

CONSEJO PERMANENTE



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26 mayo 1999

ACTA

DE LA SESIÓN CONJUNTA

DEL CONSEJO PERMANENTE DE LA ORGANIZACIÓN

Y DE LA COMISIÓN EJECUTIVA PERMANENTE

DEL CONSEJO INTERAMERICANO PARA EL

DESARROLLO INTEGRAL (CEPCIDI)

CELEBRADA

EL 26 DE MAYO DE 1999

Aprobada en la sesión del 13 de septiembre de 1999

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CONSEJO PERMANENTE DE LA ORGANIZACIÓN DE LOS ESTADOS AMERICANOS

ACTA DE LA SESIÓN EXTRAORDINARIA CELEBRADA EL 26 DE MAYO DE 1999

En la ciudad de Washington, a las dos de la tarde del miércoles 26 de mayo de 1999, celebró sesión ordinaria el Consejo Permanente de la Organización de los Estados Americanos. Presidió la sesión el Embajador Julio César Aráoz, Representante Permanente de la Argentina y Presidente del Consejo Permanente. Asistieron los siguientes miembros:

Embajador Flavio Darío Espinal, Representante Permanente de la República Dominicana y Vicepresidente del Consejo Permanente
Embajador Kingsley C.A. Layne, CMG, Representante Permanente de San Vicente y las Granadinas
Embajadora Beatriz M. Ramacciotti, Representante Permanente del Perú
Embajador Courtney Blackman, Representante Permanente de Barbados
Embajador Carlos Víctor Montanaro, Representante Permanente del Paraguay
Embajador Denis G. Antoine, Representante Permanente de Grenada
Embajador Osbert W. Liburd, Representante Permanente de Saint Kitts y Nevis
Embajador Lionel Alexander Hurst, Representante Permanente de Antigua y Barbuda
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 Carlos Portales, Representante Permanente de Chile
Embajador Peter M. Boehm, Representante Permanente del Canadá
Embajador Albert Ramchand Ramdin, Representante Permanente de Suriname
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 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 Álvaro Sevilla Siero, Representante Permanente de Nicaragua
Embajadora Virginia Contreras Navarrete, Representante Permanente de Venezuela
Ministro Consejero Guy Pierre, Representante Interino de Haití
Ministra Vilma McNish, Representante Interino de Jamaica
Ministro Consejero Claude Haylock, Representante Alterno de Belice
Ministro Consejero Alberto Quiroga García, Representante Alterno de Bolivia
Primera Secretaria Martha Louis Auguste, Representante Alternas de Santa Lucía
Consejero Armando León Macas, Representante Alternos de Panamá
Primera Secretaria Deborah Yaw, Representante Alternas de Guyana

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

El PRESIDENTE: Damos inicio a la reunión simultánea del Consejo Permanente y de la CEPCIDI.

Conforme a lo establecido en el párrafo resolutivo 13 de la resolución AG/RES. 1581 (XXVIII-O/98), “Comercio e integración en las Américas”, este Consejo y la CEPCIDI deben informar a la Asamblea General sobre la aplicación de la citada resolución.

[El orden del día, incluido en el documento CP/INF.4306/99, contiene los siguientes puntos:

1. Informe del Consejo Permanente y la CEPCIDI a la Asamblea General en cumplimiento con la resolución AG/RES. 1581 (XXVIII-O/98) “Comercio e Integración en las Américas” (CP/doc.3214/99)
2. Otros asuntos.]

PROYECTO DE INFORME DEL CONSEJO PERMANENTE Y DE LA CEPCIDI
A LA ASAMBLEA GENERAL EN CUMPLIMIENTO DE LA RESOLUCIÓN
AG/RES. 1581 (XXVIII-O/98), “COMERCIO E INTEGRACIÓN
EN LAS AMÉRICAS”

El PRESIDENTE: Nos corresponde, entonces, considerar el informe que aparece identificado como CP/doc.3214/99. Para ello, solicito al señor Embajador Albert Ramdin, Representante Permanente de Suriname y Presidente de la CEPCIDI, que nos haga la presentación de este proyecto de informe. Tiene la palabra el señor Presidente de la CEPCIDI. [Pausa.]

Parece que no se han repartido todavía las copias del informe, y se está viendo si el mismo va a ser presentado por el señor Embajador Ramdin o por el señor Embajador del Canadá. Como es el único punto de nuestro orden del día, no podemos postergar su discusión. El señor Representante del Canadá tiene la palabra.

El REPRESENTANTE PERMANENTE DEL CANADÁ: Thank you very much, Mr. Chairman. Like many others around the table, I am probably in the position of not having any idea what's going on. [Risas.] I don't know if the draft resolution AG/RES. 1581 (XXVIII-O/98) is before everyone today; perhaps it's being passed out at this time. However, I will be very brief, in keeping with the spirit of brevity that characterizes our discussions on individual resolutions.

The “Trade and Integration in the Americas” draft report of the Permanent Council and CEPCIDI and the resolution have been discussed and will be before you. This work has gone on for some time. I am presenting this in my country's capacity as the current Chair of the Trade Negotiations Committee of the Free Trade Area of the Americas (FTAA) process. The draft report reflects the excellent work by the Trade Unit in supporting the negotiations that are currently underway. As all of us know, the Trade Unit was engaged in much activity before the Santiago Summit as a member of the Tripartite Committee before we engaged in the negotiating phase.

The documents are before you, and I'd be happy to respond to any concerns. We also have experts in the room who could do that, so I'll leave my introduction at that, Mr. Chairman.

Thank you.

El PRESIDENTE: Muchísimas gracias por su informe, señor Embajador. La señora Representante de los Estados Unidos tiene la palabra.

La REPRESENTANTE ALTERNA DE LOS ESTADOS UNIDOS: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. We congratulate the Trade Unit for its excellent work over the past year; it's playing a very important supporting role in the negotiations on the Free Trade Area of the Americas (FTAA).

We have a few comments on the draft resolution that would reflect the decision taken by our trade authorities at the Fourth Western Hemisphere Trade Ministerial in San Jose, Costa Rica, last year. Unfortunately, the resolution last year did not really reflect the request of those trade ministers, and my trade authorities would greatly prefer adding the words that are missing to make the document closer to that agreed to by our trade ministers.

In addition, while I'm sure that this report is excellent, we are only now receiving it and have had no opportunity to consult with our authorities. So I don't think we can really take note of it in the draft resolution. We can take note of the draft report in the draft resolution and also note that if changes need to be made, there may be an opportunity to do so.

I beg your indulgence while I read a few proposed changes to the draft resolution at the end of the draft report. In the "BEARING IN MIND" paragraph on page 16, we note that the ministers responsible for trade "reaffirmed their determination to conclude the negotiation of the FTAA no later than 2005." After "2005," we suggest adding "and to make concrete progress by the end of this century." That is what the ministers agreed to; it was also included in the Santiago Summit, as is reflected on page 2 of this draft report. In this way, the draft resolution would more closely reflect the draft report. We sincerely hope that we will make progress in time for the Fifth Western Hemisphere Trade Ministerial in Canada in November.

We propose that the first resolute paragraph begin: "To take note of the draft report . . .," indicating that should our authorities have questions later on, we will have an opportunity to modify the report.

We would reword resolute paragraph 3 slightly to read:

To instruct the General Secretariat to continue providing technical assistance through the Trade Unit and technical support as part of the Tripartite Committee as requested by the respective entities established in the Ministerial Declaration of San José, Costa Rica, under the Free Trade Area of the Americas (FTAA) process.

We are deleting the words "analytical support and" and "conducting related studies" in the second line and the word "or" in the third line. I would be happy to explain our reasons for that; essentially, it's to make this language correspond more closely to what our trade ministers agreed to.

We have some very minor word changes and additions, and I beg everyone's indulgence. In the second line of resolute paragraph 4 on page 18, my authorities asked that we use the word "requested" rather than "agreed to." It would read:

To instruct the General Secretariat to continue providing technical assistance related to FTAA issues to member countries, particularly smaller economies, at their request as requested by the trade ministers in the Ministerial Declaration of San José.

In resolute paragraph 6, “organization” needs to be plural; it is missing an “s.”

In resolute paragraph 7, we would add the word “existing” between the words “appropriate” and “resources.” This is just simply to remind everyone of the need to use efficiently the limited resources that we have for the most important tasks at hand, given that there is so much need and the resources are so few.

Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

El PRESIDENTE: Muchísimas gracias, señora Representante. Quiero decirle que este proyecto de informe del Consejo Permanente, como lo dijo el señor Embajador del Canadá, ya fue tratado anteriormente. Quiero decirle también que no es una cuestión intempestiva, señora Representante, porque son las 14:21 horas y esta sesión estaba citada para las 14:00 horas. Lo que hicimos es continuar sesionando y comenzar el tratamiento de este tema quince minutos tarde.

No obstante, si hay acuerdo sobre los cambios propuestos, los puede hacer llegar por escrito, y nosotros, por Secretaría, si están de acuerdo los señores Embajadores, haríamos esos cambios. Queda en el uso de la palabra el señor Representante del Uruguay.

El REPRESENTANTE ALTERNO DEL URUGUAY: Gracias, señor Presidente. Me queda una duda con respecto a la segunda modificación señalada por la señora Representante de los Estados Unidos. No sé si podría repetirse la enmienda segunda. Gracias.

El PRESIDENTE: La señora Representante de los Estados Unidos tiene la palabra.

La REPRESENTANTE ALTERNA DE LOS ESTADOS UNIDOS: Yes, the second amendment was to the first “RESOLVES” paragraph. We are simply adding the word “draft” before the word “report.” So it would read:

To take note of the draft report of the Permanent Council and the Permanent Executive Committee of the Inter-American Council for Integral Development (CEPCIDI). . . .

We want to reflect the fact that we had never seen this draft report before. We’ve certainly seen similar documents, but they always change, and we would need to consult with our authorities on this document before we could approve it or even claim that we had taken note of it.

El PRESIDENTE: Muy bien. Tiene la palabra el señor Representante del Uruguay.

El REPRESENTANTE ALTERNO DEL URUGUAY: Sí. Mi duda es grande, entonces, porque oí hablar de una fecha, creo que algo relacionado con el año 2000 ó 2005. Yo me refería a esa enmienda, y rogaría que la repitiese. Gracias.

El PRESIDENTE: La señora Representante de los Estados Unidos tiene el uso de la palabra.

La REPRESENTANTE ALTERNA DE LOS ESTADOS UNIDOS: Yes. The first change I had requested was on page 16 of the draft report in English, to the paragraph beginning “BEARING IN MIND”. After “no later than 2005,” we would add “and to make concrete progress by the end of this century, . . .”

Thank you.

El PRESIDENTE: Muchas gracias por la aclaración. El señor Embajador del Canadá tiene el uso de la palabra.

El REPRESENTANTE PERMANENTE DEL CANADÁ: Thank you very much, Mr. Chairman. I thank the Representative of the United States for some of the useful suggestions she has made. I am still a little bit confused about inserting the word “draft,” which assumes that we’re going to take this all to the General Assembly—since we’re not going to have a meeting after this day. So I question that.

My delegation is prepared to support the other amendments by the Representative of the United States, with the exception of paragraph 3. It may be useful to put language in paragraph 3 that is more in keeping with the Fourth Western Hemisphere Trade Ministerial, which took place in San José, Costa Rica, last year, but that ministerial was not a meeting of the OAS.

We are considering a resolution that will be addressed at the General Assembly of the OAS. The Trade Unit’s analytical support and its conducting of studies is ongoing, and the language being used here is the exact language that was used in resolutions in 1996, 1997, and 1998.

So my delegation strongly believes that this language should remain to reflect the good work that the Trade Unit is doing, particularly with respect to smaller economies in the Hemisphere. If we are going to take this as a draft and forward it to the General Assembly—bearing in mind the admonitions we always hear from our distinguished colleague from Guatemala that we don’t want to have too many things left open—then my delegation would recommend square bracketing this paragraph. We strongly believe the language should stay.

Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

El PRESIDENTE: Muchísimas gracias, señor Embajador. Tiene la palabra el señor Representante de Chile.

El REPRESENTANTE PERMANENTE DE CHILE: Gracias, señor Presidente. Primero, tengo una consulta. Entiendo que el informe es de fecha anterior, pero el proyecto de resolución ha sido presentado por primera vez hoy.

El PRESIDENTE: Sí. Ha sido presentado por primera vez hoy.

El REPRESENTANTE PERMANENTE DE CHILE: En ese caso, mi Delegación preferiría consultar a la capital, por la importancia del tema. De manera que sugeriría que hiciéramos los cambios, pero que el proyecto de resolución quedara abierto. No tengo posibilidades de hacer consultas en este minuto con la capital.

El PRESIDENTE: Cuando ocurre esto, señor Embajador, el proyecto de resolución va a la Asamblea General, a la Comisión General. El señor Representante del Uruguay tiene el uso de la palabra.

El REPRESENTANTE ALTERNO DEL URUGUAY: Gracias, señor Presidente. Con la misma salvedad que ha expresado el señor Embajador de Chile, me gustaría hacer una referencia relacionada con la fecha de la propuesta de enmienda del párrafo considerativo. Creemos que está muy bien expresado el sentido de: "...encomendaron a sus Ministros de Relaciones Exteriores que comenzaran negociaciones referentes a ALCA...". Creo que hay dos principios muy importantes ahí: el comienzo de las negociaciones, y la determinación de finalizar dichas negociaciones para el año 2005.

Creo que agregarle el concepto de obtener un adelanto concreto no sería, digamos, equivalente a estos dos grandes principios. Creo que les restaría fuerza.

Por lo tanto, la preferencia de mi Delegación es que quede la redacción original. Gracias, señor Presidente.

El PRESIDENTE: Muchísimas gracias, señor Representante. El señor Representante de Suriname tiene el uso de la palabra.

El REPRESENTANTE PERMANENTE DE SURINAME: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I thank the Trade Unit for this draft report and draft resolution, and I thank the representatives for their observations in this regard.

I asked for the floor to strongly support the observations made by the Ambassador of Canada regarding "RESOLVES" paragraph 3. I support the reasoning behind his observations, but I also see how, based on this mandate, the smaller economies were able to make use of the facilities that the Trade Unit offers. Those smaller economies do not have the expertise and funds to conduct studies well enough to take part in the Free Trade Area of the Americas (FTAA) negotiation process. I take note of what has been said in "RESOLVES" paragraph 4, but specifically within the past three years, the Trade Unit has been very useful to the smaller economies, and we would strongly support retaining the original language of resolute paragraph 3.

Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

El PRESIDENTE: Muchísimas gracias. La señora Representante de los Estados Unidos tiene el uso de la palabra.

La REPRESENTANTE ALTERNA DE LOS ESTADOS UNIDOS: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I want to respond to a couple of the questions. We certainly agree that the 2005 date is very important, and in no way are we proposing to delete that from the existing text. If the Ambassador of Uruguay has changes that he feels would not make those two phrases equivalent, we would certainly be happy to accept them.

Regarding the comments by the Ambassador of Suriname, we certainly acknowledge the important role the Trade Unit plays in helping all member states, including smaller economies, participate in the Free Trade Area of the Americas (FTAA) process. By using the words "technical

support” rather than “conducting related studies,” we would not be saying that they should not be conducting those studies. We’re simply saying that many kinds of technical support are requested of the Tripartite Committee and of the Trade Unit. Some of them are studies, some of them are other things, and by only mentioning studies and not using the broader term of technical support, we prejudge what may be requested of the Trade Unit.

Regarding the comments by the distinguished Ambassador of Canada, some changes here are very important to us as well. It’s unfortunate that last year this agreement by our trade ministers was not adequately, in our view, taken into account in this resolution. But certainly we feel that that added a new element to our negotiations, and that new element should have been taken into account last year. We would like it to be taken into account this year. So although I recognize the need to limit what we must do in Guatemala, if this must go to the relevant committee in Guatemala as bracketed text, then we would support that option.

Thank you.

EL PRESIDENTE: Muchísimas gracias, señora Representante. Por lo que visualiza la Presidencia, habiéndose presentado a último momento el proyecto de resolución, habiendo solicitado el señor Embajador de Chile que esto vaya abierto a la discusión de la Asamblea General, y viendo que no hay consenso, parece que el camino es, fundamentalmente, tomar nota de todas las consideraciones y enviar este proyecto a la Comisión General del próximo período ordinario de sesiones de la Asamblea General.

Tiene la palabra el señor Representante de Chile.

EL REPRESENTANTE PERMANENTE DE CHILE: Quisiera solamente, señor Presidente, solicitar a la Secretaría que hiciera circular la versión revisada con las sugerencias hechas por los Estados Unidos, de manera de poder hacer las consultas en forma adecuada lo antes posible. Muchas gracias, señor Presidente.

EL PRESIDENTE: Así se hará, señor Embajador. El señor Representante de San Vicente y las Granadinas tiene el uso de la palabra.

EL REPRESENTANTE PERMANENTE DE SAN VICENTE Y LAS GRANADINAS: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I’ll be very brief. My delegation lends its support to the delegations of Canada and Suriname regarding “RESOLVES” paragraph 3 for the same reasons given by those delegations. Thank you.

EL PRESIDENTE: Muchísimas gracias, señor Embajador. Se toman en cuenta todas las observaciones y se acuerda pasar este documento a la Asamblea General, en forma abierta, para su discusión por la Comisión General. Si no hay objeciones, así se acuerda. Acordado.

Se levanta esta sesión simultánea del Consejo Permanente y de la CEPCIDI.

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