientist who earned his Ph.D. in chemistry from London University. Today, he serves as Chairman of the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC), which my colleague mentioned. It is a panel of more than 1200 scientists from around the world who review each other's work on climate change.

Dr. Watson was Associate Director for the Environment in the Office of Science and Technology Policy of the Executive Office of the President of the United States. He was Chief Scientist for the Office of Mission to Planet Earth at the U.S. National Aeronautics and Space Administration (NASA). He has played a key role in the negotiations leading to several global environment conventions and was pivotal in the negotiations that led to the creation of the Global Environment Facility (GEF). Dr. Watson has testified before the U.S. Congress on many occasions and has won many awards and prizes for his contribution to science.

I am pleased to welcome you here this morning, sir, and I give you the floor.

El DIRECTOR DEL DEPARTAMENTO DE MEDIO AMBIENTE DEL BANCO MUNDIAL: First, thank you very much for the invitation, and it is a real pleasure to be here. I actually don't have a prepared speech because I brought a whole pile of view files, so I'll refer to the view files.

First, I think we have to put climate change in the construct of development. In fact, we have to put climate change in the context of all other global environmental issues, such as loss of biodiversity, stratospheric ozone depletion, desertification, loss of our forests, and sustainable water management. They're all linked together. We can no longer think of them in splendid isolation. We have to look at climate change as one element of sustainable development.

Let us remind ourselves of the challenges. First is the alleviation of poverty for 1.3 billion people that live on \$1 a day. Three billion people—half the world's population—live on \$2 a day. Eight hundred million people are currently malnourished. We need to double food production sustainably in the next 35 years. One point three billion people live without clean water; 2 billion people live without sanitation; two billion people don't have electricity; and between one and two billion people are exposed to either dangerous indoor or outdoor air pollution. Climate change will exacerbate all of these issues.

Throughout the world, temperature is increasing. Over the last 100 years, the world's temperatures have increased about 0.5°C. Land temperatures have increased more than ocean temperatures. Land temperatures increased by about 0.8 °C, and as Ambassador Slade said, the 10 hottest years in the last 100 years have all occurred since 1980. The earth is getting warmer. Nowhere on the earth is it getting colder.

Precipitation is changing. Some parts of the world, like most of Asia and North America, have actually become a little wetter in the last 100 years, but most of Africa is significantly drier.

What's the cause of these observed changes in climate? The scientific community has looked very carefully to explain these observed changes in natural variability, and our conclusion is: We

cannot. Therefore, we came up with almost a legalistic statement that the scientific evidence suggests, or is at least in part suggesting, that human activities are causing climate change. We don't know whether all of the observed change is due to human activities or only a part of it, but it is clear that we have to invert our human activities.

Which activities? Primarily our combustion of fossil fuels, coal, oil, and gas which, when we burn them to produce the energy we need for development, causes carbon dioxide to be emitted into the atmosphere. The way we manage our agricultural systems and our forests is also leading, unfortunately, to a significant input of carbon dioxide and other greenhouse gases into the atmosphere. So we humans, at least in part, are changing our climate.

We've seen a change to date, on average, of 0.5°C. The land is actually warming much more than the oceans, and some parts of the land have warmed more than 1°C. Unless we change our energy and land use policies over the next 100 years, the temperature will increase between 1 and 3.5°C and the sea level will increase by 15 to 95 centimeters. Land, however, won't change by 1 to 3.5°C. It will be significantly more—probably double that.

In addition, there will be significant changes in precipitation patterns. Some parts of the world will become wetter, some parts will become drier. Because of the higher temperatures, even in those parts that will become wetter, soil moisture in many regions is likely to decrease. The implications of a change in soil moisture are less agricultural productivity and less productivity of our natural ecological systems.

One of the challenges for us as a scientific community is to understand whether the frequency and the magnitude of the El Niño events will change. We've seen the two largest El Niño events in the last 20 years, and we have records going back 150 years. The events in 1982, 1992, and 1998 were probably the three largest. Those of you who live in Latin America know the implications of an El Niño event. They can lead to massive flooding in Peru and other parts of Latin America and massive droughts in parts of northeast Brazil. It dries out places in Indonesia and much of Africa. There are major changes in precipitation throughout the world, with significant economic and social consequences.

Luckily, as a scientific community, we now have some ability to predict El Niño events six to nine months in advance. We have to use science to make countries less vulnerable to natural climate variability. What we have to ask ourselves is: Will the frequency and magnitude of these events, which can really cause economic and social dislocation, change in the future? We truly do not know, but there is a hint that we will see stronger and more frequent El Niño events.

Ambassador Slade mentioned adaptation. Unfortunately, most countries are maladapted to the climate of today. I don't just mean developing countries; I mean developed and developing countries. We don't look at the climate record and adapt our agricultural and water policies and practices to the natural variability of today. If we did, we could actually reduce our vulnerability to long-term climate change.

So what do we care about? As we change temperature, precipitation, and sea level, we care about human health. We care about the increase in heat-stress mortality in our cities that will occur in both developed and developing countries. But much more important is the potential increase in vector-borne diseases, especially malaria. As you all know, there are about 300 million new cases of

malaria per year and more than 2 million deaths from malaria. Many of them, unfortunately, occur in Africa.

In a double CO₂ world, which we would realize during the next century, with a three- to four-degree rise in temperature, one could see a 25 percent increase in the incidents of malaria. One could also see increases in dengue fever and some non-vector-borne diseases—water-borne diseases, such as cholera.

We are likely to see no change in agricultural production at the global level, but significant changes regionally. Production could increase in Russia and other parts of Siberia and in the U.S.A. and Canada, but we could also see a very significant decrease—potentially up to 20 to 30 percent—in Africa and Latin America. Hunger and famine are already present in Africa. So we have to look at the equity issue. We cannot just look at the global perspective; we also need to look at the regional perspective.

Many of us view our forests and our coral reefs as natural beauties that we enjoy when we occasionally have the odd hour away from work. However, they are much more important than how we look at them from a natural perspective. Our forests actually sustain life on earth; they provide ecological services such as air and water purity, production and maintenance of soils, and pollination. And so when we start to think of climate change significantly affecting our ecological systems—our forests, our grasslands, our coral reefs—it actually undermines the very foundations of sustainable development.

One of the basic problems in talking about global warming is that everyone focuses on temperature. The most important issues, in my personal opinion, are changes in precipitation. As I've already said, some areas of the world will become wetter and some will become drier, but we will also see a change not only in the spatial patterns of water, but in the temporal patterns. That is, even in an area where the amount of precipitation in a year remains the same, and the models show that for many parts of the world, we'll see a change in the type of rain. There will be far more very heavy precipitation events with two inches of rain in 24 hours, and far less light rain.

As most of you know, it's much better for agricultural production to get light rain and drizzle all throughout the year. We're likely to see more floods and more droughts in the same place. This is why we're so concerned about water management and agricultural systems. Sea level rises, as Ambassador Slade said, threaten small island states and can potentially make extinct whole cultures. But it's not only small island states. As he mentioned, the Everglades in Florida, for example, could completely disappear with a one-meter sea level rise. Tens of millions of people could be displaced from the low-lying deltaic areas in Bangladesh, Egypt, and China. This has both social and economic costs.

The politicians have been arguing for the last few years: Should we try to minimize climate change? They've argued: What is the cost of changing our energy and land policies? They should also ask: What is the cost of inaction? The cost of inaction may be greater than the cost of action, and we have to look at both sides of the equation. Not everything can be quantified by dollars and cents. The loss of human life, how do you value it? It has to be taken into account. So the challenge for the policy makers is stabilization of greenhouse gases at a level below which there is no dangerous perturbation. But it's not an easy question to answer; it's not one for me, as a scientist, to answer.

There are winners and losers. I hate that term, but I'll use it anyway. Agricultural production will go up in North America; it will go down in Africa. Sea level rise will be a serious issue in Bangladesh, but not in Switzerland or Bolivia. And if you go through all the issues, there are pluses and minuses. On balance, most of the effects are negative in most parts of the world. But arguing what is the right stabilization level is a very difficult issue that politicians, such as yourselves and others in your capitals, will have to argue about. We, as a scientific community, can at least tell you the implications of different decisions.

Climate change is global, but we have to recognize another equity issue. Most of the greenhouse gases have been produced by the industrialized world: North America, Europe, Japan, and the former Soviet Union. The countries that are most vulnerable are the developing countries, especially in Africa, in my opinion. But all developing countries are vulnerable.

As a global issue, the question is: Who should take action? Kyoto was a landmark step in the right direction. It was the first very necessary step on a very long journey. The first step was that industrialized countries agreed to reduce their emissions, on average, by five percent by the commitment period, which is from 2008 to 2012. But to be honest, eventually—and deciding when “eventually” will occur is a political decision—all countries will have to eliminate their emissions of greenhouse gases if they want to stabilize the climate and therefore not threaten agriculture, health, water, et cetera.

Time is also not particularly on one's side. There are some very long time constants in the climate system. There is an interesting little figure that I wanted to show you. It asks: If we doubled carbon dioxide over the next 70 years and there was no further change in atmospheric concentration, what would happen to temperature and sea level rise? The sea level would continue to monotonically increase for at least 600 years and probably for 2000 years.

Once you set in motion changes in temperature and sea level, they are very, very difficult to reverse. Hence, unfortunately, policy makers cannot wait for perfect knowledge. It is an imperfect world; we have imperfect knowledge. There are many scientific uncertainties, and so as policy makers you have to make decisions. What actions should you take in the presence of scientific uncertainty and less-than-perfect knowledge? But you cannot wait for perfect knowledge because the time systems are very, very long.

The IPCC looked at the issue of the so-called flexibility mechanisms, articles 6, 12, and 17. Articles 6 and 12 are what we call project-based mechanisms. Article 17 is like emission rights trading in America, in which you buy and sell the rights to emit, in this case, carbon or other greenhouse gases.

There is absolutely no question in my mind—and the IPCC is doing some more analysis—that these flexibility mechanisms are probably the best way to meet the objectives of the Kyoto Protocol. They are a way to reduce the costs in the Annex I countries, but it doesn't mean that the Annex I countries are transferring their obligations to developing countries. This is a mechanism to transfer the best and the cleanest technologies from developed countries to developing countries. It's technology transfer. It will also help with local environmental issues, such as particulates, and regional environmental issues, such as acid deposition. It will also be a way, in a good market, to transfer resource rent—money—so developing countries can use it for education, health, or anything else in development.

One has to see how mechanisms such as the Clean Development Mechanism in Article 12 can reduce the cost to industrialized countries, transfer technology to developing countries and countries with economies in transition, and help them share in the resource rent. By resource rent I mean the cost differential between abating carbon in, say, the United States, and in one of your countries, say, Bolivia. There is a very big cost difference in what it takes to alleviate carbon emissions.

I think we need to look very carefully at these flexibility mechanisms. How big could the market be? My guess is \$10 to \$20 billion a year in the period 2010 to 2020. Why? The industrialized countries have only agreed to a five percent, on average, cut in 2010 relative to 1990. But if we don't ratify and implement the Kyoto Protocol, on average, Annex I emissions will increase probably 25 percent relative to 1990. A country like the United States, with no Kyoto Protocol, will probably have 25 percent more emissions in 2010 than in 1990. If it ratifies, it is obliged to cut by seven percent. So it's really a 30 percent gap between what you would project without Kyoto and what countries have to realize. Similar numbers for Europe and Japan may show a slightly smaller gap. So in reality, this is not a trivial exercise to meet the Kyoto mandate. Countries have to do things domestically on energy efficiency and decarbonizing their energy supply. As I've said, I believe these flexibility mechanisms really make sense.

What would be a good climate change strategy? Instituting macroeconomic reform and sector reform; making our energy, transportation, and agricultural systems much more efficient; and deleting subsidies that actually don't help the local treasury and don't help the poor in many cases. Subsidies often mean inefficient use of energy, fertilizers, et cetera. A good strategy would promote energy efficiency much more aggressively; obviously, a logical thing.

Look at rural energy. One doesn't have to have on-grid supplies; one could have off-grid using new modern renewable energies. This is very good for local pollution and the global climate.

We use fossil fuels, especially coal. It's not only an issue of global warming; there is local pollution, such as particulates and acid deposition. These come at a social cost: ecological damage and injury to human health. We actually subsidize coal indirectly by not internalizing the social cost of local and regional environmental pollution. If we did, which makes good economic sense to individual countries, it would mean we would probably transform, to some degree, our energy system. We don't have to get completely out of coal, we just need more efficient use of energy from coal. We can move to natural gas and it will also move us towards renewable energies, such as wind, solar, modern biomass.

We have to envisage a world where much of our energy in the next 50 to 100 years, not tomorrow morning, is largely from these renewable energies—modern wind, modern solar, modern biomass. And if we do that, in my opinion, it will mean a very consistent way of looking at sustainable development.

In conclusion, I'd just like to say that when you think about climate change, think of it in the development context: water, food, human settlement. Think of how it interrelates to biodiversity loss. Climate change affects biodiversity, loss of biodiversity affects climate, climate affects our forests, forests affect our climate. Even stratospheric ozone depletion is coupled with climate change. We have to look at climate change in the context of all of these other large, global, environmental issues. And if we do not take an integrated approach to development in local, regional, and global

environmental issues, we will not realize our vision of a sustainable future for our children, grandchildren, and great-grandchildren. Thank you.

El PRESIDENTE: I thank Dr. Watson for those inspiring remarks. I now offer the floor to delegations wishing to ask questions or make remarks. I give the floor to the Representative of Saint Lucia.

La REPRESENTANTE PERMANENTE DE SANTA LUCÍA: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. First, let me thank Ambassador Slade of Samoa and Dr. Watson of the World Bank for their most topical presentations.

As you well know, Mr. Chairman, and we cannot emphasize it too much, small states like those of the Caribbean contribute the least to global climate changes and sea level rise, but are some of the first to significantly suffer.

Our hurricane record indicates a trend that is certainly cause for worry. Between 1910 and 1930, the record indicates that 70 hurricanes traversed the Caribbean. On average, therefore, the Caribbean experienced 3.5 storms and hurricanes per annum during that 20-year period.

Between 1944 and 1980, a 36-year period, the Caribbean witnessed 196 storms and hurricanes. The average climbed to six percent per year. In 1995, the Caribbean felt the fury of 17 storms and hurricanes; in 1996, 11 of these storms and hurricanes battered our islands. In 1997, 12 storms and hurricanes were forecast. Six actually arrived. In 1998, we all know what transpired with Hurricane Georges.

I do not have to state here in detail the profound impact of the storms and hurricanes on the economies and environment of small states. But suffice it to say that for most of us, our infrastructure, our population, and our agricultural land tend to be concentrated in the coastal zone, and these often bear the brunt of storms and hurricanes.

But, Mr. Chairman, small states in the Caribbean are aware that we make up such a minute portion of the worldwide discharge into the atmosphere, and because of that, we feel that there is little that we can do to alleviate greenhouse gas emission. It has been stated in some quarters that if we are to continue our pressure on the countries that contribute significantly to gas emissions, we first have to put our houses in order by making use of the opportunities for renewable energy, such as biomass, solar, and wind, as mentioned by both Ambassador Slade and Dr. Watson.

However, while sustainable energy opportunities are being explored and continued pressure is being placed on the countries that produce more than 55 percent of industrial country emissions, we must continue to work on our level of preparedness for such disasters, our mitigating measures, and our disaster response capability.

We must remember that many question the reality of global warming. Many in the industrial countries argue that any significant move to reduce emissions would cripple their industries and economies, and these naysayers are therefore working strongly against any such reduction. So we, too, must play our part if we must see some reduction. I thank you.

El PRESIDENTE: I thank the Representative of Saint Lucia for her remarks, and I give the floor to the Representative of Canada.

El REPRESENTANTE PERMANENTE DEL CANADÁ: Thank you very much, Mr. Chairman. I, too, would like to thank Ambassador Slade and Dr. Watson for two very interesting and thought-provoking presentations. I had planned a rather long intervention and, out of respect for the number of other colleagues who wish to speak and your stated intention, Mr. Chairman, of trying to close the meeting early, I have dispensed with about two thirds of it. Nonetheless, I would like to respond with a few points.

Mr. Chairman, it is the view of Canada that to meet the global challenge of climate change, we all need to work together to strengthen the implementation of the UN Framework Convention on Climate Change (FCCC) and prepare for the future entry into force of the Kyoto Protocol. In this spirit of partnership, our leaders at the Santiago Summit undertook to work together to achieve the objectives of the FCCC and encouraged the exchange of technology information and experiences on climate change and clean technologies.

These commitments have been largely met with the establishment of the Clean Development Mechanism. Canada recognizes that developed countries, which are responsible for most of the accumulative carbon in the atmosphere, must take the first steps. The agreement to targets set in Kyoto and efforts towards implementing the Kyoto Protocol have made key progress in this regard.

The issue of climate change, it goes without saying, presents Canada's energy-intensive resource base and export-oriented economy with a significant national challenge. We have developed a national strategy, the National Action Program on Climate Change, which provides a strategy for all levels of government in Canada and decision-makers in all sectors of the economy to address climate change.

To mitigate the effects of climate change, both the public and private sectors in Canada are reviewing and reducing energy use in thousands of government and office buildings. They are increasing the fuel efficiency of their transportation fleets, conserving energy consumed by office equipment, making greater use of recycled paper and other less energy-intensive products, reducing travel through teleconferencing and other forums of electronic communication, and developing energy efficiency performance guidelines.

However, when we expand our scope internationally, we are not so optimistic. In view of global emissions, the FCCC risks not meeting its environmental objectives unless a broader range of countries takes further action. I welcome very much the comments made by my colleague from Saint Lucia in that regard. Thus, we welcome further dialogue on issues such as a possible third way for voluntary commitments on the part of developing countries, as put forward by the Government of Argentina.

Sustained attention and leadership will be needed by small island states in this endeavor. And in this context, Mr. Chairman, I thank you for bringing this matter to the Council's attention; I know it is one that you are very committed to on a personal basis as well.

Argentina's voluntary commitment to accept emission reductions should also be recognized as a significant step. Canada has welcomed the effort of Central American countries to raise global

awareness of vulnerability issues related to the effects of climate change. We look forward to further work with all member states on climate-change-related projects and response measures, as well as to a continued dialogue on other climate change issues, because it is a road that we all share. Thank you very much.

El PRESIDENTE: I thank the Representative of Canada for those very interesting remarks. I now give the floor to the Representative of Guyana.

El REPRESENTANTE PERMANENTE DE GUYANA: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I, too, thank Ambassador Slade and Dr. Watson for their presentations this morning.

Mr. Chairman, I'd like to make a few random remarks, some of which may sound a bit controversial. But, I guess that when we're dealing with global warming and trying to find solutions, sometimes we do have to brainstorm to develop a barrel full of ideas.

Without a doubt, Mr. Chairman, the main cause of global warming is the increasing discharge of greenhouse gases into the atmosphere. All of our countries are today more and more affected in various ways by changing weather patterns that have brought abnormally higher rainfall and longer droughts. Some countries have been deluged by floods or have been battered by extra violent tornadoes and hurricanes.

But while environmentalists and others, including politicians, pontificate over what should and should not be done to control global warming, the resulting natural disasters continue to occur. Meanwhile, each country strives for increased development and production, which utilize existing forms of energy and thus add more greenhouse gases into the atmosphere. This cycle therefore perpetuates itself.

As we have become painfully aware, threats to our environment also encroach upon our peace and security. Global warming and climate change have exposed the weaknesses of small states, like my own country, to weather-induced natural disasters. The El Niño phenomenon recently inflicted on Guyana a period of intense drought, taking a heavy toll on our economy.

Now, countries like Guyana with vast forest resources are being called upon by developed societies to be the lungs of the world. Environmental groups in these societies demand that we stop exploiting this natural wealth because they feel that we are killing the rainforest.

In Guyana, Mr. Chairman, the rainforest is healthy and well. But people in developed societies have to understand that we need to make use of our natural resources to improve our economy and provide better standards of living for our people—standards that people in developed societies actually enjoy.

About three years ago, Mr. Chairman, in another forum, I proposed that if the developed world wants poor countries to keep their rainforests untouched, those poor countries should be compensated for all the wealth they could accrue if they utilize the resources from their forests. In other words, they should be paid for not cutting timber. My proposal then was—and still is—that if developed societies do not want countries with rainforests to cut timber from our forests, they should compensate us with a minimum of \$1 a year for each mature tree in our forests.

My country remains dedicated to the preservation of the environment and the sustainable development of our resources. In this respect, we have the highest respect for the protection of our environment. We have also put in place arrangements to ensure the conservation of our natural resources. As is well known, under the Ewokorama Rainforest Project, Guyana has set aside almost a million acres of rainforest for research by the international community into the preservation of biodiversity and the sustainable use of forests.

Mr. Chairman, we must be concerned over the fate of small islands now facing the threat of rising sea levels caused by the melting of the ice sheets near the North and South poles. But global warming is already posing a serious threat to countries with low coastal areas. In Guyana, for example, the rising level of high tides is already battering our sea defenses, and there are increasing incidents of flooding of residential and agricultural areas, much of which are below sea level. We have now to divert our already limited resources to sea and river defenses and flood management. This is a very expensive exercise, and it bites very deeply into resources that could have been otherwise utilized for productive development.

Finally, Mr. Chairman, we have to begin the application of what I call "preventive ecology." As with preventive diplomacy, in which we have to find solutions to regional, hemispheric, and world political problems before they escalate to serious levels, we will have to look ahead and apply measures, both nationally and internationally, to prevent any degradation of the environment. This is a challenge that we now have to seriously confront.

Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

El PRESIDENTE: I thank the Representative of Guyana for his provocative words.

Our colleague from Guatemala has agreed to postpone the Preparatory Committee's meeting until next week Wednesday, so our Permanent Council meeting will continue until 1:00 p.m.

I now give the floor to the Representative of the United States.

El REPRESENTANTE PERMANENTE DE LOS ESTADOS UNIDOS: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I thank both of our guests for their very, very important presentations. We found them very helpful and enlightening on subjects of very vital interest to all of our members. I also thank you, Mr. Chairman, for taking the initiative and leadership in inviting the guests and highlighting this very important theme.

My government believes that the market-based mechanisms of the Kyoto Protocol are powerful policy instruments that will enable countries to achieve their greenhouse gas commitments in an environmentally credible and cost-effective manner that will minimize any adverse economic or trade competitiveness impacts associated with meeting those commitments. We must continue to make progress in elaborating those mechanisms, since the emissions targets for parties will be far more costly and difficult to meet without the international community's agreement to the principles, modalities, rules, and guidelines for the mechanisms. We recognize the importance of taking measures at home, but we feel strongly that these market-based mechanisms must have the possibility of unrestricted use so that parties can reach their targets in the manner they deem most appropriate.

While developed countries need to work to reduce their greenhouse gas emissions, we cannot address global climate change until developing countries also take measures to reduce their emissions. We congratulate the governments and people of Argentina and Kazakhstan for their bold leadership in agreeing to take on binding emission targets. We look forward to other developing countries following their example as we work together to combat the threat of climate change. Thank you again.

El PRESIDENTE: I thank the Representative of the United States for those important remarks. I give the floor to the Representative of Barbados.

El REPRESENTANTE ALTERNO DE BARBADOS: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. First of all, I wish to apologize for my late arrival, which caused me to miss a good part of the presentation. I thank Dr. Watson and Ambassador Slade and you, Mr. Chairman, for your initiative in inviting them here to make these presentations to us.

Mr. Chairman, as many other speakers have said, the capacity of small countries, especially the small island developing countries and the low-lying states, to deal with the effects of rising global temperatures is rather limited. But yet we are forced to endure these effects, whether it be in the form of flooding, droughts, sea level rise, and the other problems already discussed. Much of our response is in the area of adaptation; that is, adapting to the problems that have confronted us as well as the ones that are projected.

A major program—the Caribbean Program for Adaptation to Climate Change—is being undertaken in the Caribbean. This program monitors the effects of sea level rise through the establishment and collection of data at a number of stations. It also develops proposals to governments on how they can adjust their development strategies to deal with these effects. So far, we have only had a very limited impact. My intervention, therefore, is simply to appeal for the continued support of organizations such as the OAS to this program. It is doing fairly well, but it does need the continued support of organizations such as the OAS.

Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

El PRESIDENTE: I thank the Representative of Barbados for his remarks, and I give the floor to the Representative of Jamaica.

La REPRESENTANTE ALTERNA DE JAMAICA: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. My delegation also thanks Ambassador Slade and Dr. Watson for their very comprehensive presentations this morning. We're aware of Ambassador Slade's astute leadership in the area of environmental diplomacy, particularly his leadership of the Alliance of Small Island States (AOSIS) on global warming and climate change.

We'd also like to thank you, Mr. Chairman, for your foresight in inviting Ambassador Slade to address the Permanent Council on this issue of vital importance to all of us.

Mr. Chairman, climate change is a global problem that requires global solutions. Given the pervasive influence of climate on all aspects of life, major changes in climate will have profound consequences for the well-being of future generations. As we have heard from both presenters this morning, there is still some debate over the science of climate change. However, the evidence is

irrefutable as regards the human-induced effects of climate. Changes in climate are directly attributable to human activity that alters the composition of the global atmosphere in addition to the natural climate variability.

Regions and nations differ in their vulnerability to climate change and their ability to adapt. Prospects are, however, less favorable in ecologically fragile areas. Small island states, such as my own Jamaica, are particularly vulnerable. Projected sea level rise and storm surges resulting from climate change could imperil our very existence. Small island states, as we have heard, contribute least to global warming and climate change, and yet we are the ones who bear the brunt of the effects of these phenomena.

The growing realization of the threat posed to human security by climate change has prompted the international community to take steps to mitigate and control its effects. This began with the UN Framework Convention on Climate Change (FCCC) in 1992 and culminated in the landmark Kyoto Protocol of 1997. To meet the threat posed by climate change, commitments undertaken in these instruments must be translated into action.

We believe that industrialized countries do have an obligation to act first and to act most since they are primarily responsible for depleting the earth's capacity to assimilate greenhouse gases. At the same time, however, they should not obviate action on the part of other countries to participate in international efforts to address climate change.

As we have heard this morning, one member state in this organization has already taken such steps. We applaud the Republic of Argentina for its announcement during the Fourth Conference of Parties in Buenos Aires of its intention to adopt binding emissions targets for the 2008 to 2012 time period. We also acknowledge the U.S. decision to sign the Kyoto Protocol last November.

Finally, Mr. Chairman, we reiterate that fairness and equity must be the basis for the evolution of the international climate regime. Industrial countries must show their good faith by ensuring that commitments to reducing greenhouse emissions are effectively carried out. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

El PRESIDENTE: I thank the Representative of Jamaica, and I give the floor to the Representative of Venezuela.

El REPRESENTANTE ALTERNO DE VENEZUELA: Gracias, señor Presidente. Consideramos que si bien el tema de los cambios climáticos tiene su propio foro de negociación dentro del marco de la Convención de las Naciones Unidas sobre Cambios Climáticos, el Plan de Acción de la Cumbre de las Américas sobre Desarrollo Sostenible recomienda intercambios de experiencias sobre las actividades desarrolladas en torno al tema.

En tal sentido, nos ha parecido muy acertado que usted, que ya tenía antecedentes en cuanto a acciones motivadoras en este campo, como Presidente de la Comisión de Seguridad Hemisférica y ahora como Presidente del Consejo Permanente, haya invitado al Embajador Tuiloma Neroni Slade y al doctor Robert Watson a hacer estas presentaciones que tanto les agradecemos.

Tengo, señor Presidente, una pregunta para el doctor Watson, que es la siguiente: ¿Qué medidas ha tomado el Banco Mundial para compensar el impacto socioeconómico de los cambios

climáticos? ¿Qué recursos? ¿Qué programas? Nos interesaría tener información sobre este punto . Gracias.

EL PRESIDENTE: I thank the Representative of Venezuela. After the Representative of Panama has spoken, we're going to give the floor both to Dr. Watson and Ambassador Slade and they can both respond to your question. I give the floor now to the Representative of Panama.

EL REPRESENTANTE ALTERNO DE PANAMÁ: Gracias, señor Presidente. Mi Gobierno también le da las gracias al Embajador Neroni y al señor Robert Watson por la presentación.

Quisiera yo también que se me aclarara una duda que tengo respecto a los cambios climáticos y al fenómeno de El Niño. Siempre se refieren a ambos temas como si fuesen iguales, y tengo entendido que El Niño es un fenómeno que no es creado por el hombre, como lo es en el caso de los cambios climáticos. También quisiera que se hiciera una breve mención sobre lo que representa en todos estos cambios la sobrepoblación, si alguna de estas medidas también son útiles para ayudar el desgaste de los recursos naturales del Hemisferio, etcétera.

Nuevamente doy las gracias por esta presentación. Nada más, señor Presidente.

EL PRESIDENTE: I thank the Representative of Panama, and I now give the floor to Dr. Watson.

EL DIRECTOR DEL DEPARTAMENTO DE MEDIO AMBIENTE DEL BANCO MUNDIAL: Thank you very much. First, let me answer a couple of direct questions on the World Bank's compensation of client countries for adverse consequences of climate change. The World Bank hasn't and wouldn't have a mechanism to compensate developing countries or countries with economies in transition for the effects of climate change.

As you all know, the World Bank is a bank, and we respond to clients' need for particular projects. The Bank, however, is starting to work with our clients to see how we can integrate not only climate change, but other environmental issues, such as the environment, into sector development. So when we think about agricultural production, how do we think about biodiversity or climate change? When we think about coastal zone management, do we take into account issues of fisheries and climate change?

When we lend for energy, we lend for a wide range of energy projects all the way from coal to renewable energy. We dialogue with our clients as to the advantages and disadvantages of using coal versus gas versus renewable energies. So we're trying to at least dialogue with our clients so that we can look at the whole issue of development in a more sustainable manner.

We do believe that the Kyoto Protocol is appropriately written; that is, Annex I countries will take the lead, because we do believe that the increase in energy is actually critical for poverty alleviation. We also believe that many Annex I countries have the financial and institutional capability to take the lead, but as is recognized, all countries have to try their very best to use their energy more efficiently and to make it less polluting.

There was a comment about El Niño. El Niño is, indeed, a natural phenomena; climate itself is variable. I was talking about human-induced climate change because of the addition of greenhouse

gases to the atmosphere. But one of the questions we're asking ourselves is: If human activities put greenhouse gases into the atmosphere and change the climate, will it change the frequency and the magnitude of El Niño events? In other words, will a long-term change in climate also affect the frequency of natural variability—El Niño? Yet, there is some evidence that it may be well doing that. So you're right, El Niño is a natural phenomena, but it is coupled with the implications of human activities.

There was the so-called provocative comment from the Representative from Guyana about paying for forests. One key issue that governments will have to decide under the Kyoto Protocol is whether or not the only projects that will be eligible under the Clean Development Mechanism are energy projects or if there also should be eligibility for agriculture or forestry land use projects. If governments were to decide that under Article 12, the Clean Development Mechanism, one could buy and sell carbon not only in energy systems, but in forests, then it would be a wonderful mechanism to realize your basic vision of how to get value in the forests. Would it be \$1 per tree, I don't know.

Costa Rica, as all of you know, has tried to develop these carbon offsets for their forested systems. Why? It will be good for their forests, they can turn some of their paper parks into real national parks, it will be good for water resource management in Costa Rica, and it will contribute towards alleviating climate change. So I do believe that it is a decision for governments to make. The Clean Development Mechanism may well be an instrument to create a market for a global public good, and we should actually view carbon as a global public good. So it is not a farfetched concept.

Technology transfer was mentioned. I believe technology transfer and technology cooperation are absolutely vital, and we have to look at both the role of governments and the role of the private sector in technology cooperation. I don't think there is any question about that.

My last little comment is I haven't got a written speech, but I gave a talk very similar to this quite recently and I can make that available through the Chairman. Along with some other members of the scientific community, I wrote a small document called "Protecting our Planet, Sustaining our Future," which addresses the linkages between development and global environmental issues and some of the possible solutions from looking at it more holistically. I'll also send a set of these documents along. You may be interested in them. Thank you.

El PRESIDENTE: What about the question of overpopulation asked by our colleague?

El DIRECTOR DEL DEPARTAMENTO DE MEDIO AMBIENTE DEL BANCO MUNDIAL: The question of overpopulation is interesting. I often talk about the issue. I like to say that most local and global environmental degradation is caused by overconsumption—the overuse of energy and biological resources and population. In other words, it's the combination of the size of the population and the way we consume natural resources.

I don't like starting with population because it sounds like the developed world, especially as I am an American now, is blaming the developing countries where population increases the fastest. We need to deal with both consumption and population. I believe some of the ideas that came out of the United Nations International Conference on Population and Development (ICPD) in Cairo in 1994 are very, very sensible. These included educating girls and boy, microenterprise lending; in other words, empowering women. I think these are the very fundamental ways to move forward.

So I believe that population is an important driver of environmental change of all sorts. I do believe we need to deal with it in a culturally sensitive manner, and I believe education and empowerment of women are the things that we should really move forward on.

El PRESIDENTE: Thank you, Dr. Watson. I now give the floor to Ambassador Slade for his concluding remarks.

El EMBAJADOR DEL ESTADO INDEPENDIENTE DE SAMOA: Mr. Chairman, I'd like to recall the achievements of the United Nations Conference on Environment and Development (UNCED) of 1992. I think one of the ingenious results of the discussions in Rio on sustainable development and the environment was the agreed need to take an integrated approach. I start with this because curiously, in this area of climate change, we seem to be forgetting the need for a holistic and integrated approach.

It is part of the reason why, I believe, it is so very difficult to deal with such a multifaceted problem as climate change when there are so many fora that tend to be dedicated to issues of population, overconsumption, and so on. Yet it's so very essential to deal with the problem of global climate change, quite simply because it brings all these other concerns to a head. And so I don't know the answer, Mr. Chairman, though I tend to agree with the central thesis of the intervention the Representative of Jamaica that there should be balance and fairness in the treatment of this thing.

Take the issue of El Niño, whether it's human created or whether it's a natural variability. Quite frankly, Mr. Chairman, when I have to deal with the population of my country, it's not going to matter a great deal to them who causes it and what the real scientific explanation is it. We are dealing with an area for which it is impossible to have proof beyond reasonable doubt or 100 percent test laboratory results. And it's very difficult from the point of view of making policy and selling policy to the ordinary citizens of our communities to speak of a language of precision in these matters.

So, I don't find a great deal of assistance when we try to pinpoint the cause of El Niño, because we know from the daily experience of people that these things do happen. They cause damage to economies and crops and so on. I feel that the answer probably lies in the middle somewhere, and we would need to take an outlook.

The question of commitment, generally, has been commented on. I think this is an essential part of the Kyoto Protocol, largely because we now have very clear legal binding, and that has been a very major shift and a major improvement in the global treaty effort. On the other hand, I think, it's necessary to bear in mind that the Convention is, up to this moment, the only ratified international agreement on this issue, so that there are commitments under the Convention that also need to be achieved and complied with. I think it's important to make that point.

An important question has been raised by the Representative of Venezuela. As I understand it, the question touches on the impact of policies and measures to be implemented, especially under the Kyoto Protocol, and the impact of these policies and measures on the economies of other countries. Again, it's a most difficult question, one in which parties seem to fall naturally on both sides of the fence. I don't have a ready answer to it. Again, I believe it would probably be essential to come to some practical, sensible, consensus agreement that gives some satisfaction to both sides of the issue.

There is no doubt, for instance, that small island states have inherited polluting industries and fuel usage, and far too many small island states spend major proportions on their budgets on fossil fuel. Yet if we were to replace that industry tomorrow, it will make a very serious dent in the production income of your country and, indeed, other oil-producing, fossil-fuel-producing countries. Somewhere in the middle we have to find a sensible balance, but I'm afraid I cannot do any better than to acknowledge that this is one of the many difficult problems in this whole debate. How can we give blessing to Africa and the small island states, yet not ignore the income base of Saudi Arabia, of Venezuela, and of many other countries. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

El PRESIDENTE: Thank you. I think you've spoken like a judge. There being no further requests for the floor, I take this opportunity to thank Ambassador Slade and Dr. Watson for their presentations this morning. We've spent approximately 79 minutes on this very important subject. We assure you that your remarks will be forwarded to the Preparatory Committee of the General Assembly, since global warming and the ill-effects of climate change are on the draft agenda of the upcoming twenty-ninth regular session of the General Assembly, to be held in Guatemala. I thank you very kindly for your presence here this morning; you have honored us by your remarks. Thank you.

OBSERVACIONES Y RECOMENDACIONES DEL CONSEJO
PERMANENTE (ARTÍCULO 91 (F) DE LA CARTA DE LA OEA)
SOBRE LOS SIGUIENTES INFORMES ANUALES:

a. Informe anual de la Comisión Interamericana de Mujeres a la Asamblea General

El PRESIDENTE: The next item on the order of business is the observations and recommendations of the Permanent Council regarding the Charter on several annual reports.

As we all know, Article 91.f of the Charter of the OAS says that the Permanent Council:

Shall consider the report of the Inter-American Council for Integral Development, of the Inter-American Juridical Committee, of the Inter-American Commission on Human Rights, of the General Secretariat, of specialized agencies and conferences, and of other bodies and agencies, and present to the General Assembly any observations and recommendations it deems necessary.

Today, we're going to consider the annual reports of the Inter-American Commission of Women (CIM), the Pan American Institute of Geography and History (PAIGH), and the Inter-American Telecommunications Commission (CITEL). The Chair suggests that we hear a brief presentation of these three reports, to be followed by observations from delegations. The Chair also suggests that draft resolutions on these reports be prepared by the Working Group in Charge of the Preparation of the draft Annual Report of the Permanent Council and present them for their consideration of this Council. It is so agreed.

Having said this, I am very pleased to give the floor to Ms. Carmen Lomellín, Executive Secretary of the Inter-American Commission of Women (CIM).

La SECRETARIA EJECUTIVA DE LA COMISIÓN INTERAMERICANA DE MUJERES:
Thank you, Mr. Chairman, and good morning Ambassador Thomas and distinguished members of the Permanent Council.

My name is Carmen Lomellín and I am the Executive Secretary of the Inter-American Commission of Women (CIM). The Honorable Dulce María Sauri, President of the Commission, has asked me to express her most sincere regrets at not being able to be here this morning. She had planned on making this presentation herself, but unavoidable circumstances have detained her in Mexico. I am pleased and honored to have this opportunity to share her words with you. Mr. Chairman, Dr. Sauri's comments were received last evening in Spanish. We will have them translated and distributed in their entirety at a later date. I will synopsise Dr. Sauri's words; I hope that I can do them justice!

On behalf of Dr. Dulce María Sauri, President of the CIM; Dr. Indranie Chandarpal, Vice President; and the Executive Committee, we are pleased and honored to present our annual report for your consideration. This past year has been one of many changes for the CIM—changes in personnel, changes in direction, and changes in methods of operation. They have all been positive changes in keeping with the new direction that is currently being taken by the OAS; that is, less emphasis on process and more emphasis on results.

Our new year began in November with a very successful, efficient, and effective Assembly of Delegates. We were charged with continuing our work, specifically in the areas of violence against women, eradication of poverty, education, and leadership development. Toward that end, work has begun in the following areas.

Violence against women will continue to be our number one issue. It has been five years since the Convention of Belém do Pará was adopted by the General Assembly. We want to revisit that convention to see what impact it has had on the women of the Americas and how effective has it been in reducing the incidence of violence against women. We know that 29 countries have ratified this convention. We want to know how it is being implemented. What are the laws doing to protect women? How are the judicial systems dealing with this issue? How is the law enforcement community handling violence? What kinds of education programs are being put into place to deal effectively with violence against women? We plan to follow up our research with a meeting of experts to analyze our findings and make further recommendations to our delegates and member states. The United Nations Development Fund for Women (UNIFEM) is very interested in what we are doing in this area and waiting for the results of our research. They want to look at our convention as a model for implementation in other parts of the world.

In November of this year, in Buenos Aires, CIM is co-hosting the Women's Economic Summit of the Americas, the first-ever forum of this nature to be held in our region, to focus on the growing economic impact of women on the global economy. The Summit will provide data on women as a market and promote the exchange of best practices and model programs that may be adapted by the participants in their respective countries. We will look at trade pacts and their impact on women's capacity to do business within the region and globally. Preliminary plans are also in the works for U.S. and Canadian trade missions to join the summit at that time.

In keeping with the ever-changing technologies, Argentina has developed a prototype for a women's information network. We will coordinate this work regionally through our delegates,

beginning with the MERCOSUR region. The Inter-American Council for Integral Development (CIDI) is collaborating with us in this effort. I know that Ambassador Ramacciotti has been keeping this issue on the front burner for a very long time. We want to thank her not only for her emphasis on information-sharing, but also for her work on women's issues here in the Permanent Council and for supporting us at CIM.

We have also been mandated by our Assembly of Delegates to convene a meeting of women ministers and authorities at the highest levels responsible for women's policies. At that meeting, which will be held in the first quarter of the year 2000, we will present a draft of an inter-American program on the promotion of the rights of women and gender equity. The recommendations that come out of this meeting will be presented to the thirtieth regular session of the General Assembly.

In keeping with the mandates to modernize and strengthen CIM, we are taking very definite steps in that direction. To accomplish our mandates, we are working very closely with the missions, especially those represented on the Executive Committee. I want to personally thank all of the missions that have worked so hard with us. Had it not been for their marvelous efforts, our Assembly of Delegates would not have been so successful. As a matter of fact, it was so successful that they have volunteered to continue working with us. I cannot thank you enough.

We have also taken the lead in coordinating efforts with our partners in the area of women's issues. At the last meeting of the Executive Committee, we hosted a meeting with UNIFEM, UNDP, ECLAC, PAHO, the IDB, the World Bank, and the Inter-American Dialogue to explore opportunities for collaboration, information-sharing, and coordination. We will continue to do this on a regular basis. There is much work to be done. Other projects are in the developmental stages.

This brings us to our last point, financing. Much has been said about the need to strengthen CIM, both inside and outside of the OAS. However, without adequate financing and staffing, our work will be severely limited. We have taken steps to address this deficiency and are actively seeking funding and partnership opportunities from external sources. Suffice it to say that the prospects are very encouraging.

CIM thanks you for your support. CIM needs your support, and the women of the Americas need your support. We have accomplished many things throughout our 70-year history. Ours is the only hemispheric forum that drafts and promotes conventions that promote and protect the rights of the women of the Americas. Women's issues cannot and must not be ghettoized. Women's issues are not separate and apart from all other areas of life. Women's issues are everyone's issues.

We want to continue this work that has been successfully accomplished so far, but we cannot do so without your continued support. I thank you.

El PRESIDENTE: I thank Ms. Lomellín, the Executive Secretary of CIM, for her very important and succinct remarks. I assure her that the Permanent Council will support the women of the Americas to its very fullest extent.

I now offer the floor to delegations. The Representative of Mexico has the floor.

El REPRESENTANTE PERMANENTE DE MÉXICO: Muchas gracias. Señor Presidente, agradezco, por su intermedio, a la Secretaria Ejecutiva de la Comisión Interamericana de Mujeres la

presentación del informe anual. El documento, además de ser sustantivo, cumple con los requisitos señalados en la resolución AG/RES. 1452 (XXVII-O/97), relativa a la preparación de los informes anuales de los órganos, organismos y entidades de la Organización. Felicitamos a la Comisión por el proceso de fortalecimiento y modernización que ha iniciado a partir de la Vigésima Novena Asamblea de Delegadas celebrada en noviembre pasado.

Como organismo especializado de carácter permanente y principal foro hemisférico de consenso en favor de la participación plena e igualitaria de la mujer, la CIM está asumiendo gradualmente el liderazgo que le corresponde en la coordinación de diversas entidades interamericanas y está modificando sus métodos de trabajo. En síntesis, está propiciando un cambio cualitativo indispensable en su propio desarrollo, lo que todos los Estados miembros hemos esperado desde hace tiempo.

Finalmente, señor Presidente, notamos con satisfacción el inicio de las sesiones del Grupo de Trabajo del Comité Directivo de la CIM, de composición abierta, que ya se encuentra preparando los proyectos de resolución sobre el tema de la mujer que serán considerados en el vigésimo noveno período ordinario de sesiones de la Asamblea General en Guatemala. Además, en su momento contribuirá también a los preparativos de una reunión de ministras o ministros o autoridades al más alto nivel responsables de las políticas de promoción de las mujeres en los Estados miembros. Muchas gracias, señor Presidente.

El PRESIDENTE: I thank the Representative of Mexico for his important remarks. I now give the floor to the Representative of Peru.

La REPRESENTANTE ALTERNA DEL PERÚ: Muchas gracias, señor Presidente. Permítame, en primer lugar, expresar por su intermedio un especial agradecimiento a la doctora Carmen Lomellín, Secretaria Ejecutiva de la CIM, por la presentación que nos ha hecho esta mañana del informe anual de la Comisión, así como por la generosas palabras y conceptos que ha vertido respecto a la gestión de la Embajadora Beatriz Ramacciotti, en su calidad de Coordinadora del Tema de la Mujer del Consejo Permanente.

La Embajadora Ramacciotti ha sido testigo directo y privilegiado de las intensas jornadas que caracterizan las sesiones de la CIM, bajo el decidido e inteligente liderazgo de la licenciada Dulce María Sauri, de México.

La última Asamblea General de Delegadas constituyó una verdadera asamblea modelo y demostró que la CIM, el organismo internacional especializado en el tema de la mujer más antiguo del mundo, es capaz de responder eficientemente a un nuevo formato de solo tres días.

Quisiera, señor Presidente, destacar, de manera especial, que en esta última Asamblea de Delegadas, la CIM aprobó tres de las propuestas planteadas por el Consejo Permanente a través de la Coordinación. Ellas son la elaboración del Programa Interamericano sobre la Promoción de los Derechos de la Mujer y la Equidad de Género, el establecimiento de la Red Informativa —ambas contenidas en la resolución AG/RES. 1592 (XXVIII-O/98), aprobada por la Asamblea General en su vigésimo octavo período ordinario de sesiones de Caracas— y la realización de una reunión de ministras de la mujer o de altas autoridades vinculadas al tema.

La consecución de estas tres importantes metas coadyuvará, sin lugar a dudas, a los trabajos que la Comisión Interamericana de Mujeres viene realizando como parte del sistema interamericano, dentro de un proceso de modernización y fortalecimiento que ha sido posible gracias a la conjunción de diversos hechos y circunstancias.

Es por ello que, por su intermedio, señor Presidente, deseo hacer llegar la renovación del compromiso asumido por la Coordinación de este Consejo, a cargo de la Embajadora Ramacciotti, de continuar trabajando en la reafirmación y reevaluación de programas y estrategias con el fin de llevar adelante la promoción de igualdad de oportunidades y la equidad de género en todos y cada uno de los países de las Américas.

El ejercicio de la Coordinación iniciada en este Consejo ha dado ya algunos frutos que han hecho ver con mayor claridad la necesidad de armonizar todas las iniciativas y trabajos que se vienen realizando para apoyar a la CIM, teniendo como base la complementariedad de esfuerzos para así evitar la duplicidad de los mismos y, sobre todo, ofrecer a este organismo especializado de la OEA el apoyo político para avanzar, de manera efectiva, en la incorporación plena de la mujer en la vida y en el quehacer político y económico de nuestros países. Gracias, señor Presidente.

EL PRESIDENTE: I thank the Representative of Peru for her remarks, and we acknowledge the work done by the Permanent Representative of Peru, Ambassador Ramacciotti, in the promotion of the rights of women.

I give the floor to the Representative of Canada.

EL REPRESENTANTE PERMANENTE DEL CANADÁ: Thank you very much, Mr. Chairman. My delegation thanks the Executive Secretary of the Inter-American Commission of Women (CIM), Carmen Lomellín, for her very clear presentation of an excellent annual report.

Mr. Chairman, Canada has been supportive of CIM, and we have been active in strengthening and modernization. Our guiding principle has been to strengthen the Commission, and to do that, we had to strengthen the delegates. I think that we all contributed to that and the realization that the Commission is really the sum of its parts.

In this context, the election of Dulce María Sauri of Mexico as President of CIM continues the tradition of effective leadership of the Commission, and we wish her continued success in this new role. Similarly, the selection of Carmen Lomellín as Executive Secretary has reinvigorated the Secretariat and led to innovative approaches to CIM's unfortunately usual long list of problems. My delegation very much appreciates these efforts.

I would like to offer a few specific comments on the report. With respect to Section III.A., CIM Assembly of Delegates on pages 7 and 8, Canada would wish to see a stronger reference to the proposed ministerial meeting on the status of women. We also understand that the purpose for that meeting would be to approve an inter-American program on the status of women. Perhaps this could be reflected in the document.

Similarly, the section on the Assembly could be strengthened by highlighting the key operative paragraphs of the resolutions approved at the Assembly, instead of just offering the list of the resolutions.

Under Section VII, "Recommendations," found on page 23 in the English version, we think that it should be noted that the Committee on Meetings and Organizations, the defunct CRO, no longer meets. Perhaps the reference should be removed in favor of a mention of the Permanent Council.

My delegation supports the proposed three resolutions and will happily work with other delegations to draft the text. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

El PRESIDENTE: I thank the Representative of Canada for his remarks and for his proposed amendments to the report. I now give the floor to the Representative of the United States.

El REPRESENTANTE PERMANENTE DE LOS ESTADOS UNIDOS: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. We also want to thank and congratulate the Executive Secretariat of the Inter-American Commission of Women (CIM), headed by Carmen Lomellín, who played such a vital role in transforming CIM into a modern forward-looking organization, capable of utilizing its limited resources to maximum benefit. We congratulate as well the new President of CIM, Dulce María Sauri of Mexico, under whose leadership the current Executive Committee has transformed its meetings and work to be more dynamic and effective. My delegation is particularly pleased with the initiative that she spearheaded to invite other entities, such as the IDB, the World Bank, and the UN agencies to participate in the regular meetings of CIM in order to better coordinate the women's programs in the Hemisphere. Thank you very much.

El PRESIDENTE: I thank the Representative of the United States for his remarks. I now give the floor to the Representative of the Dominican Republic.

La REPRESENTANTE ALTERNA DE LA REPÚBLICA DOMINICANA: Gracias, señor Presidente. La Delegación de la República Dominicana quiere agradecer la presentación del informe anual de la Comisión Interamericana de Mujeres hecho por la señora Carmen Lomellin, Secretaria Ejecutiva de esa Comisión.

Quiero, además, aprovechar la ocasión para felicitar a la Comisión por el gran trabajo realizado durante la Asamblea de Delgadas, celebrada en noviembre del año pasado, la cual tuvo resultados muy positivos. Igualmente, me permito reiterar el apoyo del Gobierno de la República Dominicana al trabajo que viene realizando la CIM en temas tales como la eliminación de la violencia contra la mujer y la erradicación de la pobreza, así como por la labor realizada en favor del fortalecimiento y promoción de la Comisión. Muchas gracias, señor Presidente.

El PRESIDENTE: I thank the Representative of the Dominican Republic for her important remarks. I give the floor to the Representative of Saint Lucia.

La REPRESENTANTE PERMANENTE DE SANTA LUCÍA: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I thank the Executive Secretariat of the Inter-American Commission of Women (CIM) for presenting its annual report to us. I congratulate the President of CIM for the wonderful work done and the keen leadership she has exhibited in moving CIM towards a program of modernization.

The extent of the President's work can be judged by the fact that as I participate in numerous panels with other female ambassadors accredited to the United States—panels established to address the status of women—increasingly the audience has been asking me questions about CIM and its

work. This, of course, means that CIM has moved outside of the OAS at 17th Street and Constitution Avenue and outside of the region. A number of young people, female groups, female panels, and universities in the United States are interested in the work of CIM as an organization about women.

Here's another fact that gives some importance to the work of CIM. Without CIM's help, we in Saint Lucia would not have been able to pass the Domestic Violence Act without opposition. This legislation seeks to give women redress against gender violence and protects their legal rights and status.

Thank you.

El PRESIDENTE: I thank the Representative of Saint Lucia for her important remarks.

The Chair, too, believes that there is a direct link between the public's knowledge of the work undertaken by any institution within the OAS, including CIM, and the external resources that the institution can raise. Ms. Lomellín commented about the need for additional resources. I believe if that if there is a greater knowledge of the work of CIM, there will be greater resource flows to CIM.

Before we conclude our discussion, I offer the floor to Ms. Lomellín if she so wishes. No? Very well.

If there are no further requests for the floor, I thank Ms. Lomellin once more for her presentation. The Council has taken due note of the observations presented on this annual report. Thank you very much.

b. Informe anual del Instituto Panamericano de Geografía e Historia

El PRESIDENTE: I now give the floor to Mr. Carlos Carvallo Yáñez, Secretary General of the Pan American Institute of Geography and History (PAIGH).

El SECRETARIO GENERAL DEL INSTITUTO PANAMERICANO DE GEOGRAFÍA E HISTORIA: Muchas gracias. Señor Presidente del Consejo Permanente, señores Embajadores Permanentes, señores Embajadores Observadores Permanentes, señores Representantes Alternos, señoras y señores:

Es un honor, como Secretario General del Instituto Panamericano de Geografía e Historia, presentar ante tan distinguido auditorio mi primer informe sobre las actividades que desarrollamos. Este Instituto, organismo técnico especializado de la Organización de los Estados Americanos, acaba de cumplir, el 7 de febrero pasado, 71 años de trabajo ininterrumpido en investigación, promoción, capacitación, coordinación y difusión de la cartografía, la geografía, la historia y la geofísica.

A través de las secciones nacionales y de las comisiones de trabajo encargadas de cada una de estas cuatro disciplinas, apoyamos a los 21 Estados miembros en proyectos de investigación, cursos, talleres y capacitación. Por otro lado, contamos con siete publicaciones periódicas y otras múltiples ocasionales, donde damos cuenta de los avances y logros en nuestra área de trabajo.

En fecha reciente, el Instituto hizo llegar a la Organización de los Estados Americanos su informe de actividades del período comprendido entre el 1 de marzo de 1998 y el 28 de febrero de

1999. En él dimos cuenta de los fines del Instituto, su estructura y organización, los Estados miembros, los países observadores y sus programas generales de trabajo.

Estos programas de trabajo son tres: Programa de Dirección y Administración; Programa de Asistencia Técnica, donde informamos de los 24 proyectos en ejecución, y Programa de Publicaciones, en el cual señalamos las siete revistas especializadas que editamos y los 6.320 ejemplares distribuidos.

En cuanto a los fines del Instituto, reitero que buscamos fomentar el avance científico y tecnológico en cartografía, geografía, historia y geofísica; coordinar actividades y ser un lazo de comunicación, a fin de lograr contribuciones que permitan rendimientos mejores y más económicos y evitar especialmente repeticiones de trabajos; difundir informes científicos y técnicos, los resultados de las actividades y los proyectos que realizamos y los planes futuros que tenemos en mente. Esto ha permitido que el Instituto Panamericano de Geografía y Historia sea un foro panamericano a través de sus reuniones, proyectos de asistencia técnica, comunicaciones y publicaciones para el intercambio de información científica y técnica en sus cuatro campos de acción.

Al mismo tiempo, es un receptáculo de las necesidades y prioridades de los países para estudiarlas, cumplirlas y satisfacer los requerimientos del desarrollo integral y del avance científico. De nuestro foro está excluida la política; somos eminentemente profesionales, investigadores y técnicos y dedicamos nuestros esfuerzos a ayudar a quien más los necesite.

Los problemas que enfrentan nuestros países son cada día mayores, por ello, nuestro compromiso es adecuar nuestras actividades a la mejora de los problemas cruciales que afectan cada vez más a nuestros países. Nuestros proyectos buscan proporcionar instrumentos para combatir la pobreza, mejorar los niveles de educación, de conocimiento, de comunicación y conexión entre la comunidad científica, a fin de consolidar una red y una respuesta potenciada por el esfuerzo de todos a solucionar problemas reales y concretos.

Permítanme referirme a otro aspecto señalado por Jessica Mathews en su artículo “La era de los actores no estables”. Ella dice: “Los Estados delegan a las organizaciones internacionales enormes responsabilidades nuevas, para enseguida frenarlos con mandatos circunscritos o bien financiamiento insuficiente”.

El IPGH, desde 1997, ha ido reduciendo drásticamente su presupuesto, lo que le ha causado graves problemas, ya que estas reducciones ocasionan inmensos daños sobre todo a los países integrantes de menores recursos. Una de las reducciones que más ha afectado ha sido el retiro del Canadá, país que en 1998 dejó nuestro Instituto, siendo el segundo país miembro en cuanto a aporte monetario después de los Estados Unidos de América. Aún así, como lo verán ustedes posteriormente, Canadá sigue muy ligado a nuestro Instituto desde múltiples puntos de vista.

Los menores ingresos conllevan a una disminución de personal de la Secretaría General, lo que ha repercutido en sus actividades de apoyo. Cabe mencionar, por otra parte, que el Instituto, es decir, todos los países panamericanos cuentan con una valiosísima biblioteca, el “Fondo Bibliográfico José Toribio Medina”, con 35.500 volúmenes, más una cantidad superior a 203.000 revistas y folletos.

Nuestra biblioteca especializada fue lograda, a través de más de 70 años, con el aporte de todos los países panamericanos y está evaluada en casi 3 millones de dólares, pero está en trámite de ser entregada a una organización mexicana por carencia de recursos humanos y materiales para poder atenderla. Todas estas publicaciones, en fecha próxima, pasarán a la Escuela Nacional de Antropología e Historia de México, la ENAH.

Estos problemas requieren ser enfrentados creativamente para encontrar soluciones. Una de las soluciones es realizar proyectos de gran envergadura, los que denominamos “de gran aliento”, que nos permiten obtener un financiamiento externo adicional al sistema de cuotas, impactar con cada proyecto a muchos países en forma simultánea, proporcionar con ellos soluciones a múltiples problemas llevando a nuestros países el avance técnico y científico requerido.

En 1998, iniciamos el primero de estos proyectos, el Proyecto Piloto de Cartografía Digital y Sistemas de Información Geográfica, más conocido como “Proyecto de Cibernética de las Américas”, financiado por el Banco Interamericano de Desarrollo, la Agencia Canadiense para el Desarrollo Internacional, el EROS *Data Center* del Servicio Geológico de los Estados Unidos de América y el propio Instituto.

El proyecto tiene como objetivos: Primero, proporcionar transferencia tecnológica a los países de la región, de modo que puedan beneficiarse de los últimos avances en la geomática, como una herramienta para la toma de decisiones en materia de desarrollo sustentable. Segundo, elaborar atlas electrónicos nacionales y continental, así como un centro distribuidor de datos, valiosos instrumentos en apoyo a la planificación y a la educación. En este proyecto participan Argentina, Brasil, Chile, Costa Rica, El Salvador, México, Panamá y Perú; Canadá y los Estados Unidos de América proporcionan los instructores.

Debo hacer aquí una especial mención de agradecimiento al doctor Fraser Taylor, de la Universidad de Carleton, Canadá, que ha sido sin lugar a dudas el gestor y principal instructor de todos los trabajos y talleres realizados en este Proyecto. Su financiamiento proviene del Banco Interamericano de Desarrollo, con la colaboración del Brasil, con US\$322.000; México, con US\$190.000; Canadá, con US\$96.000; el EROS *Data Center*, con US\$ 133.000; la Agencia Canadiense para el Desarrollo Internacional, con US\$ 70.000, y el Instituto US\$44.000. El total de estas contribuciones es de US\$97.000.

Este Proyecto de Cartografía Cibernética de las Américas constituye un reto para el avance científico y tecnológico de los países latinoamericanos en materia de geomática. Él nos permite transferir a nuestros países conocimiento y tecnología avanzada que puede ser utilizada para apoyar las soluciones inmediatas de problemas sociales, económicos y ambientales de la región.

La posibilidad de contar con imágenes satélites, base de datos e instrumentos cartográficos virtuales, de manera ágil y oportuna, permite modelar la realidad geoespacial para identificar y entender problemas y proponer soluciones viables a niveles locales, regionales, nacionales y continentales.

Asimismo, el inicio de un Centro Distribuidor de Datos Geoespaciales, que cuente con base de datos de información sobre información relativa a mapas, imágenes de satélite y ortofotos permitirá evitar la duplicidad de esfuerzos y aprovechar de manera eficaz y eficiente los escasos recursos disponibles para la información geoespacial de América Latina.

Otra de las estrategias fundamentales es lograr el fortalecimiento de capacidades, conformar equipos de especialistas latinoamericanos de alto nivel, los que a su vez transmitan conocimientos a los distintos países participantes. Este efecto cascada puede continuarse en cada país, movilizand las capacidades locales correspondientes.

Para cumplir este propósito se diseñaron talleres de capacitación y talleres nacionales. Se han realizado cuatro talleres de capacitación en México, Canadá, Estados Unidos y Brasil, los que permitieron actualizar a quince profesionales en los adelantos más importantes en el aspecto de cartografía moderna y desarrollo de centros de distribuidores de datos o *clearinghouse*.

Al finalizar estos trabajos, se logró formar un grupo de especialistas capacitados para realizar tareas técnicas y de implementación de centros distribuidores de datos. Hasta la fecha se han realizado talleres nacionales en Chile, Costa Rica, El Salvador y Perú, para transmitir a los técnicos de estos países los conocimientos del *clearinghouse* y atlas cibernéticos. El equipo de instructores latinoamericanos ha participado en estos talleres como instructores, asesores y participantes en la elaboración de materiales didácticos.

Cabe mencionar que al finalizar cada taller, se ha logrado una primera etapa de diseño conceptual de un atlas cibernético nacional y, en varios casos, la instalación misma del primer nodo de *clearinghouse*. A la fecha se ha logrado, además de la conformación de un equipo de quince especialistas de alto nivel, la transmisión, a más de 200 especialistas latinoamericanos, de los conceptos más avanzados en materia de cartografía cibernética.

Este objetivo inicial de brindar elementos básicos para la elaboración de atlas cibernéticos nos plantea el reto de lograr, para el segundo año del Proyecto, la generación de un atlas cibernético continental, y de atlas para cada uno de los países participantes. En esta segunda etapa se ha acordado que el IPGH sea responsable de la elaboración del atlas cibernético continental. La responsabilidad de los atlas cibernéticos nacionales recae en cada una de las instituciones comprometidas en el Proyecto.

Un producto especial será la elaboración de mapas electrónicos para el invidente o discapacitado visual. Ya se distribuyó equipo especial para los países encargados de esta parte del Proyecto.

Desde sus inicios, se planteó que el principal reto de las labores residía en lograr que se llevarsen a cabo procesos participativos que resultasen útiles para la solución de problemas relacionados con el ámbito geoespacial.

Es evidente que a los compromisos cuantitativos adquiridos ante el Banco Interamericano de Desarrollo están siendo cumplidos de manera exitosa. Sin embargo, también es importante mencionar que se han logrado éxitos trascendentes en el fortalecimiento de capacidades y en el trabajo de equipo.

Entramos a esta segunda etapa del Proyecto Piloto con la esperanza de superar los compromisos básicos y las expectativas iniciales establecidas y esperamos que el Proyecto se extienda posteriormente a todos los países de América. Siguiendo este ejemplo, acabamos de hacer una convocatoria, a nivel panamericano, solicitando la elaboración y presentación de proyectos de gran aliento similares al descrito.

Además, avanzamos en el presente año en la modernización de nuestro Instituto. Para ello contamos con bases sólidas y estructuradas durante más de 70 años, pero debemos adaptarnos a la nueva realidad en que vivimos y a los avances científicos y tecnológicos del mundo actual. Para esta nueva situación demandamos el aporte de todos los países que integran el IPGH.

Creemos que esta modernización debe basarse en dos aspectos fundamentales: Primero, la puesta al día, al más alto nivel científico y tecnológico, en esas cuatro áreas de la ciencia y, segundo, la mejora de la estructura administrativa, a fin de lograr una distribución más funcional y moderna en sus departamentos operativos, dirección y administración, asistencia técnica, publicaciones y finanzas.

Antes de terminar, es mi deber hacer presente lo que estimo que es la principal fortaleza del Instituto, la amplia red americana de científicos en cartografía, geografía, historia y geofísica, los que cubren todos los países y están en permanente comunicación con el Instituto. Esta red no solo involucra investigadores y técnicos, sino organismos del Estado, organismos no gubernamentales, universidades, centros oficiales y privados.

De más está decir, por ejemplo, que los instructores seleccionados para el proyecto de cartografía digital concurren a los países para ofrecer su conocimiento en talleres de una semana de duración sin recibir ninguna remuneración. Lo mismo ocurre con todos nuestros proyectos y publicaciones. Debemos hacer todo el esfuerzo posible para revitalizar esta red, lo que permitirá que el IPGH sea centro coordinador científico y técnico del más alto nivel en geografía, cartografía, geofísica e historia en todos los países americanos. Muchas gracias, señor Presidente.

El PRESIDENTE: I thank you very kindly, Dr. Carvallo, and I offer the floor to delegations wishing to make observations. I give the floor to the Representative of Venezuela.

El REPRESENTANTE ALTERNO DE VENEZUELA: Gracias, señor Presidente. Deseo agradecer al doctor Carlos Carvallo su informe y hacerle algunas preguntas. Entiendo que en El Salvador se realizó en noviembre una reunión del Consejo Directivo y no sé si, dado que no está en el informe, podría hacer alguna mención de los resultados de esta importante reunión.

Tampoco encuentro en el informe alguna alusión al impacto del retiro del Canadá y de la baja de la cuota de los Estados Unidos a este organismo. Entiendo que se trata un impacto de cierta importancia, como lo mencionó en su intervención el doctor Carvallo, y en tal sentido quería saber si se prevén algunas medidas.

Esas serían las preguntas de Venezuela que, por su intermedio, señor Presidente, planteo al señor Secretario General del Instituto. Gracias.

El PRESIDENTE: I thank the Representative of Venezuela. I give the floor to the Representative of Peru.

La REPRESENTANTE ALTERNA DEL PERÚ: Muchas gracias, señor Presidente. Muy brevemente quisiera agradecer la presentación que nos ha hecho esta mañana el doctor Carlos Carvallo, Secretario General del Instituto Panamericano de Geografía e Historia. Se puede apreciar que el Instituto viene realizando importantes esfuerzos y actividades pese a las limitaciones de carácter económico a las que se ha referido el doctor Carvallo.

De la exhaustiva relación de las labores desarrolladas por el Instituto, creemos no haber identificado muchas actividades en relación con la OEA. Si no nos equivocamos, solamente hay una, la que se refiere al Vigésimo Sexto Curso Internacional de Geografía Aplicada, en la que la OEA y el Departamento de Becas, específicamente, prestó apoyo en el proceso de selección.

Nos preguntamos si no sería conveniente examinar las posibilidades de fortalecer aún más las vinculaciones entre el IPGH y la Organización, de manera que no se limite principalmente a la presentación de un informe anual, sino que se pueda aprovechar más el área de la cooperación. Creemos que si hubiera una relación más permanente entre el Instituto y la Organización podríamos quizá sacar mayor provecho de los esfuerzos que viene realizando el Instituto.

Asimismo, señor Presidente, quisiéramos plantear una recomendación. Hasta donde sabemos, el informe que presenta el IPGH a la OEA no es distribuido entre las embajadas de nuestros países ante el Gobierno de México, que es donde está la sede del Instituto. Creemos que sería muy útil que se distribuyera copia del informe anual del IPGH a la Organización entre las embajadas acreditadas en México.

Para terminar y con referencia a la participación del Canadá, consideramos que sería interesante saber un poco más sobre el retiro de ese país del IPGH. El doctor Carvallo hizo referencia a que pese a que Canadá se había retirado, mantiene un tipo de vinculación con IPGH. Quisiéramos saber cuál ha sido el impacto del retiro del Canadá, no solo en las líneas de lo señalado por Venezuela, y en qué términos se mantiene esa participación en el momento. Gracias, señor Presidente.

El PRESIDENTE: I thank the Representative of Peru. I give the floor to the Representative of Mexico.

El REPRESENTANTE PERMANENTE DE MÉXICO: Muchas gracias. Señor Presidente, por su intermedio, agradezco al Secretario General la presentación del informe anual del Instituto Panamericano de Geografía e Historia.

Quisiera referirme a una cuestión muy puntual, que me llama particularmente la atención y que es la de la membresía. Ya se explicó, se hizo referencia a la situación del Canadá e incluso se formularon algunas preguntas —aquí la señora Representante del Perú acaba de hacer una pregunta sobre el particular.

Lo que me llama la atención en este caso, como en el caso de otras entidades del sistema interamericano, es que estamos hablando de que hay 21 países que integran el Instituto. Me llama la atención porque, de alguna manera, aquí se están planteando temas como el cambio climático, los desastres naturales, etcétera, y pienso que el Instituto sería, tal vez, una entidad de nuestro sistema que podría desempeñar un papel útil.

En concreto, me gustaría saber si el Instituto realiza alguna tarea de aproximación con otros Estados para buscar justamente su incorporación a los trabajos. Creo que estamos aquí frente a un caso muy concreto de que existe una entidad de la cual no se está sacando el suficiente provecho. Muchas gracias.

EL PRESIDENTE. I thank the Representative of Mexico for his remarks and questions. I now give the floor to the Representative of the United States.

EL REPRESENTANTE PERMANENTE DE LOS ESTADOS UNIDOS: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. My delegation thanks Secretary General Carlos Carvallo for this very informative report. It demonstrates that the Institute, under his leadership, has been able to accomplish important goals under very difficult financial constraints, and I congratulate him for that.

My delegation is particularly pleased with the Institute's work in attracting \$900,000 in outside funding from the Inter-American Development Bank (IDB), from my government, and from Canada for the cybernetic mapping of the Americas project.

Having read the report, it seems quite clear that the Institute has a very important and proven track record in disaster mitigation and can make a very important contribution to the Organization's efforts at disaster prevention and mitigation. We discussed that topic earlier today and will be discussing it later on. Thank you.

EL PRESIDENTE: I thank the Representative of the United States for his important remarks, and I give the floor to the Representative of Chile.

EL REPRESENTANTE INTERINO DE CHILE: Muchas gracias, señor Presidente. Mi Delegación también desea sumarse al agradecimiento que, por su intermedio, se hace al señor Carvallo por la presentación de este interesante informe.

Asimismo, mi Delegación quisiera felicitar a este organismo técnico especializado de la OEA por su valiosa contribución a las tareas intelectuales y científicas de nuestra región. Indudablemente, con ello contribuye y realiza un apoyo permanente a nuestros Estados en un ámbito técnico, así como en el científico y cultural, que tiene un impacto en la educación y cultura de nuestros pueblos.

Por todo eso, señor Presidente, deseamos alentar la tarea en que está empañado el Secretario General del Instituto y reiterarle la disposición de nuestra Delegación a seguir apoyando sus planes y objetivos. Gracias, señor.

EL PRESIDENTE: I thank Dr. Varela of Chile. I give the floor to Dr. Carvallo to address the questions about the reduction of quotas and its impact on the institution, the linkage between the Institute and the OAS, the distribution of your reports, Canada's membership in the Institute, universal membership, and the Institute's role in disaster management and disaster mitigation.

EL SECRETARIO GENERAL DEL INSTITUTO PANAMERICANO DE GEOGRAFÍA E HISTORIA: Señor Presidente, trataré de ir dando respuesta en forma ordenada a las inquietudes que ustedes han presentado.

En primer lugar, el presupuesto del Instituto hasta 1977 era de US\$780.000, es decir, este es el presupuesto anual de cuotas. Ese año, por petición de la Delegación de los Estados Unidos, la cuota de todos los países fue rebajada de 5%, y el presupuesto quedó en US\$741.000. Posteriormente, se retiró Canadá, con un apoyo de aproximadamente US\$90.000, y el presupuesto del Instituto quedó en US\$650.000. Al retirarse el Canadá, el Instituto perdió su cuota y no la

redistribuyó entre los países, porque nosotros sabemos la situación económica que viven, entonces no podemos recargarlos.

El problema que sí existe es que se tuvo que distribuir el porcentaje que representaba la cuota del Canadá, lo cual nos ha ocasionado todo tipo de problemas. En primer lugar, como la Delegación de los Estados Unidos reconoció, su cuota nunca fue aumentada, pero el porcentaje sí subió porque ahora ya no estamos hablando de US\$740.000, donde Estados Unidos pagaba un porcentaje. Estamos hablando de US\$650.000 al descontar la cuota del Canadá. Luego, Estados Unidos pidió no pagar ese porcentaje, sino pagar el mismo porcentaje que pagaba en los otros organismos de la OEA; entonces el presupuesto del Instituto volvió a disminuir, esta vez a US\$560.000.

Ahora, nosotros podemos llegar a una escalada, a un presupuesto exactamente de cero si cada país pide que se le respete su porcentaje anterior. Cuando se retiró Canadá, todos los porcentajes subieron porque se tuvo que distribuir entre los países el 11% que pagaba Canadá. Esa es la situación en cuanto a cuotas en este momento. El presupuesto del Instituto, en los últimos dos años, de US\$780.000 se vio reducido a US\$560.000, pero nosotros tenemos la esperanza de que Canadá vuelva a nuestra institución.

Cuando yo recibí el Instituto, Canadá ya se había retirado, ya había hecho la presentación correspondiente y se había retirado. Sin embargo, como lo dije ya en mi presentación, nosotros contamos con la permanente actuación del Canadá. En el fondo, a través del Proyecto de Cartografía Digital, Canadá nos ha entregado más aporte económico que lo que entregaba a través de sus cuotas, y lo hace a través de su Gobierno, a través del CIDI y a través de la Universidad de Carleton.

Mencioné aquí especialmente al doctor Taylor, porque él es canadiense, de la Universidad de Carleton, y es un hombre que verdaderamente ha dedicado mucho esfuerzo al Instituto y a traspasar esta tecnología de la geomática a todos los países, a donde ha ido personalmente, presidiendo los talleres que se han realizado, y lo más importante que estos talleres han logrado es transferir conocimientos. Antes que hacer el atlas cibernético o el atlas electrónico de cada país dentro de este Proyecto Piloto, para nosotros es tal vez más valioso el entrenamiento que hemos logrado impartir en cada país. Yo estuve presente en los talleres que hemos hecho en Costa Rica, donde representantes del Instituto de Cartografía, de las universidades, de las entidades relacionadas con el medio ambiente, con los recursos naturales, todos estaban participando para aprender esas nuevas tecnologías.

Canadá ha sido un soporte fundamental para nosotros en este proyecto. Inclusive, nos acaban de mandar de Canadá todo ese equipo para hacer cartografía para ciegos. Se entregó en México, se ha entregado en Argentina, en Chile, en Perú y en Brasil, que son los países que están en este Proyecto trabajando en la parte de cartografía para el discapacitado visual. Todo ese equipo proviene de Canadá.

Respecto a la relación más amplia entre la OEA y nuestro Instituto, no vemos ningún problema. Nosotros hemos tratado muchísimo de acercarnos a la OEA, pero no tenemos muy buena acogida. A través de la OEA, sí, apoyamos el Curso en el Centro Panamericano de Estudios de Investigaciones Geográficas (CEPEIGE), que está en el Ecuador. Gracias al gran apoyo del Gobierno del Ecuador y a nuestra Comisión de Geografía, este Centro funciona en el Instituto Geográfico Militar del Ecuador y lleva 25 años funcionando. Cada año se hace un curso y cada año hemos contado con el apoyo de la OEA para financiar becas de estudiantes y para pagar profesores. Así que

nuestra relación más importante con la OEA es a través del CEPEIGE, que funciona, como dije, en el Ecuador.

Respecto a los desastres naturales, tenemos dentro de nuestro Instituto cuatro países observadores, que son España, Francia, Israel y Jamaica. España y Francia, en la última reunión del Consejo Directivo que se realizó en El Salvador en noviembre pasado, se comprometieron a hacer un mapa o un estudio de todos los desastres naturales en Centroamérica, a través del Instituto Geográfico Nacional de Francia y el Instituto Geográfico Nacional de España, y sé que lo están haciendo porque me he mantenido informado. España y Francia, que tienen mucha experiencia en este tipo de trabajo, están buscando financiamiento en sus países para hacer este estudio, porque la reunión en El Salvador fue dos semanas después del huracán Mitch, cuando el problema estaba muy candente. Los dos representantes, el de España y el de Francia, a quienes agradezco su participación en nuestras reuniones, han ofrecido todo el esfuerzo posible para conseguir el financiamiento y hacer, entonces, un estudio completo de todos los países centroamericanos en cuanto al problema de los desastres naturales.

Contamos entonces, en ese aspecto, con la colaboración de estos dos países, y esperamos mucho de ellos porque juntos hacemos muchas cosas. Con España realizamos todos los años un curso de teledetección, que se hace en México. El Instituto trae a los alumnos, España pone los instructores y el INEGI, de México, pone las instalaciones y todo lo que se requiera.

En cuanto a la distribución de informes, nosotros los mandamos acá a la OEA, pero vamos a tomar nota de lo que se acaba de pedir, que sea distribuido también a las Embajadas en México, donde tiene la residencia el Instituto.

No sé, señor Presidente, si queda alguna otra cosa que pueda aclarar.

El PRESIDENTE: Yes. The Delegation of Mexico raised the question of universal membership. How come there are only 21 members in the Institute, I think he said, although there are 34 member states? Based on this morning's discussion of global warming and so forth, would it not be in the Institute's best interest to have universal membership? I believe this was the concern of the Representative of Mexico.

The Secretary General of the Pan American Institute for Geography and History (PAIGH) has the floor.

El SECRETARIO GENERAL DEL INSTITUTO PANAMERICANO DE GEOGRAFÍA E HISTORIA: El Instituto se llama "Instituto Panamericano de Geografía e Historia", y todos los países que forman parte de él son los que integran Sudamérica, Centroamérica y Norteamérica —con excepción de Canadá—, más Haití y República Dominicana. Entre todos suman 21 países. Jamaica es un país observador nuestro.

Los demás países nunca han manifestado, al menos que yo sepa, un interés real de pertenecer a nuestro Instituto. Si hubiera interés real por parte de otros países, nosotros estamos en la obligación de estudiar su solicitud y dar una respuesta adecuada. En este momento, los países integrantes son exactamente los que acabo de mencionar: los de Sudamérica, Centroamérica, Norteamérica, República Dominicana, Haití y Cuba, que fue justamente donde se originó nuestro Instituto, que está en este momento fuera de la OEA. No sé si hay alguna otra cosa que haya quedado sin respuesta.

El PRESIDENTE: I take this opportunity, on behalf of the Council, Dr. Carvalho, to thank you for your very important remarks this morning. We give you the assurance that we have taken note of the observations presented in your annual report.

El SECRETARIO GENERAL DEL INSTITUTO PANAMERICANO DE GEOGRAFÍA E HISTORIA: Muchas gracias, señor Presidente.

El PRESIDENTE: *Muchísimas gracias, también.*

c. Informe anual de la Comisión Interamericana de telecomunicaciones

El PRESIDENTE: I give the floor to the Acting Executive Secretary of the Inter-American Telecommunication Commission (CITEL), Mr. William Moran.

El SECRETARIO EJECUTIVO INTERINO DE LA COMISIÓN INTERAMERICANA DE TELECOMUNICACIONES: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I am pleased to be here today to present the annual report of the Inter-American Telecommunication Commission (CITEL).

The General Assembly of the OAS gave CITEL a very broad mandate in 1993 [AG/RES. 1224 (XXIII-O/93)]. Since that time, we've held two CITEL general assemblies in 1994 and 1998 that focused on the Commission's most important activities. Both Summits of the Americas added emphasis to the programs that were underway and gave us two new areas to focus on: value-added network services and equipment certification processes. The Meeting of Senior Telecommunications Officials, held in Washington in 1996, added emphasis to the ongoing programs of CITEL.

The objective of CITEL is to assist member states in ensuring that the telecommunications infrastructures necessary for economic growth are in place. We do this through the structure of the Commission, which has four committees. The Permanent Executive Committee (COM/CITEL) meets annually. The three permanent consultative committees met a total of seven times this year. The Steering Committee meets once a year and comprises the chairs of COM/CITEL and the permanent consultative committees, plus the Vice Chair of COM/CITEL.

Twenty-five working groups and ad hoc groups carry out the different areas of endeavor. In 1998, they held nine meetings.

We held 11 seminars and workshops and put in more than 150 proposals to two International Telecommunication Union (ITU) conferences, the World Telecommunications Development Conference held in Malta last year and the ITU Plenipotentiary Conference held in Minneapolis last fall. Our proposals were adopted by the two conferences. I think the most significant point is that the countries have learned to work together to have a larger voice in the global community.

Last year we concluded a draft convention on the implementation of value-added services in the Americas, and this was forwarded to the Free Trade Area of the Americas (FTAA) Negotiating Group on Services for its consideration. We started a coordination mechanism and offered to brief the group on our activities. The group accepted our offer, and we will make a presentation at its meeting next month in Miami. In turn, the group is planning a seminar in Costa Rica in July, and it requested CITEL's participation as a moderator of one of its panels. This indicates the recognition that CITEL is gaining.

CITEL had 217 associate members at the beginning of this year. It gained about 30 members during 1998, and it continues to grow monthly.

We have an ongoing committee to look at our structure and our working plan so that we can be as effective as possible. We established a joint telemedicine program with the Inter-American Development Bank (IDB) and the Pan American Health Organization (PAHO) in the past year. We are working on a framework for standards and processes for implementing telecommunications capability in a country.

Last week, we held a seminar in Brazil on telemedicine, and we agreed on the need for a common framework on standards so that countries can benefit from each other's experiences.

We concluded an agreement last year with the ITU and the Hispano-American Association of Telecommunications Research and Enterprises (AHCJET) on producing a reference guide for the implementation of our universal services in the Americas. We set in motion the development of an inter-American mutual recognition agreement on the conformity assessment processes. We initiated programs on distance education and electronic commerce.

Our electronic forum is now operational in the OAS. It's not just for CITEL, but CITEL was the first to implement and operate it in the OAS. We've been working very closely with the Department of Management Systems and Information. You have to register to participate in this forum, and it allows each working group or any ad hoc group that deals with a particular subject to distribute documents electronically to all the participants in that forum. If you have a document, you can put it on this forum and it gets to all the participants. They get an e-mail informing them that a new document is posted. They can download a document, but when they put the document back into the forum, it gets a different number. So only the original author can modify a document. Not every group in CITEL is using this forum as yet, but they are moving in that direction. This will be a general capability, I would imagine, for the whole Organization.

Our conclusion, looking at last year's work, is that we have a pretty successful program with the private sector. We are responsive to the mandates from the Summit of the Americas. We continually work on the efficiency and the effectiveness of CITEL. We certainly are increasing the visibility of CITEL and the OAS, not only in the Americas, but globally.

When we were at the World Telecommunications Development Conference and the ITU Plenipotentiary Conference, the other regional organizations were very interested in how CITEL functions and the rules it uses to allow private sector participation. We continue to strengthen the role of CITEL as a preeminent organization in the Americas through our ongoing activities.

This year, we plan to continue the pattern of seminars and workshops. We anticipate that the increased visibility of CITEL and the OAS will continue. We are preparing for two ITU world conferences on standards and on the use of the radio spectrum. These are very crucial conferences at which we can introduce member states to all the new telecommunications services that are coming up.

We anticipate concluding the Mutual Recognition Agreement and approving it at the Executive Committee's meeting in December.

And last week, in our meeting in Brazil, they decided to initiate plans to hold a ministerial-level meeting in early in the year 2000.

Thank you very much.

El PRESIDENTE: I thank Mr. William Moran for his remarks this morning and for the report. I offer the floor to delegations. I recognize the Delegation of Antigua and Barbuda.

La REPRESENTANTE ALTERNA DE ANTIGUA Y BARBUDA: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. My delegation thanks Mr. William Moran for his outstanding report on the operations of CITEL during the past year. The people of Antigua and Barbuda throw their collective support behind the objectives outlined by CITEL.

Mr. Chairman, telecommunications represents the circulatory system of the global organism. In order for globalization to enjoy the best of health, all parts must work together. Should the circulatory system malfunction, the vitality of the organism will be imperiled.

International organizations such as the Organization of Economic Cooperation and Development (OECD) and the World Trade Organization (WTO) are deliberating upon the reform of the international rate system of the telecommunications industry. However, Mr. Chairman, the U.S. Federal Communications Commission (FCC) has proposed a rule that would mandate unilateral settlement rates for telephone traffic between the rest of the world, including Antigua and Barbuda, and the United States. Antigua and Barbuda, as a member of the WTO, believes that multilateral bodies ought to be given the opportunity to pronounce on this reform on the international accounting rate system and that unilateral action by any one country ought not to occur.

Our delegation, Mr. Chairman, would like to share with this august body a few reasons why the FCC's proposed rule on mandatory and unilateral settlement rates will be injurious to the health of our economies and ought not be administered.

In the first place, Mr. Chairman, it will deprive our countries of a substantial amount of our foreign exchange earnings and, concomitantly, reduce government revenues. These elements, we think, constitute the oxygen of our development process.

Further, the proposed rule making would retard the development of our telecommunications infrastructure and increase the cost of telecommunication usage by our consumers.

Mr. Chairman, my delegation is concerned that the FCC's plan to link benchmarks and timeframes to a country's per capita GNP would work to the disadvantage of small island states. Antigua and Barbuda has long led the crusade to do away with per capita GNP as a measurement of a small state's economic viability. A serious study of development theory would reveal that this measurement bears no relationship to the extent of a small country's vulnerability to external shocks and to natural disasters. It also does not provide a good indicator of the country's physical and social infrastructure.

Antigua and Barbuda, which year after year after weary year must prepare itself against the ravages of hurricanes and the threat of rising sea levels on account of global warming, is placed in the upper-middle-income bracket on the basis of its per capita GNP. This placement means that the

benchmark settlement rate for Antigua and Barbuda would be greatly reduced and, as stated, would result in decreased earnings by our government for productive development of our small twin-island state.

The FCC's proposed rule making for International Message Telephone Service (IMTS) also runs afoul of our quest for development. Our indigenous telecommunications operations will face the aristocracy of the telecommunications systems of the colossus of the north. The indigenous telecommunications providers, unable to compete on an uneven playing field, would soon probably be corpses in the undertaker's parlor from the influx of unfair competition.

So, Mr. Chairman, in wrapping up, the Notice of Proposed Rule Making (NPRM) FCC 96484 is the call that we hope will never be made. One, it calls for unilateral action by a member state. Two, it will undermine our foreign exchange earnings. Three, it employs the unfair GNP per capita as a measurement of development. And four, it will overpower indigenous operations.

Mr. Chairman, I thank you for giving me this opportunity to make this presentation this morning. Thank you.

El PRESIDENTE: I thank the Representative of Antigua and Barbuda for her remarks. I give the floor to the Representative of Canada.

El REPRESENTANTE PERMANENTE DEL CANADÁ: Thank you very much, Mr. Chairman. I will be brief. I thank the Acting Executive Secretary of CITEL, Mr. William Moran, for his very comprehensive and fine report.

The item of telecommunications, Mr. Chairman, was covered at the most recent meeting of the Summit Implementation Review Group (SIRG) in Santo Domingo. Many of the participants noted that CITEL's role in implementing the Santiago Plan of Action was, indeed, very vital. In this context, we would like to mention the extraordinary work of the former Executive Secretary, Mr. Roberto Blois. My delegation hopes that a well-qualified successor can be found as soon as possible.

We have a few comments on and additions to the report. Section 3.2.5 on page 6 refers to the VII COM/CITEL Meeting. My delegation believes that a reference should be made to two particularly important resolutions adopted by that meeting.

The first is COM/CITEL/RES. 64 (VII-98), "Stabilizing the Financial Allocation for CITEL from the Ordinary Budget of the OAS." This resolution notes that the 1999 budget is insufficient to allow CITEL to fully carry out its role, including implementation of the mandate in the Plan of Action of the Santiago Summit.

The second resolution is COM/CITEL/RES. 66 (VII-98), "Principles Related to the Use of Associate Member Funds Within the Annual Budget of CITEL." The point here is that "associate member fees" should not be used as a pretext for lowering the budget of CITEL even further. It remains the view of my delegation, Mr. Chairman, that good fundraisers within the Secretariat should not be penalized. Thank you.

El PRESIDENTE: I thank the Representative of Canada and give the floor to the Representative of the United States.

El REPRESENTANTE PERMANENTE DE LOS ESTADOS UNIDOS: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I thank the Representative of Antigua and Barbuda for her statement in which she raised a very important issue. The United States has been working for many years, through the International Telecommunications Union (ITU), on settlement of the rate issue to which she referred. In fact, the ITU has recommended just the sort of settlement rate adjustments that the United States is proposing. Our proposal is an effort to create the level playing field to which the Representative of Antigua and Barbuda referred. Thank you.

El PRESIDENTE: I thank the distinguished Representative of the United States. Does Mr. Moran wish to respond to any of these remarks? There are no further remarks. Therefore, I thank Mr. Moran for his presentation and ensure him that the Council has taken due note of the observations presented in his annual report.

d. Informe anual del Comité Jurídico Interamericano

El PRESIDENTE: We have received the annual report of the Inter-American Juridical Committee. If there are no objections, the Chair suggests that it be referred to the Committee on Juridical and Political Affairs (CAJP). It is so agreed.

PRESENTACIÓN SOBRE LA PARTICIPACIÓN DE LOS ESTADOS MIEMBROS
DE LA OEA EN LA CONFERENCIA DE MAPUTO DE LOS ESTADOS PARTE
DE LA CONVENCIÓN DE OTTAWA SOBRE LA PROHIBICIÓN DEL EMPLEO,
EL ALMACENAMIENTO, LA PRODUCCIÓN, Y LA TRANSFERENCIA
DE MINAS ANTIPERSONAL Y SOBRE SU DESTRUCCIÓN
(CONVENCIÓN DE OTTAWA)

El PRESIDENTE: This brings us to item 3 on the order of business, a presentation on the participation by OAS member states in the First Meeting of States Parties to the Ottawa Convention on the Prohibition of the Use, Stockpiling, Production, and Transfer of Antipersonnel Mines and on Their Destruction. This meeting will be held in Maputo, Mozambique. I call upon the Representative of Canada to take the floor.

El REPRESENTANTE PERMANENTE DEL CANADÁ: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. In my continuing spirit of magnanimity, I will cut short the presentation I had intended to make.

My delegation is pleased to circulate the information that should be coming out very shortly regarding the First Meeting of States Parties to the Ottawa Convention on the Prohibition, Use, Stockpiling, Production, and Transfer of Antipersonnel Mines and on Their Destruction. This conference will take place in Maputo, Mozambique, from May 3 to 7, 1999. The kits, which my delegation is distributing today, contain the agenda for the meeting as well as hotel and other practical information.

My delegation wishes to emphasize that the conference is open to all, not just to the countries that have ratified the Convention. We would hope to have strong participation from our hemisphere at this landmark conference that will serve to make further progress on the mine action agenda. To ensure such participation, we would kindly ask that you follow up with your respective capitals, which should already have received copies of the information provided in the kits.

It gives me great pleasure as well, Mr. Chairman, to take this opportunity to commend and thank the Government of Costa Rica for becoming the 17th OAS member state to deposit its instruments of ratification. My delegation once again urges those member states that have not yet signed or ratified the Ottawa Convention to do so as soon as possible, preferably in time for the Maputo meeting. Thank you.

El PRESIDENTE: I thank the Representative of Canada for his very important remarks and for the materials he has distributed. I offer the floor to delegations.

May I make this one remark, not as Chairman but as the Permanent Representative of Antigua and Barbuda. My country made a pledge to ratify this convention before the Maputo conference. I am pleased to report that our parliament convened yesterday and that ratification is on the parliament's agenda. Whether we will ratify the convention is yet another question, but if it is, I will certainly inform this body. But we intend to be present in Maputo.

We congratulate Canada for having successfully undertaken a Herculean task. In doing so, the lives of millions of poor people, who would otherwise have been hurt by the destructive consequences of land mines, have benefited.

PRESENTACIÓN DE INFORMES POR PARTE DEL PRESIDENTE
DE LA COMISIÓN DE ASUNTOS JURÍDICOS Y POLÍTICOS:

a. Sexta Conferencia Especializada Interamericana sobre Derecho Internacional Privado (CIDIP-VI) y reuniones de expertos para la CIDIP-VI

El PRESIDENTE: We now move to the fourth item on today's order of business, the reports by the Chair of the Committee on Juridical and Political Affairs (CAJP), documents CP/CAJP-1453/99 rev. 1 and CP/CAJP-1479/99. I give the floor to Ambassador Mauricio Granillo, Permanent Representative of El Salvador and Chairman of the Committee, to present those reports.

El PRESIDENTE DE LA COMISIÓN DE ASUNTOS JURÍDICOS Y POLÍTICOS: Muchas gracias, señor Presidente. En efecto, está señalado que el informe *in extenso* de la Reunión de Expertos de la CIDIP-VI se encuentra en el documento CIDIP-VI/doc.9/98. Sin embargo, señor Presidente, quisiera llamar la atención de la Sala en cuanto a las conclusiones de esta Reunión.

En cumplimiento de lo encomendado por este Consejo y de acuerdo a la resolución CP/RES. 732 (1173/98), la Reunión de Expertos acordó lo siguiente. Con relación al temario de la CIDIP-VI, se convino el siguiente texto: (1) documentación mercantil uniforme para el transporte internacional, con particular referencia a la Convención Interamericana sobre Contrato de Transporte Internacional de Mercaderías por Carretera, de 1989, y la posible incorporación de un Protocolo Adicional sobre Conocimiento de Embarque; (2) los contratos de préstamos internacionales de naturaleza privada y, en particular, la uniformidad y armonización de los sistemas de garantías mobiliarias comerciales y financieras internacionales; (3) conflictos de leyes en materia de responsabilidad extracontractual, con énfasis en el tema de la jurisdicción competente y las leyes aplicables respecto de la responsabilidad civil internacional por contaminación transfronteriza.

Para la realización de los trabajos preparatorios de la CIDIP-VI, se acordó la siguiente metodología: para los temas (1) y (2), la preparación de documentos y la celebración de dos Reuniones de Expertos durante el año 1999, de acuerdo con las modalidades que se han señalado; para el tema (3) se designó a Uruguay como Relator del tema, se establecieron los lineamientos que aparecen indicados en el capítulo IV de este informe, y se realizarán Reuniones de Expertos en ocasión de la celebración de las reuniones previstas en el punto anterior.

La Reunión de Expertos, señor Presidente, se llevó a cabo en cuatro sesiones plenarios, una sesión de apertura y otra de clausura. Se acompaña un proyecto de resolución sobre el temario de la CIDIP-VI, para la eventual adopción de este Consejo Permanente. Muchas gracias, señor Presidente.

El PRESIDENTE: I thank Ambassador Granillo for his report, and I offer the floor to delegations wishing to comment on the report and the draft resolution on the Sixth Inter-American Specialized Conference on Private International Law (CIDIP-VI). If there are no observations, the draft resolution is approved and will be sent to the Committee on Administrative and Budgetary Affairs (CAAP). I give the floor to the Representative of Guatemala.

El REPRESENTANTE PERMANENTE DE GUATEMALA: Gracias, señor Presidente. Disculpe que haya tomado el micrófono tan tarde en este punto, pero estaba en otros asuntos y tuvieron que ir a llamarme.

Como los señores Representantes saben, Guatemala ofreció ser sede de la Sexta Conferencia Especializada Interamericana sobre Derecho Internacional Privado (CIDIP-VI), lo cual fue aceptado por este Consejo Permanente. En su momento, se había previsto realizar la reunión durante el año de 1999. Sin embargo, luego de la Reunión de Expertos, sobre la cual hemos escuchado el informe del señor Presidente de la Comisión de Asuntos Jurídicos y Políticos, se decidió, y fue apoyado por Guatemala, que era necesario realizar otras dos Reuniones de Expertos más, para aclarar un poco mejor y discutir más extensamente el temario anotado que tenemos frente a nosotros.

Además, ya se habían previsto los fondos necesarios para la realización de la Conferencia y se había solicitado, como decía la resolución, que se asignaran los fondos en el programa-presupuesto, lo cual se hizo, si la memoria me sirve correctamente, en el período extraordinario de sesiones de la Asamblea General que tuvimos el año pasado.

Sin embargo, tomando en cuenta que la CIDIP-VI no se va a realizar este año sino posiblemente el año entrante —y digo posiblemente porque todo depende de esas Reuniones de Expertos—, y tomando en cuenta que ya se habían previsto los fondos necesarios para su realización, mi Delegación se permitiría sugerir que utilizáramos esos fondos para llevar a cabo las Reuniones de Expertos.

En ese sentido, quisiera proponer una pequeña modificación al proyecto de resolución que tenemos frente a nosotros. Sería en el punto 3 resolutivo. Lo único que se modificaría es la cuestión relativa a los fondos, pero no afectaría ninguna otra cuestión relativa al fondo mismo de la resolución.

La propuesta de la Delegación de Guatemala, que retiraría si no existiera consenso sobre ella, está basada en los argumentos antes esgrimidos. Voy a leer despacio para que pueda tomarse nota sobre la modificación:

3. Autorizar que los fondos asignados en el programa-presupuesto para la realización de la Sexta Conferencia Especializada Interamericana sobre Derecho Internacional Privado (CIDIP-VI) sean puestos a disposición para la realización de las reuniones de expertos mencionadas, y solicitar a la Secretaría General que realice las gestiones necesarias a fin de obtener recursos externos adicionales para la celebración de estas reuniones.

Como señalé anteriormente, podemos aprovechar los recursos que ya habían sido considerados para la celebración de la Conferencia y destinarlos a la realización de las Reuniones de Expertos que tenemos previstas en esta resolución. La CIDIP-VI se realizaría, entonces, el año entrante, si se considera que ya están suficientemente discutidos los temas que tenemos para esta Conferencia. Ya veríamos más tarde en la CAAP la asignación de los fondos para esta Conferencia. Gracias, señor Presidente.

El PRESIDENTE: I thank the Representative of Guatemala for his important remarks and for the adjustment to paragraph 3 of the draft resolution. I give the floor to the Representative of the United States.

El REPRESENTANTE PERMANENTE DE LOS ESTADOS UNIDOS: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I support the proposal just made by the Representative of Guatemala. Thank you.

El PRESIDENTE: I thank the Representative of the United States. Does any other delegation wish to take the floor? If not, we take it that there is consensus on the proposal put forward by the Delegation of Guatemala and that the draft resolution is adjusted accordingly and approved.¹

b. Proyecto de temario de la Reunión de Expertos Gubernamentales sobre Lucha contra el Crimen y Prevención de la Delincuencia

El PRESIDENTE: The next draft resolution appears in document CP/CAJP-1479/99 as Appendix II on page 5 in the English text. It is entitled "Draft Agenda of the Meeting of Government Experts on the Prevention of and War on Crime." I take it that all delegations are in support of this agenda, which was meticulously worked out by the Chairman of the Committee on Juridical and Political Affairs (CAJP). I give the floor to the Representative of Jamaica.

La REPRESENTANTE ALTERNA DE JAMAICA: Thank you. Mr. Chairman, my delegation has no objections to the agenda as it is drafted; however, we wish to raise an issue in this Permanent Council in relation to the process in the Committee.

First of all, we thank the Permanent Representative of El Salvador for his stewardship of the Committee as we prepare for the Meeting of Government Experts on the Prevention of and War on Crime, to be held in Colombia in April.

Mr. Chairman, the Delegation of Jamaica participated in the Special Meeting of the Committee on Juridical and Political Affairs to Prepare for the Meeting of Experts on the Prevention of and War on Crime in February, and we found the deliberations quite productive.

1. Resolución CP/RES. 744 (1185/99), anexa.

There is, however, one aspect of the agenda that my delegation wishes to raise here. We also raised it in the Committee. Page 2 of the English version of the document shows that the Committee is itself preparing the draft conclusions and recommendations for the meeting. We expressed our concerns in the Committee that the Committee was, in fact, overstepping its mandate in drafting these conclusions and recommendations. We feel that in doing so, the Committee is prejudging the outcome of the meeting. Regrettably, other delegations did not see it in this way. We believe that we are in fact setting a precedent if we, who are not experts, pretend to draft such conclusions and recommendations.

Only a few weeks ago, the Second Meeting of Ministers of Justice or Ministers or Attorneys General of the Americas was held in Lima, and conclusions and recommendations were drafted after they ended their deliberations. As I said, we indicated this in the Committee. We did not get any support, but we felt it necessary to raise it at this level and place it on the record.

Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

El PRESIDENTE: I thank the Representative of Jamaica for her remarks, which have been noted. I give the floor to the Representative of Colombia.

El REPRESENTANTE PERMANENTE DE COLOMBIA: Gracias, señor Presidente. Sobre el tema que estamos tratando, quisiera manifestar que durante los días 22 y 23 de febrero tuvo lugar la sesión preparatoria de la Reunión de Expertos Gubernamentales sobre Lucha contra el Crimen y Prevención de la Delincuencia, que hizo magníficos aportes a lo que habrá de ser esta reunión en la ciudad de Medellín, los días 19 y 20 de abril.

Lo que se hizo allí —y esto en aclaración a las palabras de la señora Representante de Jamaica— no fue nada distinto a anticipar unos temas, a hacer un marco de referencia, a estructurar cada uno de los asuntos que van a ser base de las discusiones en la ciudad de Medellín y a tener una estructura completa, para no llegar a improvisar y que la reunión de Medellín se constituya únicamente en unas exposiciones magistrales de cada una de las delegaciones, muy técnicas cada una de ellas, desde luego, pero sin concordancia y que no lleguen a dar la respuesta que necesita una Organización como esta.

En consecuencia, esta reunión preparatoria, que contó con la participación de expertos gubernamentales de distintos países, parece que fue bastante exitosa. Las discusiones fueron muy amplias y, en general, no solo llegamos al acuerdo sobre el temario, sino también sobre algunos puntos básicos que serían materia de unas recomendaciones que llegarían, desde luego, al Consejo Permanente y, posteriormente, a la Asamblea General, y que fueron acordadas por todos los presentes.

Aprovecho la oportunidad, señor Presidente, para invitar nuevamente a todas las delegaciones a que se hagan presentes en la reunión de Medellín, el próximo 19 y 20 de abril. Ya hemos logrado todos los acuerdos con la Secretaría General para el buen éxito de la conferencia, y esperamos que se logren los objetivos que la Asamblea General y el Consejo Permanente han querido durante el último año de preparación de este evento. Muchas gracias, señor Presidente.

El PRESIDENTE: I thank the Representative of Colombia for those important remarks and for the information regarding the April 19 meeting. I give the floor to the Representative of El Salvador, Chair of the Committee on Juridical and Political Affairs (CAJP).

El PRESIDENTE DE LA COMISIÓN DE ASUNTOS JURÍDICOS Y POLÍTICOS: Muy brevemente, señor Presidente, es para ratificar lo expresado por el señor Representante de Colombia y un poco también para señalar que la Comisión consideró la necesidad de contar con un proyecto de conclusiones y recomendaciones, ya que, en definitiva, la reunión en Medellín va a tener una duración de dos días y, generalmente, todas estas reuniones que tienen muy corto plazo van preparadas con anticipación. Este no deja de ser un proyecto de conclusiones que la propia reunión de expertos podrá desechar o no. La Comisión fue clara en el sentido de que no se estaría prejuzgando sobre el tema en cuestión. Muchas gracias, señor Presidente.

El PRESIDENTE: I thank the Chair of the Committee on Juridical and Political Affairs. Does any other delegation wish to make remarks? There being none, the Chair moves that we approve the draft resolution. Approved.^{2/}

INFORME ANUAL DE LA OFICINA DEL INSPECTOR GENERAL - 1 DE ENERO AL 31 DE DICIEMBRE DE 1998

El PRESIDENTE: The next item on the order of business is the annual report of the Office of the Inspector General for 1998, and it is found in document CP/doc.3164/99. I am pleased to give the floor to Mrs. Linda Fealing, who has been patiently waiting here for more than three hours to present this report.

La INSPECTORA GENERAL: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Because of time constraints, I will be much briefer than I had intended. However, I have prepared a written submission of my presentation, which will be handed out later.

First of all, as this is the first time that I am addressing the Permanent Council since my appointment, I express through you, Mr. Chairman, my thanks for the confidence that the Secretary General and the distinguished permanent representatives have placed in me in providing me with an opportunity to serve the Organization.

Mr. Chairman, you have provided a mandate, which is to verify compliance with instructions, policies, and standards through systematic and selective examination. In this way, the Office of the Inspector General (OIG) determines whether financial and operational information is accurate and reliable, whether the risks are identified and minimized, whether the professional auditing and accounting regulations are followed, and whether the Organization's objectives are effectively achieved. Thus, the Office of the Inspector General assists the Secretary General and his management team in effectively carrying out its responsibilities in accordance with the Organization's overall aims and makes recommendations for improvements where weakness or irregularities are noted.

2. Resolución CP/RES. 745 (1185/99), anexa.

Mr. Chairman, within the resources allocated to my office, audit activities are directed towards operations with the highest degree of risk and/or those with the greatest potential for increasing efficiency, economy, and effectiveness. The Office of the Inspector General is also required to conduct audits of all OAS operations in accordance with a long-term cyclical plan.

The 1998 annual report identifies the audits performed during the 12-month period, and I am available to answer any questions that you may have. However, Mr. Chairman, with your permission, I would first like to take this opportunity to highlight some of the major points of the report.

The last annual report of the Board of External Auditors suggested a review of the new computerization systems, General Secretariat outsourcing, the Leo S. Rowe Pan American Fund, and internal controls of the Department of Financial Services. These reviews have been included in our audit activities. Thirteen audits, four investigations, and two inspections were completed.

In the last annual report, the Board also stressed the need to maintain significant audit coverage at headquarters. Taking this into consideration, Mr. Chairman, nine audits and three investigations were performed at headquarters, whereas the balance were performed in the field. Table 1, which is included in the report, identifies savings of over one million dollars attributable to the Inspector General's audits. These came mainly from anticipated recovery of excess taxes advances, an amount from a previous staff member who breached the terms of his early retirement agreement, and other amounts to be recovered from staff members. In addition, Mr. Chairman, disciplinary action was taken against staff members for violation of the Staff Rules.

As indicated in Table 2, nine audits evaluated operations activities; two examined compliance with agreements signed by the General Secretariat and other parties, such as the tax agreement and evaluation of a project in Central America.

Tables 3 and 4 identify our activities according to the technical areas that have been audited. Two of the audit activities were risk assessments. We performed one assessment on the risk of the new management system. We found that the choice of Oracle as a base software platform is a good one. We had concerns, however, regarding the project implementation schedule date, which was January 1; the lack of a consistent top-down security policy; legacy system risks; lack of written procedures; and the need for job descriptions, particularly in the Department of Management Systems and Information. Our key recommendations included the need to implement a contingency plan and a Secretariat-wide security policy, development of technical procedures, separate platforms for test and production environments, a disaster recovery plan in case the systems fails, appropriate job descriptions, and a need for more involvement of the Department of Management Systems and Information. That department has the mandate for long-term management of information technology at the General Secretariat.

I am happy to report that, following discussions with the Assistant Secretary for Management, some of these recommendations, such as the establishment of a security policy and the issue of formal security procedures, were implemented even before the report was approved by the Secretary General. We intend to do a follow-up audit in 1999, and this is reflected in our work plan.

Mr. Chairman, as you are aware, the Permanent Council issued a directive to the Secretary General regarding the Y2K issue. We performed a risk assessment on this, and the main recommendation was the appointment of a Y2K coordinator. The Secretary General has selected the

Director of the Office of Science and Technology for that purpose. According to our recommendations, he must select an overall approach to structure the Y2K program for assessing the adequacy of existing information, and he must provide the required information to the Secretary General for his quarterly reports to this Permanent Council. I am happy to say, Mr. Chairman, that the coordinator continues to keep us duly informed of the efforts being made towards implementing our recommendations.

Mr. Chairman, we produce quarterly reports that provide a summary of the audit findings. The individual reports are always available to the distinguished representatives of the Permanent Council. Our annual and activity reports are available on the website of the Inspector General. However, in order to protect the confidentiality of audit activities, we do not post individual audit reports on the website.

Mr. Chairman, the General Standards require that I also report on staffing. The program-budget provides for five professional auditors: the Inspector General, the Deputy Inspector General, and three auditors, including a junior auditor who, as a result of a decision of my predecessor, is located in Panama.

In June 1998, the previous Inspector General retired; the Deputy Inspector General—myself—was appointed to act as Inspector General and was subsequently confirmed in the position effective January 1, 1999. Consequently, the position of Deputy Inspector General, which is a trust position, has been vacant since July 1998, thus reducing the resources available for audit activities.

In the last audit report, the Board of External Auditors reiterated its concern about the level of staffing in the OIG and the location of the junior auditor. Mr. Chairman, I agree with the Board's comments regarding the need to staff the OIG with persons possessing the required professional auditing skills. I intend to give the highest priority to recruiting a professional auditor with computer expertise and significant experience in the Oracle environment to fill the position of Deputy Inspector General, as soon as I get the necessary approval from the Secretary General.

Mr. Chairman, in my opinion, the location of a junior auditor outside of headquarters does not allow for effective supervision and maximum utilization of resources. I have revisited the issue, as suggested by the Board, and I am happy to report that the Department of Human Resources has initiated the process of relocating the post. It is expected that the individual will report at headquarters around June or July.

Mr. Chairman, I also continue to utilize performance contractors to supplement my staffing requirements.

Mr. Chairman, complete independence is crucial for effectively discharging my responsibilities, and the Board has mentioned the need for the Inspector General's independence in prior years. I reiterate that the Inspector General continues to enjoy complete independence in planning audit programs and performing and reporting on all audited activities.

The General Standards provide that a special situations may be brought to the attention of the Inspector General by the Permanent Council and the Secretary General. Mr. Chairman, except for an investigation that was suggested by the Secretary General and another requested by one of the

departments within the Secretariat for Management, all audited activities are performed on my own initiative.

The Office of the Inspector General submits the operating budget directly to the Secretary General, and no restrictions have been imposed on our resources. The Secretary General provides full, unwavering support for our work and has approved all recommendations submitted to him. The Inspector General and her staff enjoy full, free, and unrestricted access to all functions, activities, operations, records, properties, and staff of the General Secretariat and receive full cooperation from all areas of the General Secretariat.

Mr. Chairman, I have provided my work plan as Annex 2. It places particular emphasis on areas of high risk, it recognizes proposals made by the Board of External Auditors, and it includes a mandate issued by the twenty-fifth special session of the General Assembly regarding the purchase of equipment.

The new mechanism for delivery of technical assistance requires that the General Secretariat function as a promoter rather than executor of projects, and funds of the Special Multilateral Fund of CIDI (FEMCIDI) that have not been spent by the end of the year should be returned to that account. Most projects examined in 1998 revealed that there is need for improvement in the management of projects by the Executive Secretariat for Integral Development (SEDI) in order to ensure compliance with contract terms and to determine whether project objectives have been met efficiently and effectively.

Mr. Chairman, individual contracts signed by executing agencies require ongoing and effective management by SEDI, and this is crucial if we are to ensure that project objectives are achieved when funds are disbursed for the delivery of technical assistance. In an effort to improve the weaknesses that we identified, we provided a number of recommendations and discussed our concerns with the management of SEDI on a number of occasions, including a staff meeting. In 1999, we intend to continue our examination to determine the level of compliance.

Mr. Chairman, the Board also suggested a review of the internal controls within the Department of Financial Services. The full implementation of the Oracle system will cause changes in the Department's operational processes. During the transition period, prior to full implementation, certain staff members have been temporarily assigned to specific functions to deal with the system. Others continue to work with the legacy system, which has not been integrated.

In mid-1998, the Department of Financial Services temporarily reassigned certain functions in a restructuring exercise that was based on an internal study of the unit. We were provided with a copy of that report and, together with Ernst & Young, the external auditors, we have reviewed the implementation status of those recommendations. Most of those recommendations have been put in place. Permanent assignment of functions and related job descriptions have been delayed pending full implementation of the Oracle financials.

Mr. Chairman, because of the nature of the operations of the Department of Financial Services—receipt and disbursement of all funds—we must ensure timely recording, reliability, accuracy, full accountability, and transparency within that department. We intend to review internal controls in 1999.

Mr. Chairman, another area of concern to this office is the lack of up-to-date procedural manuals within the General Secretariat. Although some desktop procedures are already available for the new MIS system, proper procedural manuals are urgently needed and long overdue and the present ones are outdated. Staff members should be provided with clear guidelines, and since my mandate is to ensure compliance with regulations and procedures, this issue is very important to me. I intend to follow up with the General Secretariat on providing manuals and updating OAS directives.

Mr. Chairman, all recommendations submitted to the Secretary General have been approved, as I said earlier. We continue to monitor our recommendations, as this is a core function that shows our effectiveness and is the most meaningful indicator of the success of this office. I am happy to report that there was significant improvement in 1998. The system to track the actions taken by the General Secretariat is working successfully, and the Inspector General reports on a regular basis to the Secretary General on the status of implementation of the recommendations and receives his full support. For the most part, I am satisfied with the timeliness of the responses as well as the actions taken to inform the OIG of the status of the implementation process and specific actions taken.

As suggested by the Board, we continue to work with the various areas of the General Secretariat and to assist management in understanding those recommendations and prioritizing their implementation. The Board has also suggested that a formal policy be established to include formal comments as an appendix to each report.

The Inspector General continues to discuss our methodologies and preliminary findings even before the reports are drafted. Responses to questions and comments on draft reports are included in the final reports. We have attended staff meetings to explain our mandate and, in general, to explain the work of the Inspector General and to bring to the attention of the managers issues of a recurring nature that have been identified during our examinations. Consistent with our role, we participated as observers to various committee meetings. We have an ongoing dialogue with managers, including the Assistant Secretary for Management, and this has contributed towards our effectiveness.

Mr. Chairman, as required by the Institute of Internal Auditors, the staff members of the OIG attended seminars, workshops, and other training sessions.

In closing, Mr. Chairman, I thank the management of the General Secretariat for informing me of action taken regarding the implementation of our recommendations and for their cooperation with us. I thank the Board for its support and assistance, and the Secretary General for his unwavering support of the work of the OIG.

Most of all, I thank the governing bodies of the Organization for the continued support and interest taken in the work of this small but dedicated team. I am happy to say that efforts at strengthening the Office of the Inspector General, which started in 1994, have promoted a culture of accountability and have yielded positive results. Requests from some member states for copies of individual audit reports and specific questions addressed to me assure me of your ongoing interest in our work. I am always available, excellencies, for discussions and to answer any concerns you may have regarding our activities.

Once again, through you, Mr. Chairman, I thank the distinguished permanent representatives for their continued support of the work of the Office of the Inspector General and for allowing me the opportunity to address you. Thank you.

El PRESIDENTE: I thank Mrs. Fealing for her exhaustive report and the distributed text of her remarks. I offer the floor to delegations. The Representative of Saint Kitts and Nevis has the floor.

El REPRESENTANTE PERMANENTE DE SAINT KITTS Y NEVIS: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. On behalf of the delegations of Saint Lucia and Saint Kitts and Nevis, I congratulate the Inspector General for the presentation of her comprehensive report. We note with satisfaction her professionalism and diligence in carrying out and complying with the mandates of the articles of the General Standards that define the scope of the work of the Office of the Inspector General. We note her concern about the need for a control mechanism for the Oracle system and the need for a contingency plan. Also, we are pleased that her office is monitoring and ensuring that the recommendations of the Board of External Auditors are implemented within the General Secretariat. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

El PRESIDENTE: I thank Ambassador Liburd, the Chair of the Committee on Administrative and Budgetary Affairs (CAAP), and I give the floor to the Representative of Canada.

El REPRESENTANTE PERMANENTE DEL CANADÁ: Thank you Mr. Chairman. I echo the words of my distinguished colleague, Ambassador Liburd, on the excellent work and presentation given to us today by the Inspector General. We feel that Mrs. Fealing has made great efforts over the last several months to improve the efficiency of our organization. She is to be congratulated for these efforts. In order to meet the needs of the Office of the Inspector General, it is important that a qualified individual be placed in the position of Deputy Inspector General, which remains vacant at this time.

In addition, my delegation concurs that there is a clear urgency to update procedural manuals within the General Secretariat, especially due to the implementation of the modernization plan. We continue to support the work of the Inspector General and all her recommendations to maximize the efficiency and the effectiveness of our organization. Thank you.

El PRESIDENTE: I thank the Representative of Canada for his remarks, and I give the floor to the Representative of the United States.

El REPRESENTANTE PERMANENTE DE LOS ESTADOS UNIDOS: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. My delegation joins the delegations of Saint Kitts and Nevis and Canada in commending the Inspector General and expressing our support for the Office, specifically for Mrs. Fealing and the job that she has done today. Thank you.

El PRESIDENTE: I thank the Representative of the United States for his remarks. I also take this opportunity to congratulate Mrs. Fealing for her work. I join with the other delegations in applauding her. I am especially impressed with your savings of \$1,136,000.

Does any other delegation wish to comment? Since there are no requests for the floor, I thank the Inspector General once more for her report and assure her that the Council has taken due note of the report and will forward it to the Committee on Administrative and Budgetary Affairs (CAAP). Thank you very kindly.

MECANISMOS DE LA OEA PARA REDUCIR Y ENFRENTAR SITUACIONES DE DESASTRE

El PRESIDENTE: Item 6 on the order of business is a draft resolution on OAS disaster reduction and response mechanisms. It requires a great deal of discussion, and given the lateness of the hour—it is now past 1:30—the Chair believes that it would be better to address this draft resolution at the next meeting of the Permanent Council.

I have been informed by the Secretariat that, given the number of items awaiting the decision of this Council, we will need to hold a Permanent Council meeting before the end of this month, very likely on March 31. There is also a Permanent Council meeting scheduled for April 7. So, if there is no disagreement, the Chair would like to postpone discussion of item 6 until Wednesday of next week, when it will be placed higher on the order of business to ensure that it is discussed.

In the meantime, the draft resolution has been distributed to all member states. The Chair will take personal responsibility for ensuring that between now and next week, delegations' inputs are received and that the draft resolution is adjusted accordingly so that it can be approved at next week's Permanent Council meeting. It is so decided.

APROBACIÓN DE ACTAS

El PRESIDENTE: We move to item 7, approval of the minutes of the meetings held on January 21, 1998, January 30, 1998, and December 18, 1997. I take it that there is agreement that we approve these minutes. Approved.

We are now under "Other business." The Permanent Representative of the United States had indicated that he wished to make a statement. I will also ask the Secretariat to read two statements, one published by the Inter-American Commission on Human Rights (IACHR) and the other by the Secretary General of the OAS. The delegations of Canada and the United States asked for the floor first, so I give it to them in the order requested.

PRESENTACIÓN DEL REPRESENTANTE DEL CANADÁ SOBRE LA FORMACIÓN DEL TERRITORIO AUTÓNOMO DE NUNAVUT

El PRESIDENTE: I recognize the Representative of Canada.

El REPRESENTANTE PERMANENTE DEL CANADÁ: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I will be brief.

Mr. Chairman, the establishment of Nunavut as a distinct territory within the Canadian Federation, under its own government, fulfills a long-held aspiration of the Eastern and Central Arctic Inuit to control their own destiny. On April 1, this aspiration will be realized. As of next Thursday, Canada will have a third territory called Nunavut that will be carved out of the central and eastern area of the Northwest Territories.

Nunavut means “our land” in Inuktitut. About 55,700 Inuit live in 53 communities across the North. Nunavut, slightly larger than Mexico, will cover two million square kilometers and will constitute about one fifth of Canada’s land mass.

The form of self government the Inuit have chosen will be unique to Nunavut and is aimed to reflect the makeup of the population. Representing over 80 percent of the population of Nunavut, Inuit form a clear majority in the territory and will therefore have a primary influence on public administration. This will allow Inuit to build a homeland and government that is uniquely responsive to the needs of Inuit and reflective of local values and traditions. The traditional knowledge of elders will be an integral part of the new decision-making processes. In addition, the land claim agreement provides a number of key economic development levers that will enable Inuit to develop a strong economy and society that is based upon their traditional strengths.

Canada’s Department of Indian Affairs and Northern Development has been working with residents of the future territory of Nunavut to help them form this new government. To commemorate the historic creation of Nunavut, the Permanent Mission of Canada to the OAS is presenting a one-week exhibition of Inuit art from March 29 to April 1, here at the Organization of American States, with the support of the Burdick Gallery of Washington, D.C. This exhibition will also feature explanatory remarks on the history of the Inuit and the creation of Nunavut. I invite you all to visit the exhibition, and I welcome any questions that you may have on this historic event.

El PRESIDENTE: I thank the Representative of Canada for this very important information.

CONTINUACIÓN DEL ANÁLISIS DE RESOLUCIÓN
AG/RES. 1080 (XXI-O/91)

El PRESIDENTE: I now give the floor to the Representative of the United States.

El REPRESENTANTE PERMANENTE DE LOS ESTADOS UNIDOS: Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Mr. Chairman, General Assembly resolution AG/RES. 1080 (XXI-O/91) is the primary instrument of the Organization that may be applicable to situations and events such as those that are occurring in Paraguay. We cannot and should not prejudge the investigation that is now being conducted by Paraguayan authorities, but the situation raises concerns and implications so serious that we should remain alert and fully informed of developments so as to be prepared to address the circumstances appropriately and expeditiously.

If, once the facts are more fully known, it develops that the murder of Vice Presidente Argaña was a political assassination, then the Organization may need to closely examine whether an assault of this nature constitutes, as defined in resolution AG/RES. 1080, and I quote, “. . . irregular interruption of democratic political institutional process or of the legitimate exercise of power by the democratically elected government in any of the Organization’s member states.”

Mr. Chairman, this is a matter of such importance that I believe it should be the subject of discussion in the Permanent Council. We were going to request, under Article 18 of the Statutes of

the Permanent Council, that a special meeting be convened for this purpose this week. Since you have indicated that you will be convening a meeting for other purposes on March 31, we suggest that this matter be placed on the order of business of that meeting. By that time we could hear a more detailed report on the events surrounding the assassination of Vice President Argaña and the Paraguayan Government's response to those events. We could request the Secretary General to prepare the report. This report and deliberation may give us a better understanding of the circumstances.

At the meeting, we should discuss whether events such as those in Paraguay, as we know them to be at the time, constitute such a threat to the stability of democratically elected governments to which the provisions of resolution AG/RES. 1080 should apply. We could also discuss whether the Organization should consider ways to strengthen the 1080 mechanism to improve the Organization's early warning role and its ability to respond properly and effectively to those types of threats. We should also consider whether it is necessary to convoke a meeting of Ministers of Foreign Affairs to examine the situation collectively and to adopt the proper measures in response to the circumstances as we know them. Thank you.

El PRESIDENTE: I thank the distinguished Permanent Representative of the United States for his remarks. The Secretariat has taken due note, and we will include on the next order of business of the Permanent Council an item relating to this matter. Without prejudging the matter, it appears that it would be important for this body to take action if it turns out that this is a politically motivated crime.

The Representative of Argentina has the floor.

El REPRESENTANTE INTERINO DE LA ARGENTINA: Muchas gracias. Señor Presidente, es para referirme muy brevemente a la propuesta del señor Representante Permanente de los Estados Unidos. Efectivamente, mi Delegación coincide con lo manifestado por el Embajador Marrero, en el sentido de que la situación planteada en la hermana República del Paraguay, para los países del MERCOSUR, es motivo no solamente de atención sino de interés muy marcado, a punto tal que los Presidentes de nuestros países están siguiendo muy de cerca el desarrollo de los acontecimientos conforme a los mecanismos que, dentro del propio marco institucional del MERCOSUR, están previstos en materia de promoción y fortalecimiento de la democracia.

Esta es la razón por la cual, señor Presidente, nos parece absolutamente normal y lógico que el Consejo Permanente, conforme a los mecanismos legales y técnicos que tiene a su disposición, se mantenga en estado de alerta para convocar una reunión en la oportunidad y circunstancia que se juzgue conveniente, y que se apliquen los mecanismos previstos en la propia resolución AG/RES. 1080 (XXI-O/91), que confieren al Secretario General de nuestra Organización la facultad de solicitar la convocación de todas las reuniones que sean necesarias, comenzando por una sesión extraordinaria del Consejo Permanente, si una determinada circunstancia producida en el marco institucional de uno de los países del Hemisferio así lo exige.

Coincidimos también con la distinguida Delegación de los Estados Unidos en que los dos instrumentos que tiene la Organización para fortalecer la democracia en el Hemisferio, que son la mencionada resolución 1080 y el Protocolo de Washington, pueden ser completados en el futuro ante la aparición de elementos no previstos en sus disposiciones, pero que pueden llegar a ser atentatorios de la marcha democrática o del proceso institucional de nuestros países.

En ese sentido, apoyamos que en un futuro se estudie precisamente estas lagunas, entre las cuales podría figurar eventualmente la integridad física de políticos o funcionarios que en el ejercicio de la democracia se vieran en peligro.

Entendemos que se trata de dos cuestiones diferentes, ya que, por un lado, está la situación imperante en la hermana República del Paraguay y, por otro, precisamente este ejercicio con el que definitivamente coincidimos. Tenemos que abocarnos a esta tarea para tratar de cubrir los baches o las lagunas que estos dos instrumentos que se ha dado la Organización puedan tener en su articulado. Muchas gracias, señor Presidente.

EL PRESIDENTE: I thank the Representative of Argentina for those very important remarks, and I give the floor to the Representative of Mexico.

EL REPRESENTANTE ALTERNO DE MÉXICO: Muchas gracias, señor Presidente. La Delegación de México ha tomado debida nota del planteamiento y de la solicitud hecha por la Delegación de los Estados Unidos.

En este momento quisiera simplemente asentar en acta que mi Delegación requerirá las instrucciones del caso, para ver si los hechos a que la distinguida Delegación de los Estados Unidos aludió configuran o no una de las situaciones a que se refiere la resolución AG/RES. 1080 (XXI-O/91).

Por consiguiente, la Delegación de México reserva todavía su posición en la materia. Gracias, señor Presidente.

EL PRESIDENTE: I thank the Representative of Mexico for his remarks. Since no other delegations have requested the floor, I give the Secretariat the floor to read two communications delivered by the Secretary General and the Inter-American Commission on Human Rights. The Secretariat has the floor.

La SECRETARÍA: *Thank you, Mr. Chairman.*

Comunicado del Secretario General de la OEA: [Lee:]

Conmovido por la magnitud de la tragedia que vive en esta hora el pueblo paraguayo, no puedo menos que deplorar y condenar enérgicamente el cobarde atentado que en el día de hoy le ha costado la vida al Vicepresidente de la República del Paraguay, doctor Luis María Argaña.

Los pueblos y gobiernos del Hemisferio han dado pasos firmes en los últimos años para fortalecer los procesos democráticos, y este repudiable acto que es también un atentado contra la democracia de América, de ninguna manera debe significar un retroceso en ese empeño.

Formulo votos para que los culpables de tan execrable crimen sean capturados y sancionados conforme a las leyes paraguayas. Al mismo tiempo hago una ferviente

invocación al pueblo paraguayo para que dé muestras de la serenidad y la ponderación que por el bien de la nación se exigen en estas circunstancias.

Al Gobierno del Paraguay le hacemos llegar nuestras muestras de solidaridad hemisférica y al Partido Colorado, a los familiares y amigos del doctor Luis María Argaña, las expresiones de nuestro más profundo pesar, en nombre de toda la Organización de los Estados Americanos.

César Gaviria
Secretario General de la OEA
Washington, D.C.

Comunicado de prensa de la CIDH:

La Comisión Interamericana de Derechos Humanos ha tenido conocimiento del asesinato del doctor Luis María Argaña, Vicepresidente de la República del Paraguay, ocurrido en la mañana de hoy en la ciudad de Asunción. Como órgano principal del sistema interamericano, la Comisión expresa su más enérgica condena de este crimen atroz, que no solo quebranta la ley sino que también pone en peligro la estabilidad institucional y la normalidad democrática en ese país.

La Comisión no puede dejar de señalar que el asesinato del doctor Argaña tiene lugar en un contexto de seria crisis institucional que se arrastra desde hace varios meses y que ha llevado a un abierto enfrenamiento entre el Poder Ejecutivo y la autoridad electoral, por un lado, y entre el Poder Legislativo y la Corte Suprema de Justicia, por el otro. La Comisión considera que la solución a esta crisis debe darse en el marco de la legalidad y del Estado de derecho, cuya máxima expresión en el orden interno es la Constitución nacional, sustento del sistema democrático de gobierno y fuente de la legitimidad de todas las autoridades en la República del Paraguay.

La Comisión hace un llamado urgente al Estado paraguayo para que investigue, identifique y sancione a los responsables de este crimen execrable, con la transparencia y con la eficacia que las circunstancias exigen.

Washington, D.C.
23 de marzo de 1999

El PRESIDENTE: I thank you very kindly. I give the floor to the Representative of El Salvador.

El REPRESENTANTE PERMANENTE DE EL SALVADOR: Muchas gracias, señor Presidente. Quisiera referirme a otro tema. ¿Estamos pasando a otro tema?

El PRESIDENTE: May I first give the floor to the Permanent Representative of Paraguay? I believe he may have a related statement. Then we will get back to the Representative of El Salvador. The Permanent Representative of Paraguay has the floor.

El REPRESENTANTE ALTERNO DEL PARAGUAY: Muchas gracias, señor Presidente. Hemos seguido con atención este punto bajo "Otros asuntos", a partir del planteamiento hecho por la distinguida Delegación de los Estados Unidos. Asimismo, hemos seguido con especial interés las intervenciones de las distinguidas Delegaciones de la Argentina y de México.

Sin lugar a dudas, este es un momento crítico; es un momento de consternación; es un hecho que ha golpeado a mi país. Nos encontramos en una situación muy difícil en la que, definitivamente, necesitamos el apoyo del Hemisferio.

Señor Presidente, también hemos escuchado con atención los dos comunicados de prensa leídos por Secretaría, uno del Secretario General y otro de la Comisión Interamericana de Derechos Humanos. En esos dos comunicados se hace un llamado, una exhortación, para que esta crisis generada por el atroz atentado contra la vida del Vicepresidente de la República del Paraguay sea solucionada dentro del marco jurídico; que se encuentre a los culpables y que reciban las sanciones que están previstas en el marco legal.

En este momento, ya se han iniciado las investigaciones. En la primera parte de esta sesión del Consejo ustedes han escuchado la intervención del señor Embajador, en la que puso a conocimiento del Consejo Permanente el comunicado oficial de la Cancillería nacional. Asimismo, el Presidente de la República ha emitido un mensaje público.

Consideramos legítima la preocupación de algunas delegaciones con respecto a tener mecanismos más completos que los que ya tiene la Organización en cuanto a la defensa y fortalecimiento de los sistemas democráticos en el Hemisferio. La consideramos legítima porque es una preocupación latente y porque los hechos ocurridos en mi país hacen un llamado a la reflexión.

Sin embargo, queremos dejar en claro nuestra manifestación de reserva respecto a que este Consejo siga manteniendo en su agenda el caso nuestro vinculado con la preocupación expuesta aquí por algunas delegaciones. Sin duda, es importante que la Organización esté pendiente de los acontecimientos que se desarrollen en el Paraguay, pero creo que estoy siendo objetivo al decir que estamos actuando dentro del marco constitucional. El Paraguay está viviendo actualmente una situación muy crítica, pero la estamos controlando.

Por eso, consideramos pertinente que el Consejo Permanente esté dándole un seguimiento al tema, pero, al mismo tiempo, creemos que sería prudente separar las dos cuestiones que están sobre la mesa. Nos parece bien que se deje dentro de la agenda del Consejo Permanente la preocupación sobre la situación paraguaya, pero hacemos un llamado a la prudencia en cuanto al momento más apropiado para el examen de mecanismos para proteger la estabilidad democrática.

El desenlace de los hechos aún no es previsible y estamos haciendo un seguimiento permanente de los sucesos. Por ello, consideramos prudente no adelantarnos y ver cómo, dentro del marco constitucional, dentro del marco jurídico vigente en el Paraguay, se llega a la solución de este problema.

Señor Presidente, también queremos dejar constancia en acta de nuestra reserva en cuanto a la propuesta de la distinguida Delegación de los Estados Unidos con referencia al tratamiento del tema nuestro en la próxima sesión del Consejo Permanente. Vamos a comunicar inmediatamente a nuestra Cancillería la preocupación de la mencionada Delegación y estaríamos teniendo una posición oficial en su oportunidad.

Simplemente para reforzar esta posición, señor Presidente, reitero nuestro agradecimiento por la solidaridad de los Estados miembros en esta triste y preocupante situación que estamos atravesando los paraguayos. Necesitamos el apoyo que hemos recibido y la solidaridad hemisférica, y esperemos que esto no alcance un nivel de gravedad tal que llegue a producir una ruptura del Estado de derecho.

Reitero, también, señor Presidente, que el proceso sigue su curso, que estamos dentro de la legalidad y que los mecanismos constitucionales están funcionando. En el Paraguay se ha abierto una investigación judicial y otra dispuesta por el Presidente de la República y tenemos el apoyo solidario inmediato del MERCOSUR. Por ello, señor Presidente, consideramos prudente que este tema de los mecanismos alternativos permanezca en nuestra agenda, pero que lo tengamos como un tema de discusión en un momento más apropiado, en el que la objetividad y la reflexión sean más provechosas para la Organización. Muchas gracias.

El PRESIDENTE: I thank the Representative of Paraguay for his very important remarks. I assure him of the support of this Council, and we will ensure also that prudence is exercised at all junctons.

ELECCIONES EN EL SALVADOR

EL PRESIDENTE: The Representative of El Salvador has the floor.

EL REPRESENTANTE PERMANENTE DE EL SALVADOR: Muchas gracias, señor Presidente. Quisiera informar al Consejo Permanente que, el día 7 de marzo del corriente año, se celebraron en mi país los comicios para elegir al presidente y vicepresidente de la República para el período 1999-2004. Dichas elecciones se llevaron a cabo dentro de un clima de normalidad, sin ningún incidente que lamentar y con toda la libertad y transparencia del caso. No se produjeron reclamos ni se presentaron recursos de nulidad por parte de los partidos o coaliciones políticas contendientes, por lo que el Tribunal Supremo Electoral pudo concluir satisfactoriamente sus labores de escrutinio dentro de un plazo relativamente breve, tal como pudo ser corroborado por más de un millar de observadores extranjeros.

Los resultados finales dieron como ganadores al licenciado Francisco Flores, para Presidente de la República, y al doctor Carlos Quintanilla, para Vicepresidente de la República, ambos del Partido Alianza Republicana Nacionalista (ARENA), con 52% de los votos emitidos. En segundo lugar, el Frente Farabundo Martí para la Liberación Nacional (FMLN) recibió 29% de los votos.

El día de ayer, el Tribunal Supremo Electoral entregó al licenciado Flores y al doctor Quintanilla las credenciales mediante las cuales se les reconoce su condición de Presidente y Vicepresidente electos de la República. La realización de esta fiesta cívica que fueron estas elecciones contrasta con los procesos electorales que se llevaron a cabo en la década pasada, en los que el pueblo salvadoreño salía a votar bajo las balas.

Es notorio el avance político logrado desde la firma de los Acuerdos de Paz, hace siete años. Desde luego, el principal logro sigue siendo la transformación de la lucha por el poder: de la vía de las armas se pasó a la vía de las urnas electorales. Eso es sumamente satisfactorio y nos congratulamos por ello. Muchas gracias, señor Presidente.

El PRESIDENTE: I thank the Representative of El Salvador for that report.

ELECCIONES EN ANTIGUA Y BARBUDA

El PRESIDENTE: Permit me to share with this Council information about an election that took place in Antigua on March 9.

Antigua and Barbuda held general elections on that day for its 17-seat parliament. Our parliament is modeled on an inherited parliamentary system, and the rule holds that the party that wins the majority of the seats is called upon by the head of state to form the government.

I am pleased to report that the Antigua Labor Party (ALP) won 12 of the 17 seats and thus retains control of the government, and the Honorable Lester Bryant Bird remains the Prime Minister and Minister of Foreign Affairs. He has since formed his cabinet, and the parliament has been convened.

I am pleased to report also that the election was free and fair and that an observer group from the Commonwealth Secretariat in London, invited to Antigua and Barbuda by my government, has submitted its preliminary report which confirms our view of a free and fair election. Prime Minister Bird has again asserted that the best observers of the electoral process in Antigua and Barbuda are Antiguan and Barbudans. The leader of the major opposition party, the Honorable Baldwin Spencer, has himself considered that the people have spoken. He was very gracious in acknowledging the victory of the ALP. I may report that not even so much as a windshield was broken in the intense competition for votes.

Let me point out that adult suffrage in Antigua and Barbuda is not as old as the OAS, not even as old as I am—I am older than it [Risas]. For more than three hundred years, from the mid-seventeenth century until 1951, the vast majority of Antiguan and Barbudans, who are of African descent, were excluded from participating in the election of parliamentarians and denied the right by law and by the threat of force. It was the trade union that led the fight to transform an ill-housed, ill-fed, and illiterate people by the use of the ballot.

In the forty-eight years since the majority has been conducting the affairs of government, our wretched state has improved markedly. What has been achieved by an independent Antigua and Barbuda, shorn of the bigotry and threat of force that characterized life there before adult suffrage, is near miraculous. We have built schools, clinics, businesses, and financial institutions; we have sent our children off to acquire tertiary education in ever-increasing numbers; and with a little help from our friends, both in the North and the South, we have become the masters and mistresses of our own destiny, threatened only by global warming and global climate change. We practice democracy, Prime Minister Bird says, because of the inherent good that springs from it. We understand freedom because we have been denied it for so long.

Again, I want to thank each and every one of you for the warm words of congratulations, and I will convey to my Foreign Minister your best wishes for a successful term. Thank you.

If there is no other business, this meeting stands adjourned. I thank you for your attention.

ANEXOS

RESOLUCIONES APROBADAS

OEA/Ser.G
CP/RES. 744 (1185/99)
24 marzo 1999
Original: español

CP/RES. 744 (1185/99)

TEMARIO DE LA SEXTA CONFERENCIA ESPECIALIZADA INTERAMERICANA
SOBRE DERECHO INTERNACIONAL PRIVADO (CIDIP-VI)

EL CONSEJO PERMANENTE DE LA ORGANIZACIÓN DE LOS ESTADOS
AMERICANOS,

OIDA la presentación hecha por el Presidente de la Comisión de Asuntos Jurídicos y Políticos del proyecto de temario de la Sexta Conferencia Especializada Interamericana sobre Derecho Internacional Privado (CIDIP-VI);

VISTO el informe de la Reunión de Expertos de la Sexta Conferencia Especializada Interamericana sobre Derecho Internacional Privado (CIDIP-VI), (RE/CIDIP-VI/doc.9/98);

CONSIDERANDO que la Asamblea General, mediante la resolución AG/RES. 1393 (XXVI-O/96), convocó la Sexta Conferencia Especializada Interamericana sobre Derecho Internacional Privado (CIDIP-VI) y, de acuerdo con la resolución AG/RES. 1558 (XXVIII-O/98), acordó “debido a la complejidad técnica de la materia, la celebración de una reunión de expertos para definir con precisión el ámbito de los temas propuestos para la CIDIP-VI e iniciar los trabajos preparatorios de la Conferencia”;

TENIENDO EN CUENTA que, en cumplimiento con la citada resolución AG/RES. 1558 (XXVIII-O/98), el Consejo Permanente convocó a la Reunión de Expertos de la Sexta Conferencia Especializada Interamericana sobre Derecho Internacional Privado (CIDIP-VI), (CP/RES. 732 (1173/98));

HABIÉNDOSE TOMADO NOTA del informe de la Reunión de Expertos de la Sexta Conferencia Especializada Interamericana sobre Derecho Internacional Privado (CIDIP-VI), (RE/CIDIP-VI/doc.9/98), en la sesión ordinaria celebrada el 11 de diciembre de 1998 (CP/ACTA 1179/98), en la cual se recomendó la realización de dos reuniones de expertos; y

DANDO CUMPLIMIENTO a lo acordado por la Asamblea General, mediante su resolución AG/RES. 1393 (XXVI-O/96), que encomendó al Consejo Permanente la aprobación del temario de la Sexta Conferencia Especializada Interamericana sobre Derecho Internacional Privado (CIDIP-VI),

RESUELVE:

1. Aprobar el siguiente temario de la Sexta Conferencia Especializada Interamericana sobre Derecho Internacional Privado (CIDIP-VI):

- a. Documentación mercantil uniforme para el transporte internacional con particular referencia a la Convención Interamericana sobre Contrato de Transporte Internacional de Mercadería por Carretera, de 1989, y la posible incorporación de un protocolo adicional sobre conocimiento de embarque.
- b. Los contratos de préstamos internacionales de naturaleza privada y, en particular, la uniformidad y armonización de los sistemas de garantías mobiliarias, comerciales y financieras internacionales.
- c. Conflictos de leyes en materia de responsabilidad extracontractual, con énfasis en el tema de la jurisdicción competente y las leyes aplicables respecto de la responsabilidad civil internacional por contaminación transfronteriza.

2. Convocar en la fecha y lugar que este Consejo determine, dos reuniones de expertos gubernamentales en el transcurso del año 1999 para analizar la documentación y preparar los estudios sobre los temas que se identifican en el párrafo dispositivo precedente.

3. Autorizar que los fondos asignados en el programa-presupuesto para la realización de la Sexta Conferencia Especializada Interamericana sobre Derecho Internacional Privado (CIDIP-VI) sean puestos a disposición para la realización de las reuniones de expertos mencionadas en el párrafo precedente y solicitar a la Secretaría General que realice las gestiones necesarias a fin de obtener recursos externos adicionales para la celebración de estas reuniones de expertos.

OEA/Ser.G
CP/RES. 745 (1185/99)
24 marzo 1999
Original: español

CP/RES. 745 (1185/99)

PROYECTO DE TEMARIO DE LA REUNIÓN DE EXPERTOS GUBERNAMENTALES
SOBRE LUCHA CONTRA EL CRIMEN Y PREVENCIÓN DE LA DELINCUENCIA

EL CONSEJO PERMANENTE DE LA ORGANIZACIÓN DE LOS ESTADOS
AMERICANOS,

VISTO el informe del Presidente de la Comisión de Asuntos Jurídicos y Políticos sobre la Sesión Especial de la Comisión de Asuntos Jurídicos y Políticos Preparatoria de la Reunión de Expertos Gubernamentales sobre Lucha contra el Crimen y Prevención de la Delincuencia, documento CP/CAJP-1479/99;

TENIENDO EN CUENTA que el Consejo Permanente, mediante resolución CP/RES. 741 (1180/99) del 20 de enero de 1999, convocó a la citada Sesión Especial de la Comisión de Asuntos Jurídicos y Políticos con la finalidad, entre otras cosas, de preparar y aprobar la agenda y formato de trabajo y demás antecedentes para la Reunión de Expertos Gubernamentales sobre Lucha contra el Crimen y Prevención de la Delincuencia, la cual se llevará a cabo los días 19 y 20 de abril en la ciudad de Medellín, Colombia; y

CONSIDERANDO que dicha Sesión Especial tuvo lugar los días 22 y 23 de febrero de 1999, durante la cual se dio cumplimiento al mandato de la citada resolución CP/RES.741 (1180/99), considerándose el anteproyecto de temario,

RESUELVE:

Aprobar el Proyecto de Temario de la Reunión de Expertos Gubernamentales sobre Lucha Contra el Crimen y Prevención de la Delincuencia, a realizarse durante los días 19 y 20 de abril de 1999, en la ciudad de Medellín, Colombia, el cual se transcribe a continuación:

PROYECTO DE TEMARIO

1. Elección de autoridades
2. Aprobación del temario
3. Examen de medidas complementarias que pudieran aplicarse en el ámbito interamericano
 - a) Medición del crimen y la violencia
 - b) Políticas frente al crimen y la violencia

- c) Formación en los campos de policía, criminología e investigación criminal, así como de funcionarios y agentes penitenciarios y post-penitenciarios
 - d) Establecimiento de mecanismos de cooperación con otras entidades multilaterales, gobiernos, fundaciones privadas y organismos no gubernamentales
 - e) Intercambio de experiencias legislativas y operativas en la materia
4. Conclusiones y recomendaciones

ISBN 0-8270-4012-1