

CONSEJO PERMANENTE



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20 julio 2006

ACTA
DE LA SESIÓN ORDINARIA
CELEBRADA
EL 20 DE JULIO DE 2006

Aprobada en la sesión del 5 de agosto de 2009

ÍNDICE

	<u>Página</u>
Nómina de los Representantes que asistieron a la sesión.....	1
Aprobación del proyecto de orden del día	2
Bienvenida a la nueva Embajadora Representante del Uruguay.....	2
Felicitaciones al pueblo y Gobierno de Colombia con motivo de la celebración del Día de la Independencia.....	5
Reconocimiento de la transferencia de autoridad de la presidencia de la Junta Interamericana de Defensa.....	5
Instalación de las comisiones del Consejo Permanente.....	9
Elección de autoridades de las comisiones del Consejo Permanente.....	10
Distribución de mandatos encomendados por el trigésimo sexto período ordinario de sesiones de la Asamblea General.....	14
Palabras del Representante de Panamá sobre recientes eventos ocurridos en el Oriente Medio	28
Palabras de reconocimiento al Representante de las Bahamas con motivo de su alejamiento del Consejo Permanente.....	30
Palabras de reconocimiento al Representante del Perú con motivo de su alejamiento del Consejo Permanente.....	39

DOCUMENTOS CONSIDERADOS EN LA SESIÓN
(SE PUBLICAN POR SEPARADO)

CP/doc.4141/06 rev. 1, Distribución de mandatos encomendados por el trigésimo sexto período ordinario de sesiones de la Asamblea General

CP/INF.5367/06, Mandatos y recomendaciones del trigésimo sexto período ordinario de sesiones de la Asamblea General

CONSEJO PERMANENTE DE LA ORGANIZACIÓN DE LOS ESTADOS AMERICANOS

ACTA DE LA SESIÓN ORDINARIA CELEBRADA EL 20 DE JULIO DE 2006

En la ciudad de Washington, a las once y cincuenta y cinco de la mañana del miércoles 20 de julio de 2006, celebró sesión ordinaria el Consejo Permanente de la Organización de los Estados Americanos. Presidió la sesión el Embajador Henry Lothar Illes, Representante Permanente de Suriname y Presidente del Consejo Permanente. Asistieron los siguientes miembros:

Embajador Ellsworth I. A. John, Representante Permanente de San Vicente y las Granadinas y Vicepresidente del Consejo Permanente
Embajador Denis G. Antoine, Representante Permanente de Grenada
Embajadora Sonia Merlyn Johnny, Representante Permanente de Santa Lucía
Embajador Joshua Sears, Representante Permanente del Commonwealth de las Bahamas
Embajadora Lisa Shoman, Representante Permanente de Belice
Embajador Michael I. King, Representante Permanente de Barbados
Embajador Izben C. Williams, Representante Permanente de Saint Kitts y Nevis
Embajadora Marina Valère, Representante Permanente de Trinidad y Tobago
Embajador John F. Maisto, Representante Permanente de los Estados Unidos
Embajador Bayney R. Karran, Representante Permanente de Guyana
Embajadora Abigaíl Castro de Pérez, Representante Permanente de El Salvador
Embajador Gordon V. Shirley, Representante Permanente de Jamaica
Embajador Aristides Royo, Representante Permanente de Panamá
Embajador Duly Brutus, Representante Permanente de Haití
Embajador Javier Sancho Bonilla, Representante Permanente de Costa Rica
Embajador Osmar Chohfi, Representante Permanente del Brasil
Embajador Roberto Álvarez, Representante Permanente de la República Dominicana
Embajador José Luis Velásquez Pereira, Representante Permanente de Nicaragua
Embajador Fernando de la Flor Arbulú, Representante Permanente del Perú
Embajador Alejandro García-Moreno Elizondo, Representante Permanente de México
Embajador Pedro Oyarce, Representante Permanente de Chile
Embajadora María del Luján Flores, Representante Permanente del Uruguay
Consejera Patricia Bozo de Durán, Representante Alterna de Bolivia
Consejera María Guadalupe Carías, Representante Interina de Honduras
Primer Secretario Henry Leonard Mac-Donald, Representante Alternativo de Suriname
Ministra Elisa Ruiz Díaz, Representante Alterna del Paraguay
Primera Secretaria Ann-Marie Layne Campbell, Representante Alterna de Antigua y Barbuda
Ministra Silvia María Merega, Representante Alterna de la Argentina
Ministra María Clara Isaza Merchán, Representante Alterna de Colombia
Embajador Nelson Pineda Prada, Representante Alternativo de Venezuela
Consejero Otto Pérez, Representante Alternativo de Guatemala
Consejero Douglas G. Fraser, Representante Alternativo del Canadá
Consejero José María Borja, Representante Alternativo del Ecuador

También estuvieron presentes el Secretario General de la Organización, doctor José Miguel Insulza, y el Secretario General Adjunto, Embajador Albert R. Ramdin, Secretario del Consejo Permanente.

APROBACIÓN DEL PROYECTO DE ORDEN DEL DÍA

El PRESIDENTE: I am pleased to call to order this regular meeting of the Permanent Council, which has been convened to consider the items on the draft order of business, document CP/OD.1556/06 rev. 1.

[El proyecto de orden del día contiene los siguientes puntos:

1. Reconocimiento de la transferencia de autoridad de la Presidencia de la Junta Interamericana de Defensa
2. Instalación de las Comisiones del Consejo Permanente
3. Elección de autoridades de las Comisiones del Consejo Permanente
4. Distribución de mandatos encomendados por el trigésimo sexto período ordinario de sesiones de la Asamblea General (CP/doc.4141/06 rev. 1) (CP/INF.5367/06)
5. Otros asuntos.]

The Chair wishes to inform delegations that the order of the items on the draft order of business has been revised. If there are no objections, the draft order of business is approved.

BIENVENIDA A LA NUEVA EMBAJADORA REPRESENTANTE DEL URUGUAY

Before we consider the items on the order of business of today's meeting, I would like to welcome to Ambassador María del Luján Flores, the new Permanent Representative of Uruguay to the Organization of American States, who presented her credentials this morning.

Ambassador de Luján Flores, who has a doctorate degree in law and social sciences, has a long-standing diplomatic career in the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Uruguay, where she served as Legal Advisor. She served as Deputy Permanent Representative of Uruguay to the United Nations and has represented Uruguay at various international meetings and events. Most recently, she headed the Delegation of Uruguay to the thirty-sixth session of the General Assembly, which took place in the Dominican Republic last June.

Ambassador del Luján Flores also taught international public law at the University of Uruguay. Her curriculum details a long list of interesting publications, some of them related to the role of this organization.

Ambassador, on behalf of this Council and on my own behalf, I congratulate you on your appointment as Permanent Representative of Uruguay to the OAS. We are confident that your experience in public international law and your knowledge of the inter-American system will enrich the dialogue in this organization.

Ambassador, I now give the floor to you.

La REPRESENTANTE PERMANENTE DEL URUGUAY: Señor Presidente del Consejo Permanente, señor Secretario General y señor Secretario General Adjunto, señoras y señores Representantes Permanentes y Alternos, señores Observadores Permanentes, funcionarios y funcionarias de la Secretaría:

En primer término, deseo agradecer las palabras de bienvenida y expresar el alto honor que significa para mí el representar al Uruguay en este foro internacional regional cuyo potencial se proyecta al futuro.

Basta dirigir la mirada a la evolución experimentada en los últimos años por la Organización para tomar conciencia del esfuerzo que realiza para colocar a nuestra América en el sitio que la naturaleza y la historia le deparó. En este sentido, sus grandes áreas de acción, enmarcadas en los propósitos y principios de la Carta de la OEA y de la Carta Democrática Interamericana, se encuentran en un proceso de revitalización y cambio.

El tradicional concepto de paz y seguridad hoy se ha visto transformado en seguridad multidimensional. La promoción de la democracia se busca a través del fortalecimiento de la gobernabilidad. La promoción y protección de los derechos humanos se incrementa de manera exponencial, y la cooperación técnica, social y cultural tiene como meta prioritaria el desarrollo integral.

Nos referiremos brevemente a estos puntos en torno a los cuales gira la actividad de la Organización y con los cuales el Uruguay tiene un compromiso ineludible.

Las nuevas amenazas a la seguridad que se suman a las clásicas han redimensionado el concepto de seguridad; provienen de entidades distintas a los Estados, pero afectan a la comunidad internacional en su conjunto. Ello exige de los Estados Miembros una profundización de la cooperación y la coordinación de nuevos mecanismos que permitan combatir con éxito los flagelos del narcotráfico, el pandillaje, el tráfico de personas, el tráfico de armas, etcétera.

El fortalecimiento y la profundización de la democracia es también uno de los propósitos esenciales de la Organización, recogido en el artículo 2 de la Carta al que se vincula al principio de no intervención. Como bien lo ha señalado Norberto Bobbio, existen distintas democracias, unas más sólidas que otras con distintos grados de aproximación al modelo ideal, pero aún la más alejada de él no puede ser confundida con un Estado autoritario. Su definición incluye no solo reglas procesales, sino procedimientos y valores.

La democracia fomenta la libertad y la participación. Su consolidación trasciende los meros aspectos electorales para proyectarse a la gobernabilidad de manera de asegurar estabilidad en el gobierno. En la búsqueda de la gobernabilidad democrática, la lucha contra la pobreza y la exclusión social resultan imprescindibles. Los beneficios de las democracias deben reflejarse en los seres humanos en el mejoramiento de su calidad de vida.

El conocimiento y la tecnología son instrumentos que deben estar al servicio de este objetivo, como bien lo recoge la Declaración de Santo Domingo de reciente adopción.

El papel de la OEA como catalizador para la obtención del desarrollo es de vital importancia y se encuentra estrechamente ligado a la vigencia de derechos humanos fundamentales.

La protección jurídica internacional de los derechos humanos, si bien es subsidiaria de la protección interna, hoy es una realidad. La materia relativa a los derechos humanos ha dejado de ser una cuestión reservada exclusivamente a la jurisdicción interna de los Estados. El concepto que subyace y que ha sido incluido en los distintos instrumentos internacionales relativos a esta materia es el de la dignidad humana. Fundamento de una concepción universal de los derechos humanos, engloba y contiene el respeto, garantía y protección de todos los seres humanos con base en la igualdad y el rechazo a cualquier discriminación.

En el sistema interamericano, varios instrumentos jurídicos se refieren a la dignidad humana: la Declaración Americana de los Derechos y Deberes del Hombre de 1948; la Convención Americana sobre Derechos Humanos "Pacto de San José", el Protocolo Adicional a la Convención Americana sobre Derechos Humanos en Materia de Derechos Económicos, Sociales y Culturales, Protocolo de San Salvador; la Convención Interamericana para Prevenir y Sancionar la Tortura; la Convención Interamericana sobre Desaparición Forzada de Personas; la Convención Interamericana para Prevenir, Sancionar y Erradicar la Violencia contra la Mujer "Convención de Belém do Pará".

La dignidad es inherente e intrínseca al ser humano. Es el fundamento de todos los derechos humanos e inseparable de la vida humana.

Constituye un verdadero desafío el vincular la dignidad de las personas al desarrollo social. Hace ya más de sesenta años, Jacques Maritain calificó como "tragedia de las democracias" no haber logrado realizar la democracia y señaló que una de las causas era no consagrar las instituciones que exige la democracia social a la par de la democracia política.

La adopción de la Carta Social, complemento de la Carta Democrática Interamericana, constituirá, sin duda, un nuevo jalón en la búsqueda de la efectiva vigencia de los derechos económicos, sociales y culturales. De lograrse el mejoramiento de las políticas públicas a través de la aplicación de este instrumento, se abrirían nuevas perspectivas en el campo de desarrollo integral.

La puesta en práctica de proyectos de carácter regional y subregional con el necesario intercambio de experiencias y conocimientos se perfila como una tarea impostergable de la Organización.

Hoy más que nunca se destaca el papel de la educación como medio de lograr la equidad y justicia social, presupuestos necesarios para alcanzar un desarrollo sostenible.

Este proceso que se vive a nivel hemisférico también tiene raíces nacionales. En el Uruguay, la búsqueda de un desarrollo productivo es una constante que tiene una vinculación estrecha con la innovación e integración. Como expresara el señor Presidente del Uruguay, doctor Tabaré Vázquez, no hay estrategia de desarrollo productivo sin una base de conocimiento, sin incorporación de tecnología y sin una adecuada inserción regional internacional. Tanto el aspecto social como el democrático son indispensables en un auténtico desarrollo productivo, pues este no puede basarse en la pobreza, el desamparo social o en una institucionalidad vacía. Y agrega un cuarto elemento fundamental: el valor de los recursos humanos con que se cuenta.

La trascendencia de la cuestión planteada se refleja de manera elocuente en las palabras pronunciadas por el señor Presidente de la República con motivo de la asunción de mando. Ellas están referidas “al país que queremos”, pero son perfectamente aplicables a nuestro continente: un continente donde nacer no sea un problema; donde ser joven no sea sospechoso; donde envejecer no sea una condena; un continente donde la alimentación, la educación y el trabajo decente sean derechos de todos y todos los días; un continente confiado en sí mismo; un continente que recupere la confianza de soñar y de hacer los sueños realidad.

Muchas gracias.

El PRESIDENTE: Ambassador María del Luján Flores, I said just now that we are confident that your experience in public international law and your knowledge of the inter-American system will enrich the dialogue in this organization, and I was correct. Thank you.

FELICITACIONES AL PUEBLO Y GOBIERNO DE COLOMBIA
CON MOTIVO DE LA CELEBRACIÓN
DEL DÍA DE LA INDEPENDENCIA

El PRESIDENTE: I take the opportunity to congratulate the Permanent Mission of Colombia on the celebration of its national day today.

RECONOCIMIENTO DE LA TRANSFERENCIA DE AUTORIDAD DE LA
PRESIDENCIA DE LA JUNTA INTERAMERICANA DE DEFENSA

El PRESIDENTE: The first item on our order of business refers to the recognition of the transfer of authority of the chairmanship of the Inter-American Defense Board (IADB), which took place at 10 a.m. today in the San Martín Room. As this is the first event to take place since the IADB became an entity of the Organization of American States, the Chair thought it prudent to bring it to the attention of the Council.

Let me now give the floor to Secretary General José Miguel Insulza.

El SECRETARIO GENERAL: Gracias, señor Presidente.

Muy brevemente quiero informar al Consejo que en presencia de algunos de los Embajadores representantes de los distintos grupos regionales y de otros, esta mañana hemos tenido la transferencia de autoridad de la presidencia de la Junta Interamericana de Defensa. Como tuve oportunidad de decirlo en esa ceremonia, este es un hecho simbólico de la mayor importancia porque constituye el corolario de la aprobación por la Asamblea General, en su trigésimo segundo período extraordinario de sesiones, del nuevo Estatuto de la Junta Interamericana de Defensa y su vínculo estructural con la Organización.

Símbolo de nuestro tiempo, de subordinación plena del poder militar al poder civil, en el marco del desarrollo floreciente de nuestras democracias, esta transferencia tiene también alguna significación política para el trabajo de nuestra Organización que es importante destacar, siendo la

principal poder contar con la asesoría y con la información permanente que la Junta Interamericana de Defensa, como entidad de la Organización de los Estados Americanos, pueda proporcionar a este Consejo para la toma de las decisiones que son fundamentales en las áreas relativas a la defensa que le corresponden.

Por lo tanto, quiero alegrarme mucho de esta transferencia de autoridad. Están aquí el general que ocupaba la función y el que la asume. Quiero solamente felicitarlos a ambos una vez más. Nuevamente quiero dejar establecido ante el Consejo nuestro reconocimiento al General Keith Huber por el trabajo abnegado que ha realizado, por el esfuerzo que ha puesto en que este cambio institucional tan central para la OEA se haga de manera tranquila y de manera muy normal, que la incorporación de la Junta Interamericana de Defensa de manera plena a la estructura de la Organización se realice a completa satisfacción de todos los Estados Miembros, y que haya conducido finalmente el proceso que llevó a la elección, a la primera vez que se elige un presidente de la Junta Interamericana de Defensa de esta manera también satisfactoria.

Solamente quiero saludarlos, entonces, reconocer esta transferencia y permitir que se exprese ahora ante el Consejo.

Muchas gracias.

El PRESIDENTE: Thank you very much, Secretary General. I am pleased to give the floor to Major General Keith M. Huber, outgoing Chairman of the Inter-American Defense Board (IADB).

El PRESIDENTE SALIENTE DE LA JUNTA INTERAMERICANA DE DEFENSA: Thank you, Mr. Chairman, Ambassador Illes.

Secretary General Insulza, Assistant Secretary General Ramdin, most esteemed ambassadors of the Organization of American States, distinguished permanent observers, members of delegations, ladies and gentlemen:

Thank you first, Secretary General Insulza, for your leadership, for your patience, and especially for the historic moment this morning.

I realize that within the Organization of American States, the Secretary General has never officiated over a transfer of authority within a military organization. I know of no clearer demonstration of militaries within democracies being subordinate to civil authority than what occurred this morning. In my humble opinion, it was appropriate, and it is another visible reminder to the world of the importance and the progressiveness of this great organization of this hemisphere. It continues to reinforce the most critical relationship that we all face every day between civil leadership and militaries that are subordinate to civil leadership in democracies.

My brief comments today are simply words of appreciation. Over the last two years, I have had the distinct privilege, in my opinion, to interact with the majority of the ambassadors before me this morning. I am unafraid to say that I gained more from that relationship than I am sure you did. I openly acknowledge and appreciate your patience with me as you allowed me to learn by listening to your wisdom, to your experience, to your perspectives, and to your language as I attempted to express

myself in different languages. You gave me the opportunity, hopefully, to demonstrate to you that the militaries of this hemisphere are here to serve this organization, our hemisphere, and our people.

I thank you for allowing a successful conclusion of the juridical link discussion. In my mind, you gave legitimacy internationally to the value of military advice. You allowed the militaries to make a contribution to your very difficult and essential task of diplomacy. I do not envy your task; I admire the way you do it, and I am humbly appreciative that you would allow me and the militaries to play a small role on your very successful team.

I will have the opportunity and the privilege to continue to serve the Organization of American States and all of you as I remain for the next year as the Director of the Inter-American Defense College. All of you will receive my invitation to come speak to your college. The class that will begin next month has 58 students, 11 of whom are civilians, from 17 nations of the Hemisphere. These leaders of today and tomorrow will receive your guidance and perspective as you honor us with your presence at the College.

I am very privileged, at this historic election of a new Chairman of the Inter-American Defense Board, to see the nation of Brazil assume this leadership role after being elected at the IADB's General Meeting and to transfer the authority to a gentleman whom I know, respect, and admire, General Jorge Armando de Almeida Ribeiro. I know that he will succeed internationally in areas where I was not able, and he will step into the future of our relationship as the Board faithfully and loyally serves this great Organization of American States.

Thank you very much.

El PRESIDENTE: Major General Huber, on behalf of the Council, I thank you for a job well done. I now give the floor to General Jorge Armando de Almeida Ribeiro, incoming Chairman of the Inter-American Defense Board (IADB).

El PRESIDENTE ENTRANTE DE LA JUNTA INTERAMERICANA DE DEFENSA: Obrigado, Senhor Presidente.

Senhor Presidente do Conselho Permanente, Embaixador Henry Illes, Senhor Secretário-Geral da OEA, Embaixador José Miguel Insulza, Senhores Representantes Permanentes, Senhor Secretário-Geral Adjunto, Embaixador Albert Ramdin, Senhores Observadores Permanentes, senhoras e senhores:

Minhas palavras iniciais são para expressar o orgulho que sinto por estar assumindo a Presidência da Junta Interamericana de Defesa neste momento histórico para o meu país, para a Junta e para a Organização dos Estados Americanos.

A história da Junta Interamericana de Defesa começou há 64 anos, ou seja, em janeiro de 1942, quando ela foi criada na cidade do Rio de Janeiro, durante a Terceira Reunião de Consulta de Ministros de Relações Exteriores das Repúblicas Americanas.

Em março deste ano, tivemos outro momento histórico da JID quando passamos a ser uma entidade da OEA, com base no artigo 53 da Carta desta Organização.

Foi uma honra receber a Presidência da JID do prezado Major-General Keith Huber, do Exército norte-americano, com quem aprendi admirar o seu trabalho, suas atitudes e dedicação à Junta Interamericana de Defesa. É uma honra também estar aqui perante este ilustre Conselho Permanente e neste salão que leva o nome do herói Libertador Simão Bolívar.

A história da JID é rica em fatos que marcam a participação de nossos países para uma perfeita integração americana. A supervisão na remoção de minas humanitária, a consolidação das medidas de fortalecimento da confiança e segurança, a elaboração de manuais e os trabalhos acadêmicos desenvolvidos no Colégio Interamericano de Defesa são exemplos desses fatos marcantes.

Como compromisso, reitero a convicção de que a Junta Interamericana de Defesa estará sempre pronta para prestar à OEA e a seus Estados membros serviços de assessoramento técnico, consultivo e educativo sobre temas relacionados com assuntos militares de defesa no Hemisfério, contribuindo para o cumprimento da Carta da OEA.

Ao finalizar, agradeço o apoio recebido dos companheiros das diversas delegações dos países membros da Junta Interamericana de Defesa, agradeço o Embaixador Osmar Chohfi e os demais integrantes da Missão do Brasil junto à OEA, agradeço o Major-General Keith Huber pela maneira atenciosa e transparente que teve comigo quando da transmissão da função de Presidente da JID e agradeço este Conselho Permanente pela oportunidade dada à JID de estar aqui neste dia histórico.

Muito obrigado.

El PRESIDENTE: Thank you very much, General Jorge Armando de Almeida Ribeiro. On behalf of the members of this Council and on my own behalf, I congratulate you on your chairmanship of the Inter-American Defense Board (IADB) and wish you all the best in the coming year.

The Ambassador of Trinidad and Tobago has the floor.

La REPRESENTANTE PERMANENTE DE TRINIDAD Y TOBAGO: Thank you, Mr. Chairman, for allowing me to make a few remarks on this issue.

My delegation views this transfer of the chairmanship of the Inter-American Defense Board (IADB) as yet another auspicious a moment for the IADB, the most recent entity of the Organization of American States, following the decision adopted at the thirty-second special session of the General Assembly on March 15 this year.

On behalf of my delegation, I wish to congratulate Brigadier General Jorge Armando de Almeida Ribeiro of Brazil on his election to the position of Chairman of the IADB, and Trinidad and Tobago's very own Brigadier General Ancil Antoine, who was elected as its first ever Director General. My delegation is convinced that the IADB is in excellent hands, given the high-caliber experience and reputation of these distinguished officials.

The Delegation of Trinidad and Tobago also wishes to commend the former IADB Chairman, Major General Keith Huber of the United States, and his entire staff for their professionalism and

commitment to the work of the IADB and for steering it through to this critical stage in its evolution since the Board's creation in 1942. We look forward to continued interaction with Major General Huber over the next year in his new role and position of Director General of the Inter-American Defense College.

Mr. Chairman, allow me to reiterate the steadfast commitment of the Government of the Republic of Trinidad and Tobago to upholding the principles and the new statutes of the IADB. My country recognizes the invaluable role of the Board in providing the OAS, as well as its member states, with technical and educational advice and consultancy services on military and defense issues in the Hemisphere.

Additionally, given the challenges faced by smaller countries, such as mine, in addressing traditional and new threats, we applaud the IADB's commitment to take into account the needs of the smaller states and its recognition of their increased level of vulnerability when faced with such threats.

Trinidad and Tobago looks forward to supporting the Inter-American Defense Board as it continues to go from strength to strength in the interest of all our countries.

I thank you, Mr. Chairman.

El PRESIDENTE: Thank you very much. I am sure the Secretariat will convey this message to the Inter-American Defense Board (IADB). Thank you.

INSTALACIÓN DE LAS COMISIONES DEL CONSEJO PERMANENTE

El PRESIDENTE: The next item on the order of business is the installation of the committees of the Permanent Council. In accordance with Article 28 of the Rules of Procedure of the Permanent Council, the Chair declares installed the following permanent committees:

- The General Committee;
- The Committee on Juridical and Political Affairs (CAJP);
- The Committee on Hemispheric Security (CSH);
- The Committee on Administrative and Budgetary Affairs (CAAP); and
- The Committee on Inter-American Summits Management and Civil Society Participation in OAS Activities.

In accordance with Article 23 of the Rules of Procedure, all member states are members of the permanent committees.

ELECCIÓN DE AUTORIDADES DE LAS COMISIONES DEL CONSEJO PERMANENTE

El PRESIDENTE: The next item on our order of business is the election of the chairs of the permanent committees, pursuant to articles 28 and 29 of the Rules of Procedure of the Permanent Council. Article 29.a. states that:

Elections for the chairs and vice chairs of the permanent committees, except for the officers of the General Committee and the chair of the Committee on Inter-American Summits Management and Civil Society Participation in OAS Activities, must be held no later than the last meeting of the month following the close of the regular session of the General Assembly.

That would be today.

Article 15 states that “the chair and vice chair of the Permanent Council shall serve, respectively, as chair and vice chair of the General Committee.” Today, therefore, we are proceeding only with the election of the chairs of the permanent committees. As is customary, the election of vice chairs will take place in each committee, as well as the election of the chair of each subcommittee and working group.

I now offer the floor for the nomination of candidates for the post of Chair of the Committee on Juridical and Political Affairs (CAJP). I give the floor to the Permanent Representative of Chile.

El REPRESENTANTE PERMANENTE DE CHILE: Muchas gracias, señor Presidente.

En mi condición de Coordinador del grupo de países miembros de la Asociación Latinoamericana de Integración (ALADI), tengo el honor de proponer al Embajador Osmar Chohfi, Representante Permanente del Brasil, para la presidencia de la Comisión de Asuntos Jurídicos y Políticos.

El Embajador Chohfi tiene reconocidas capacidades profesionales y cada día apreciamos sus calidades humanas. Representa un país con un decidido compromiso multilateral y una larga tradición de aportes al sistema interamericano. El Brasil ha promovido numerosas iniciativas en los más diversos temas de la agenda hemisférica, contribuyendo al fortalecimiento de la acción colectiva en beneficio de los pueblos de las Américas.

Estoy cierto de que el Embajador Chohfi conducirá con sabiduría y con la experiencia diplomática de Itamaraty nuestro trabajo en esta Comisión.

Muchas gracias, señor Presidente.

El PRESIDENTE: Thank you, Ambassador of Chile. The Representative of Canada has the floor.

El REPRESENTANTE ALTERNO DEL CANADÁ: Merci, Monsieur le Président.

The Delegation of Canada is pleased and honored to second the nomination of Ambassador Chohfi to serve as Chair of the Committee on Juridical and Political Affairs (CAJP). Mr. Chairman, Ambassador Chohfi is known to all of us as a consummate professional, and he has extensive expertise in the important matters considered in the CAJP. We are confident that under his strong leadership, the CAJP will have a very successful year.

Mr. Chairman, we therefore propose that Ambassador Chohfi's election be by acclamation. [Aplausos.]

El PRESIDENTE: It is so decided by this Council.

Ambassador Osmar Chohfi, Permanent Representative of Brazil, you have been elected Chair of the Committee on Juridical and Political Affairs (CAJP). On behalf of the Permanent Council and on my own behalf, I wish you every success.

I give the floor to Ambassador Chohfi of Brazil.

El PRESIDENTE DE LA COMISIÓN DE ASUNTOS JURÍDICOS Y POLÍTICOS: Muito obrigado, Senhor Presidente.

Em primeiro lugar, eu queria agradecer a confiança de todos, que interpreto mais como depositada em meu país do que em minha pessoa. Quero agradecer também as referências elogiosas feitas pelo Senhor Representante Permanente do Chile, que apresentou essa candidatura, e pelo Senhor Representante Alternado do Canadá, que a secundou, certamente muito mais influenciadas por nossa permanente vizinhança do que pelas minhas próprias qualidades. Obrigado.

Certamente, a Comissão de Assuntos Jurídicos e Políticos tem uma das tarefas mais importantes que o conjunto de órgãos da nossa Organização tem diante de si. Alguns dos temas mais significativos e que se referem aos objetivos básicos da Organização dos Estados Americanos são tratados por esta Comissão. Não somente isso, mas também porque um conjunto expressivo de mandatos emanados da Assembléia Geral – ao todo 26 – serão objetos dos trabalhos desta Comissão e 26 mandatos que se referem a aspectos dos mais representativos de nossas actividades. Eu destaco aqui os relativos à promoção da democracia e à promoção, proteção e defesa dos direitos humanos, incluindo os temas relativos ao racismo e aos povos indígenas.

Quero assegurar a todos que esta Presidência será uma presidência aberta a uma interação permanente com todas as representações, com o Secretário-Geral, com o Secretário-Geral Adjunto e com a Secretaria-Geral em seu conjunto e sobretudo desejará sempre ter um diálogo produtivo e respeitoso com os demais representantes. Espero certamente a colaboração de todos, porque essa será a única forma de poder desempenhar bem as funções com as quais fui honrado e será sempre a maneira pela qual poderemos atingir as metas que todos nós nos propusemos.

Muito obrigado, Senhor Presidente. Muito obrigado, Senhores Representantes.

El PRESIDENTE: Thank you, Ambassador Chohfi. I am sure that the confidence we have placed in you will not be misplaced.

I now open the floor for the nomination of candidates for the position of Chair of the Committee on Hemispheric Security (CSH). I give the floor to the Permanent Representative of Panama.

EL REPRESENTANTE PERMANENTE DE PANAMÁ: Muchas gracias, señor Presidente.

Me corresponde el honor de presentar la candidatura de nuestro estimado compañero el Embajador Javier Sancho Bonilla, Representante Permanente de Costa Rica. Se trata de una persona que ha ocupado importantes cargos en el Servicio Exterior al cual pertenece desde hace bastantes años. Ha sido Director General de Política Exterior; ha sido Embajador casi por un septenio en la República Federativa del Brasil. También fue Embajador en la República de Corea y ha ocupado interesantes cargos en la Cancillería de su país.

El Embajador Sancho Bonilla sobresale por su profuso conocimiento de la política exterior costarricense y por su compromiso con la democracia, la paz, los derechos humanos, el desarrollo humano y sostenible, el desarme, la desmilitarización y el desminado. Pero aparte de esto es Representante Permanente de un país como Costa Rica, que tiene una democracia de hace muchos años, gran gobernabilidad y estabilidad; que tiene en su territorio una importante entidad de la OEA como es la Corte Interamericana de Derechos Humanos (CIDH). El Embajador Sancho Bonilla ha sido condecorado por varios países.

Por último, quisiera decir que haríamos bien en elegirlo porque esta mañana presidió una reunión del Grupo Centroamericano (GRUCA) y ya en la parte final de la reunión, en el tono y en la inflexión de su voz, creí advertir una sensación de Presidente de la Comisión de Seguridad Hemisférica. [Risas.]

Gracias, señor Presidente.

EL PRESIDENTE: Thank you, Ambassador. I now give the floor to the Permanent Representative of Saint Kitts and Nevis.

EL REPRESENTANTE PERMANENTE DE SAINT KITTS Y NEVIS: Thank you, Mr. Chair.

Chair, the Delegation of Saint Kitts and Nevis and the Caribbean Community (CARICOM) caucus of ambassadors are pleased and honored to second the nomination of Ambassador Javier Sancho Bonilla to chair the Committee on Hemispheric Security (CSH).

We endorse the observations made by Ambassador Royo of Panama, but we want to add that Ambassador Sancho Bonilla has exhibited a quiet diligence and a solid grasp of the important issues before this Council. These characteristics should stand him in good stead, to the benefit of the Committee on Hemispheric Security, and, indeed, to the benefit of the Organization of American States.

It is in this light that we respectfully request that the nomination be endorsed by acclamation. [Aplausos.]

El PRESIDENTE: Thank you for this endorsement. Ambassador Javier Sancho Bonilla, Permanent Representative of Costa Rica, you have been elected Chair of the Committee on Hemispheric Security (CSH). On behalf of this Council and on my own behalf, I wish you all the best.

I give the floor to the Permanent Representative of Costa Rica.

El PRESIDENTE DE LA COMISIÓN DE SEGURIDAD HEMISFÉRICA: Señor Presidente, señor Secretario General, señor Secretario General Adjunto, señores Embajadores, señores Observadores, señoras y señores:

Agradezco el alto honor que con esta elección le brindan ustedes a Costa Rica y al Gobierno del Presidente Oscar Arias Sánchez, así como por el reconocimiento que le hacen a ese pequeño país en el centro de las Américas que se ha distinguido por construir la paz, la democracia, la justicia social y la libertad, y que ha estado presente en esta Organización desde sus orígenes.

Gracias también por la confianza que han depositado en mi persona al elegirme presidente de esta importante Comisión de Seguridad Hemisférica. Mi especial agradecimiento al Representante de Panamá, Embajador Aristides Royo, y al Representante de Saint Kitts y Nevis, Embajador Izben Williams, quienes, en nombre del GRUCA y de la Comunidad del Caribe (CARICOM), me han distinguido con su decidido apoyo y promoción de mi candidatura, así como a todos los presentes por unirse a este consenso.

Quisiera reconocer el valioso trabajo realizado en la Comisión de Seguridad Hemisférica por el Embajador Esteban Tomic de Chile.

En esta oportunidad también quisiera dar mi más sincera bienvenida a la Representante Permanente del Uruguay, Embajadora María del Luján Flores, a quien deseamos éxito en sus trabajos en este Consejo Permanente y, en general, en la Organización. Comprometo los esfuerzos de mi Misión para el éxito de su gestión.

Señor Presidente, señoras y señores, quisiera expresar a ustedes que responderé sirviendo con lealtad y dedicación a los intereses hemisféricos que nos ocupan en esta materia. Para avanzar en nuestra agenda, espero contar con la ayuda y respaldo de todos los Estados aquí representados. Tenemos el reto y la responsabilidad de garantizar la paz y la seguridad de los ciudadanos del Hemisferio. La seguridad tiene un carácter multidimensional y, por ello, nuestra Organización debe continuar desarrollando programas para combatir el crimen organizado, la trata de personas, el fenómeno de las pandillas, promover la disminución del gasto militar y controlar el tráfico de armas pequeñas, municiones, explosivos y otros materiales relacionados a través de la Convención Interamericana contra la Fabricación y el Tráfico Ilícitos de Armas de Fuego, Municiones, Explosivos, y Otros Materiales Relacionados (CIFTA).

La seguridad es también trabajar para disminuir la pobreza y aumentar el disfrute material de las familias mediante un fuerte componente de solidaridad y cooperación internacional, cooperación que debe expresarse también en una lucha efectiva y coordinada a favor de la mitigación de los efectos de los desastres naturales, así como la lucha por la promoción del desarrollo humano.

De nuevo, reitero mi más sincero agradecimiento por esta elección y por la muestra de confianza que este Consejo Permanente deposita en mi persona, que es una deferencia que le hacen al pueblo de Costa Rica, fiel creyente en el derecho internacional.

Muchas gracias.

El PRESIDENTE: Thank you, Mr. Ambassador.

We now move to the position of Chair of the Committee on Administrative and Budgetary Affairs (CAAP). The Chair was informed by the regional coordinators and the representatives of Canada and the United States that there has been no agreement to date on a candidate for this chairmanship; therefore, Article 29.d. of the Rules of Procedure of the Permanent Council will apply to the chairmanship of the Committee: "The outgoing chairs and vice chairs shall continue to serve until the persons elected to replace them take office."

The Permanent Representative of Paraguay, Ambassador Manuel María Cáceres, will continue for the time being as Chair of the CAAP. I urge the regional coordinators to continue consultations in this regard so that we can elect the Chair of the CAAP at our next regular meeting. It is so agreed.

DISTRIBUCIÓN DE MANDATOS ENCOMENDADOS POR EL
TRIGÉSIMO SEXTO PERÍODO ORDINARIO DE SESIONES
DE LA ASAMBLEA GENERAL

El PRESIDENTE: The next item is the distribution of mandates emanating from the thirty-sixth regular session of the General Assembly for the period 2006-2007. The Secretariat has prepared a document that has been presented to the regional coordinators for discussion within the regional groups. The Chair is pleased to inform the Permanent Council that various delegations have sent their recommendations and suggestions to the Council Secretariat. I wish to thank them for their contributions, which were incorporated in the final documents, CP/doc.4141/06 rev. 1 and CP/INF.5367/06. Both documents have been distributed to all delegations.

Resolution AG/RES. 2247 (XXXVI-O/06), "Promotion of Hemispheric Cooperation in Dealing with Gangs Involved in Criminal Activities," which instructs the Council to follow up on this resolution and to present a report thereon at its thirty-seventh regular session, has not yet been assigned and is therefore pending distribution. This issue was considered by the Special Committee on Transnational Organized Crime. As the Special Committee will complete its mandate in October this year with the presentation of the Draft Hemispheric Plan of Action against Transnational Organized Crime, the Council has to decide which committee should deal with this issue.

I am pleased to offer the floor to delegations for their suggestions and/or recommendations on this matter. The Alternate Representative of Argentina has the floor.

La REPRESENTANTE ALTERNA DE LA ARGENTINA: Muchas gracias, señor Presidente.

Antes que nada, quiero dar la bienvenida a la nueva Representante Permanente de la República Oriental del Uruguay y manifestarle que la Delegación argentina contribuirá al ejercicio de sus funciones en todo lo que pueda.

También queremos saludar a la Delegación de Colombia en su día nacional.

Voy a referirme a los dos documentos que trata el punto 4 del orden del día de hoy. Voy a hacerlo primero con respecto al documento CP/INF.5367/06, en la página 3 de la versión en español. Al respecto, quiero reiterar los términos de la nota que la Misión Permanente de la Argentina enviara al Consejo Permanente y a la Secretaría General en su debido momento, cuando este documento fue emitido, para la incorporación, en el caso de la Declaración sobre la Cuestión de las Islas Malvinas, de la siguiente frase inmediatamente debajo de la asignación a la Comisión Preparatoria. Leo: “Al solo efecto de su incorporación en la agenda del plenario de la Asamblea General”.

Rogaría a quien corresponda que, en la versión revisada de este documento, constara esta referencia que ya estuvo el año pasado en igual documento. Muchas gracias.

Con respecto al documento CP/doc.4141/06 rev. 1, la Delegación argentina se va a adherir al consenso que se gesticione en esta sala con respecto a su adopción, pero quisiera manifestarse con respecto a la resolución AG/RES. 2247 (XXXVI-O/06), “Promoción de la cooperación hemisférica para el tratamiento de las pandillas relacionadas con las actividades delictivas”.

La asignación de la resolución AG/RES. 2247 a la Comisión de Seguridad Hemisférica lleva a la Delegación argentina a formular las siguientes reflexiones:

1. La consideración del tema de las pandillas en el ámbito de la OEA es nueva. La Asamblea General se refirió por primera vez a él en 2005, mediante la resolución AG/RES. 2144 (XXXV-O/05). Hasta el presente, los dos proyectos de resolución sobre el tema de las pandillas que posteriormente fueron adoptados por la Asamblea General fueron considerados en el ámbito de la Comisión General.
2. La Asamblea General ha señalado la complejidad del tema –y cito las propias resoluciones– “el cual debe abordarse desde un enfoque integral, que incluya entre otros, la prevención, el apoyo social, el respeto y la protección de los derechos humanos y la asistencia legal mutua en materia internacional” (primer párrafo preambular de la resolución AG/RES. 2247). La Asamblea General también recuerda que en la IV Cumbre de las Américas, los Jefes de Estado y de Gobierno manifestaron su preocupación por el problema de las pandillas y sus aspectos conexos, así como sus efectos en el entorno económico y social.
3. A nuestro entender, todo ello indica que tanto la naturaleza como las consecuencias del fenómeno de las pandillas requieren abordarlo de una manera transversal e integral y que su análisis incluya diversas perspectivas, entre ellas la socioeconómica, la de cooperación jurídica, la de derechos humanos y la de seguridad. Tal abordaje multifacético resulta aún más necesario cuando la propia Asamblea General reconoce “la conveniencia y urgencia de incrementar el conocimiento sobre este tema” (segundo párrafo preambular de la misma resolución AG/RES. 2247).

4. Por lo anterior, la propuesta de asignar a la Comisión de Seguridad Hemisférica el seguimiento de la resolución AG/RES. 2247 parece privilegiar solo una de las varias perspectivas desde las cuales la OEA deberá considerar el tema de las pandillas.
5. Por último, la Argentina se adherirá al consenso al que se llegue sobre este tema. En todo caso, tanto los órganos políticos como las dependencias de la Secretaría General que asuman la responsabilidad de coordinar y dar seguimiento a esta problemática deberán asegurar la participación oportuna de todas las instancias pertinentes, a fin de cumplir con el enfoque integral en el tratamiento del tema de las pandillas conforme nos fuera asignado por la Asamblea General.

Muchas gracias, señor Presidente.

El PRESIDENTE: Thank you, Delegation of Argentina, for your suggestions. There is no objection to your first suggestion that the sentence be inserted. The Secretariat will take note of that and will make sure that the change that you suggested is inserted.

Are there any other remarks?

[Pausa.]

I was wondering whether this resolution should be assigned to the General Committee or to the Committee on Hemispheric Security (CSH). Any suggestions? The Permanent Representative of Grenada has the floor.

El REPRESENTANTE PERMANENTE DE GRENADA: Thank you very much, Mr. Chairman.

My delegation extends its welcome to the distinguished Ambassador of Uruguay and expresses congratulations to the Delegation of Colombia on its national day.

Mr. Chairman, it seems quite clear that certain issues ought not to be looked at narrowly. With specific reference to the intervention of the distinguished Alternate Representative of Argentina, we ought to begin to look at a more thorough assessment of this topic in the General Committee. We also need to look at issues of collaboration and association regarding the technical capacity of this institution to address a matter in a political environment. Is the issue of gangs just a political matter? How do we recognize a niche in this political process in order to work on something that requires a broad application of assessment?

Mr. Chairman, your question could be answered by saying that we ought to discuss this in the General Committee a little more; therefore, I suggest that it go to the General Committee.

I thank you.

El PRESIDENTE: The Alternate Representative of Canada has the floor.

El REPRESENTANTE ALTERNO DEL CANADÁ: Merci, Monsieur le Président.

The Delegation of Canada would like to welcome the new Ambassador of Uruguay, Her Excellency María del Luján Flores, and to congratulate her on her appointment and her insightful inaugural comments. We are confident that the warm and productive relationship that has always existed between our two delegations will be renewed and continued under her tenure.

We, too, would like to congratulate our friends and colleagues from Colombia on the celebration of their national day.

Mr. Chairman, with respect to the specific issue of mandates and resolution AG/RES. 2247 (XXXVI-O/06) on gangs, we are largely in agreement with the comments by the distinguished Alternate Representative of Argentina. Clearly, the issue of gangs is complex, with many aspects. This has been made clear in the discussions on the issue of gangs to date. We further agree that the issue should be addressed in a holistic fashion that takes into account these many facets and complexities.

That being said, we do find the placement of the mandate for consideration of the matter in the Committee on Hemispheric Security (CSH) to be entirely appropriate. In the Declaration on Security in the Americas, we recognized that security is multidimensional in scope and that it includes both traditional and nontraditional matters.

In the past year we have seen, for example, in the area of natural disasters, that the CSH is capable of taking a broad approach to addressing nontraditional threats to security, drawing on outside expertise as required.

It would seem to us that we are moving to a time when very few issues that face us at the hemispheric level are not complex and multifaceted in scope. I see this as an opportunity for the Committee on Hemispheric Security to demonstrate that it is able to take a broader approach to what could be described as nontraditional issues.

For that reason, we would prefer to see the mandate in the coming year remain with the Committee on Hemispheric Security.

Thank you, sir.

El PRESIDENTE: Thank you. I give the floor to the Permanent Representative of Brazil.

El REPRESENTANTE PERMANENTE DEL BRASIL: Muito obrigado, Senhor Presidente.

A Delegação do Brasil já havia manifestado por escrito a sua posição com relação à atribuição desse mandato. Imagino que a posição da Delegação do Brasil tenha sido distribuída às demais delegações.

O Brasil também considera que esse tema deva ser tratado na Comissão de Segurança Hemisférica e compartilha praticamente todos os argumentos apresentados pelo Representante Alternativo do Canadá, que me antecedeu. Não vou repeti-los, porque ele já os apresentou de uma maneira abrangente. De qualquer forma, nós reconhecemos também o comentário e observação feitos pela Representante Alternativa da Argentina. O Brasil considera que realmente esse é um tema que tem

transversalidade, que envolve uma série de elementos, mas da mesma forma que a Representação do Canadá, a Delegação do Brasil considera que isso reforça o conceito de multidimensionalidade que nós atribuímos à segurança, o qual consta da Declaração sobre Segurança nas Américas que adotamos em 2003.

Reitero assim que o Brasil considera que o tema seria tratado, de maneira abrangente, em todos seus aspectos – poderia ser tratado – na Comissão da Segurança Hemisférica; mas evidentemente o Brasil está aberto a acompanhar o consenso desta Sala.

Por último, eu queria, em primeiro lugar, dar as boas-vindas também à Representante Permanente do Uruguai, desejar-lhe todo o êxito na sua missão e dizer-lhe da plena disposição da Representação do Brasil de colaborar com ela em tudo que for necessário. E congratular-me com a Representação da Colômbia e todos os seus membros por sua Data Nacional.

Muito obrigado, Senhor Presidente.

El PRESIDENTE: Thank you. I give the floor to the Permanent Representative of El Salvador.

La REPRESENTANTE PERMANENTE DE EL SALVADOR: Gracias, señor Presidente.

Quisiera iniciar mi intervención dándole la más cordial bienvenida a la querida Embajadora del Uruguay y decirle que esta Misión y esta Embajadora están totalmente interesadas en poder colaborar con su trabajo en este foro. Quisiera felicitar también a la Delegación de Colombia por su día nacional.

Agradezco mucho la intervención de la Representante de la Argentina. Creo que dio pie para recordar lo que esta Delegación, desde el primer momento, expuso en el foro donde se estaba analizando el tema de las pandillas: que el tema era muy transversal y que tenía muchas aristas. Por eso mi Delegación propuso tener un grupo de trabajo especializado en el tema. Por diferentes razones, no se logró un acuerdo. Y en ese sentido, creo que nuestra querida Delegada de la Argentina tiene toda la razón.

Sin embargo, en el contexto de lo que se ha aprobado en la Asamblea General y en el contexto de lo que la Delegación de El Salvador también manifestó por escrito, nos parece que lo más adecuado es que esta resolución sea asignada a la Comisión de Seguridad Hemisférica, como aparece en el documento que se nos ha entregado. En primer lugar, porque esta Misión considera que ninguno de los temas es estrictamente del abordaje de la comisión en que se trata. Todos los temas tienen varias aristas, pero tienen que tener un hilo conductor y, en este caso, consideramos muy coherente que esta resolución esté dentro de la Comisión de Seguridad Hemisférica. En segundo lugar, porque esto se ha visto dentro de la Comisión Especial de Delincuencia Organizada Transnacional. Todo lo que compete a esta Comisión pasará al ámbito de la Comisión de Seguridad Hemisférica y sigue siendo coherente que esté ahí.

Reiteramos lo que el día 11 de julio hicimos llegar por escrito a la Secretaría, haciendo eco a las observaciones hechas, muy pertinentes, por la Delegación de Brasil. Así es que la Misión de El

Salvador, como generadora de esta resolución, solicita la anuencia de todos para que esta resolución quede en la Comisión de Seguridad Hemisférica.

Gracias, señor Presidente.

El PRESIDENTE: Thank you, Madam Ambassador. I have observed that there is a growing consensus around referring this matter to the Committee on Hemispheric Security (CSH). I give the floor to the Permanent Representative of Nicaragua.

El REPRESENTANTE PERMANENTE DE NICARAGUA: Muchas gracias, señor Presidente.

Quiero darle la más cordial bienvenida a la Embajadora María del Luján Flores al seno de la OEA y felicitar al pueblo colombiano por su fiesta nacional.

Quisiera referirme, además, al comentario de la Delegación de Argentina respecto del asunto de pandillas. Ya he notado, señor Presidente, que usted también ha detectado que existe un consenso en la Sala de mantener las decisiones previas de que este tema sea referido, como punto de partida, a la Comisión de Seguridad Hemisférica, donde corresponde.

Esto no pone en duda la complejidad del tema y sus diferentes aristas y transversalidad, pero sí creemos, especialmente dentro del GRUCA, que este tema tiene que tener un punto de referencia, especialmente por ser un tema nuevo que se está introduciendo en las deliberaciones de nuestra Organización. Entonces, es bueno que tenga un punto de referencia muy claro en la Comisión de Seguridad Hemisférica y que, a partir de su discusión, se vaya ramificando y extendiéndose a donde corresponda.

Muchas gracias, señor Presidente.

El PRESIDENTE: Thank you for your observation. I give the floor now to the Permanent Representative of Saint Kitts and Nevis.

El REPRESENTANTE PERMANENTE DE SAINT KITTS Y NEVIS: Thank you, Chair.

I wish to welcome the distinguished Representative of Uruguay, Her Excellency María del Luján Flores, on behalf of the Delegation of Saint Kitts and Nevis and those of the other member states of the Caribbean Community (CARICOM). CARICOM has had a warm relationship with Uruguay, especially through its illustrious previous representative, Ambassador Fischer, and we are sure that that relationship will continue. You have the assurance that we will work closely with you in every way that we can in order to foster the interests of our region with your country.

At the same time, allow me to congratulate Colombia as it celebrates its national day.

Chair, I would be remiss if I didn't take the opportunity to say something about the gangs issue. Whereas I concur with my distinguished colleague from Grenada that this issue is broad and requires placement in an ambit that allows for wider recognition, I have to lend my support to the idea of having it remain within the Committee on Hemispheric Security (CSH).

Beyond that, I would say that I hear a call, if you will, for a redefinition or a renaming of hemispheric security. CARICOM, as you know, has always promoted a multidimensional view of security, rather than a narrow and constricted view, because we see many issues, such as violence, falling squarely under security.

Gangs do not happen; gangs evolve. They are an end product, if you will. They represent an evolution of methods that people use to resolve conflicts. People have evolved from using sticks, to knives, to guns, to whatever, and eventually they organize themselves, as human society is wont to, into gangs.

But this issue of violence especially plagues the Central American and Caribbean states that border the Caribbean Sea. If you were to inquire of the leaders of these states what they consider to be their primary challenges, it would surprise me if violence were not listed among the top three major challenges confronting states within the Caribbean Basin.

Violence is a public health issue; it is preventable. We have come to believe that violence is something that happens in society, and when it happens, we must find ingenious ways of responding to it. That approach is neither sensible nor pragmatic. It certainly is not scientific.

I am heartened that the Pan American Health Organization (PAHO) has the Area of Sustainable Development and Environmental Health (SDE), within which its section on risk assessment and management has a special focus on injuries and violence prevention. It speaks to the fact that PAHO not only recognizes violence as preventable, but also that the Organization considers the antecedents of violence as developmental issues. Just as they did not happen suddenly, they are not are not solvable suddenly. It's good that the Ambassador of Grenada recognizes this fact. I support his recognition of gangs as a broad issue, but I think it is also important that the OAS go beyond just placing it within the CSH. We need to understand its multidimensional nature, to redefine hemispheric security to include violence and other issues that are pertinent to development, and to hopefully seek to make a meaningful difference within the Hemisphere.

We have given much lip service. We have the Special Committee on Transnational Organized Crime, and its leaders have convincingly showed us the need to look at all aspects of this issue. There is a time for action, and the best way to take that action is to collaborate with sister organizations, such as PAHO, which is already addressing the issue, and to bring a reasoned and focused approach to it, recognizing its multidimensional nature, under the framework of multidimensional security.

Thank you, Mr. Chair.

El PRESIDENTE: Thank you, Permanent Representative of Saint Kitts and Nevis. The Ambassador of Mexico has the floor.

El REPRESENTANTE PERMANENTE DE MÉXICO: Muchas gracias, señor Presidente.

Por ser esta la primera ocasión en que hago uso de la palabra, quisiera darle la más cordial bienvenida a la distinguida Representante de la República Oriental del Uruguay, Embajadora María

del Luján Flores, y manifestarle la más amplia colaboración de la Delegación de México en todos los ámbitos de cooperación que se llevan a cabo en el marco de esta Organización.

También, señor Presidente, quisiera expresarle nuestra felicitación a la República de Colombia que celebra su día nacional en esta fecha.

Por último, señor Presidente, quisiera sumarme a las delegaciones que han expresado apoyo a que sea la Comisión de Seguridad Hemisférica la que, en el marco de sus trabajos, siga el tratamiento del tema de pandillas relacionadas con actividades delictivas.

Gracias, señor Presidente.

El PRESIDENTE: Thank you. The Alternate Representative of Venezuela has the floor.

El REPRESENTANTE ALTERNO DE VENEZUELA: Muchísimas gracias, señor Presidente.

Quisiera unirme a la voz de los demás Representantes que han intervenido y han expresado las felicitaciones a la distinguida Representante Permanente de la tierra de José Gervasio Artigas por su incorporación a esta institución. Por un tiempo inmemorial vamos a ser vecinos. Conversaremos permanentemente de estas cosas, sobre todo en este tiempo en que el Uruguay construye nuevos caminos para felicidad del pueblo y de la hermana República Oriental del Sur.

Quisiera sumarme a las felicitaciones a uno de los pueblos que nos es más caro a los venezolanos, como es Colombia, Colombia la Grande, la que en 1821 el Libertador Simón Bolívar constituyó en el Congreso de la Villa del Rosario de Cúcuta como la República de Colombia, integrada por el Departamento del Ecuador, de la Nueva Granada y de Venezuela. A Colombia, los mayores deseos y nuestras mayores felicitaciones en esta fecha, aniversario de su patria.

El tercer aspecto que debo tocar en esta intervención está referido al tema que estamos conversando. A la Delegación de Venezuela le parece, tal como lo han dicho algunos de los Representantes que me han antecedido en el uso de la palabra, que no es un tema sencillo. Es un tema que no solo atañe a países de Mesoamérica, sino también a algunos de los Estados fronterizos de los Estados Unidos. Es un tema bien complejo; es un tema bien amplio; es un tema bien delicado; es un tema que tiene muy diversas aristas.

A la Delegación de Venezuela le parecen compartibles las preocupaciones que ha manifestado la distinguida Representante de la Argentina, porque siendo un tema con estas particularidades, con estas características, manifestamos también nuestro temor de que pueda ser reducido solo a un problema de carácter de seguridad. En opinión de Venezuela, el tema de las pandillas trasciende el tema seguridad. Nos preocupa también que este tema vaya a ser visto solo como un problema policial porque, incluso siendo un problema policial, trasciende también el problema policial en sí mismo.

En ese sentido, la Delegación de Venezuela por supuesto no se va a oponer al consenso. Sin embargo, queremos desde ya manifestar nuestra preocupación en cuanto a que al incluirlo como tema en la Comisión de Seguridad Hemisférica pueda correrse el riesgo de reducirlo a un tema solo de

seguridad. De ser así, quiero manifestar desde ya que la Delegación de Venezuela, al interior de la Comisión de Seguridad Hemisférica, cuando se discuta este problema, manifestará siempre su opinión de que este se ha visto como problema de carácter integral y de carácter transversal, que es un problema social, que es un problema político, que es un problema jurídico, que es un problema económico, que es un problema que atañe a los derechos humanos. En fin, que es un problema mucho más profundo y mucho más complejo de lo que pudiera parecer en un principio.

Gracias, Presidente.

El PRESIDENTE: I am pleased to give the floor to the Permanent Representative of Grenada, Ambassador Denis Antoine.

El REPRESENTANTE PERMANENTE DE GRENADA: Thank you very much, Mr. Chairman.

Even if the Delegation of Grenada gave the rest of the delegations something to disagree about, what emerged was a very rich dialogue. It is obvious that the subject of gangs needs to be debated before we deposit it somewhere. The scope of the work to be done should in no way be limited to discussion alone. It requires careful action steps. It requires a plan of action that will not ignore the root causes of gangs and the other social ills that we are talking about. Wherever the topic is placed, whether in the Committee on Hemispheric Security (CSH) or within the legal area, what ought to have preceded that decision is a discussion, much as we are doing today, so that we agree on how we would treat it before it is sent. That's what I was trying to say.

My statement about placing this topic in the General Committee was meant to encourage us to carefully assess how we might redistribute some of its different parts to ensure that we don't confine it to one committee where we have many other mandates still waiting for appropriate treatment. We need solutions, not speeches, on this subject.

I thank you.

El PRESIDENTE: The Permanent Representative of Chile has the floor.

El REPRESENTANTE PERMANENTE DE CHILE: Gracias, señor Presidente.

Muy brevemente, en primer lugar, desearía sumarme a las delegaciones que lo han hecho para darle la bienvenida a la Embajadora del Uruguay. Le agradezco, además, sus profundas reflexiones y le ofrecemos toda la cooperación de la Delegación de Chile.

También desearíamos felicitar al Gobierno y al pueblo colombiano en su día nacional.

Aquí, señor Presidente, ya se han expuesto fundadas razones de por qué debería tratarse el tema en la Comisión de Seguridad Hemisférica. Se trata de una materia como las pandillas que sugiere una diversidad de problemas y aquí el Embajador de Grenada hace un momento ha planteado el tema de las causas. Eso es esencial. Se trata de un tema que requiere un enfoque multidimensional y que afecta claramente la seguridad ciudadana. En consecuencia, hay una necesidad fundamental de un análisis integral.

Nos parece que la evolución multidimensional de la seguridad haría aconsejable –puede ser una subjetividad, pero yo creo que haría aconsejable– que el tema se trate en la Comisión de Seguridad Hemisférica. Lo importante y el tema de fondo es cómo se aborde en esa Comisión y ahí hay que reflejar el tema de las causas, la multidimensionalidad y el enfoque comprensivo e integral que requieren los temas de seguridad ciudadana, de estabilidad democrática y los profundos temas del desarrollo.

Simplemente es eso, pero creo que en la Sala hay una clara voluntad de que vaya a la Comisión de Seguridad Hemisférica. Insisto, el tema esencial es cómo se aborde –y la responsabilidad es nuestra–, qué enfoque le damos a un tema que afecta claramente la seguridad, la estabilidad, el desarrollo y la dignidad en la región.

Muchas gracias, señor Presidente.

El PRESIDENTE: Thank you for your observations.

Representatives, I am wondering whether this is the time and place to prolong this discussion about where to place this resolution. Most of the members who spoke are inclined to assign it to the Committee on Hemispheric Security (CSH), especially if the focus will be on the multidimensional aspects of security, and a holistic approach is more or less guaranteed if it is discussed within that committee.

I give the floor to the Ambassador of Saint Kitts and Nevis.

El REPRESENTANTE PERMANENTE DE SAINT KITTS AND NEVIS: Thank you, Chair.

I do understand the time constraints and the need for preparedness to move forward, rather than thrashing this issue out completely at this meeting of the Permanent Council.

I want to assure the distinguished Representative of Grenada that the Delegation of Saint Kitts and Nevis agrees that the subject of gangs needs as broad as possible a discussion. We also agree that there is need for exhaustive discussion, rather than agreeing today to place it under one committee or the other.

I could not agree more with the distinguished Representative of Venezuela. This issue of gangs has legal, social, health, developmental, economic, and, above all, governance and democracy components. We are concerned about gangs because they destabilize our societies. Gang members are purchasable; they can influence political outcome; they can determine movement in relation to economic activity.

It is because of our recognition of the multidimensional nature of this phenomenon that one must underscore the need to place it within an ambit that allows for consideration of its multidimensional nature, because ultimately it affects our stability and security.

I endorse the Ambassador of Grenada's submission, and I am hoping that the Permanent Council and the Secretariat can create a segment of time in which we can have an exhaustive

discussion on all aspects of this matter, including consideration of renaming hemispheric security, if necessary.

Thank you.

El PRESIDENTE: Thank you. I give the floor to the Representative of Honduras.

La REPRESENTANTE INTERINA DE HONDURAS: Muchas gracias, señor Presidente.

En nombre de mi Delegación quiero felicitar, en primer lugar, a la Embajadora del Uruguay y desearle toda clase de éxitos en el desarrollo de sus funciones. Quiero felicitar también a la Delegación de Colombia por la celebración de su día nacional.

En forma muy breve, tomo la palabra porque mi Delegación no podía permanecer callada ante un tema que es de tantísima importancia para nosotros, porque el tema de las pandillas delincuenciales nos está afectando de una forma muy, muy seria.

Nos sumamos al consenso de que el tema se ponga bajo la Comisión de Seguridad Hemisférica, pero queremos manifestar que esperamos que no se trate meramente como un tema de seguridad o policial. Se necesita un enfoque multidimensional porque esto también se tiene que ver como un fenómeno jurídico, sociológico, cultural. Incluso tiene cabida dentro del Instituto Interamericano del Niño, dentro de la Comisión Interamericana de Mujeres, ya que mi Delegación opina que, en parte, es la indiferencia en la educación de las niñas y las mujeres jóvenes lo que hace que tantos niños terminen en las calles y sean presa fácil de las pandillas, que así se van nutriendo de niños de nueve, diez años, porque las madres los abandonan o no pueden alimentarlos o hacerse cargo de ellos.

De manera que este tema debe ser tratado por una gama muy, muy amplia de enfoques en una forma transversal.

Gracias.

El PRESIDENTE: Thank you.

The Chair proposes, given the time constraints and the lack of agreement, that this issue remain in the Permanent Council for further consideration and discussion at a later date. I hope that the representatives who have requested the floor will speak on this proposal.

I give the floor to the Representative of Colombia.

La REPRESENTANTE ALTERNA DE COLOMBIA: Muchas gracias, señor Presidente.

No quisiera tomar más tiempo de lo que este debate amerita, pero creo que es importante que veamos todas las facetas de lo que estamos tratando en este momento.

En primer lugar, y antes de nada, quiero agradecer sus palabras de felicitación por el día nacional de Colombia, igual que las de los Representantes Permanentes y Alternos. Quiero también darle la bienvenida a la Embajadora del Uruguay y asegurarle la colaboración de mi Delegación.

En relación con el tema de las pandillas, hemos visto este tema en dos Asambleas Generales. Hay una coincidencia que está expresada en las resoluciones de la Asamblea General de que es un tema integral, que tiene que ver con un fenómeno social que debemos abordar, que tiene un componente de derechos humanos y que tiene también una relación con los temas de la seguridad en la medida en que tenga relación con la comisión de actos delictivos. De manera que también hay ahí otra dimensión.

La resolución de la Asamblea General es clara en definir todas esas facetas y lo que le corresponde a la comisión que trate este tema, en este caso a la Comisión de Seguridad Hemisférica, es cumplir con los mandatos de la Asamblea General y coordinar todas las acciones que tengan que ver con el tema, así como generar iniciativas para que el tema no pierda su condición de integral y de transversal.

De manera que, independientemente de la comisión en que trate el tema –mi Delegación está de acuerdo en que sea en la Comisión de Seguridad Hemisférica–, el mandato es el que la Asamblea General nos dio; cualquiera de las comisiones puede hacerlo perfectamente.

Gracias, señor Presidente.

El PRESIDENTE: I draw your attention to the fact that we still have one more item on our order of business, and we have to say farewell to two of our colleagues. That is why I asked those who had asked for the floor to reconsider their request or to speak briefly on what I proposed: to defer consideration of this matter to another meeting of the Permanent Council.

I give the floor to the Ambassador of El Salvador.

La REPRESENTANTE PERMANENTE DE EL SALVADOR: Gracias, señor Presidente.

Con el respeto de todos, intervengo una segunda vez. Mi Delegación quisiera señalar que este tema ha sido muy considerado dentro de la OEA. No sé si algunos de los Representantes saben que esto fue ampliamente debatido al interior de la Comisión Especial sobre Delincuencia Organizada Transnacional. Ha habido foros donde el propio Secretario General Adjunto ha estado con todas las instituciones internacionales aquí en Washington.

Este tema ha sido muy debatido, señor Presidente. Por eso esta Delegación, por cuestión de tiempo, solicita, reitera que no sigamos debatiendo esto. El tema necesita ser tratado ya. Y la mejor manera de ser tratado es en un lugar específico, como establece el mandato de la resolución. Si eso no fuese posible, señor Presidente, entonces esta Delegación sí solicita que se forme un grupo especializado de trabajo.

Muchísimas gracias.

El PRESIDENTE: Thank you for your proposal. I give the floor to the Permanent Representative of the United States.

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

My understanding is that we are at item 3, the distribution of mandates. I would like to dedicate my comments to that theme. When we get to "*Asuntos varios*," there will be other things to say.

With regard to the theme of gangs and where it is taken up within the Organization, my delegation is quite prepared to go along with the consensus, whatever works, because it is indeed a very, very serious issue.

I would only add one thing. I arrived late for this meeting today because I was in Miami yesterday in a meeting with our ambassadors from Central America. The discussion on the subject of gangs among that group was quite lively. I learned of a study by Florida International University on the subject of gangs, with a special focus on the Dominican Republic. The study was produced at the behest of the Government of President Fernández, who was briefed on it. I was quite taken with it and certainly thought about the possibility of sharing that information in some way here at headquarters.

Second, Mr. Chair, I have something to say about the resolution on migrant populations and migration flows in the Americas.

My delegation compliments the Delegation of Belize on the resolution and for the work that it did. It is a subject, as everyone knows, of quite a bit of importance to the United States, and I want to put on record that the United States looks forward to working with other delegations on this issue, which is so important for the entire Hemisphere.

As the issues of migrant populations and migrant flows are cross-cutting, my delegation recommends that discussions about migrants take place within this special committee on migration issues, and that it include the Inter-American Program for the Promotion and Protection of the Human Rights of Migrants, Including Migrant Workers and Their Families. We feel that concentrating our energies in one forum is critical in order to bring focus and order to the process and to avoid a dispersion of attention.

In this spirit, my delegation also recommends that the activities mandated under resolution AG/RES. 2248 (XXXVI-O/06) be combined with the activities outlined in resolution AG/RES. 2224 (XXXVI-O/06) in an effort to strengthen their impact and to sharpen our focus. Perhaps those comments about migration have something to do with the subject of gangs as well.

Thank you, Mr. Chair.

El PRESIDENTE: Thank you for your observations. I give the floor now to the Alternate Representative of Venezuela, Ambassador Pineda.

El REPRESENTANTE ALTERNO DE VENEZUELA: Gracias, Presidente.

Muy brevemente quisiera manifestar el acompañamiento de la Delegación de Venezuela a la preocupación expresada por el distinguido Representante de Grenada. A nosotros nos parece, de verdad, que tiene toda la pertinencia del caso la propuesta que él ha hecho, sobre todo porque al revisar el texto de la resolución se advierte que no está establecido en él la incorporación, la adscripción de esta resolución a ninguna comisión en específico. Dice simplemente que este tema sea tratado a través de los órganos de la Organización.

En ese sentido, creo que por la importancia y por la relevancia que tiene el tema, cabría que acogiésemos la propuesta que ha hecho el Representante de Grenada de que en una reunión que convoquemos de la Comisión General tan pronto cuanto sea posible podamos abrir una discusión de este tema para ubicarlo en la comisión que nos parezca.

Gracias, Presidente.

El PRESIDENTE: That's also my proposal: to discuss the matter at another meeting, either of the Permanent Council or of another grouping, to come to a final decision. The Ambassador of Brazil has the floor.

El REPRESENTANTE PERMANENTE DEL BRASIL: Muito obrigado, Senhor Presidente.

Eu quero ser breve para dizer tão-somente o seguinte. Eu acho que a primeira pergunta que nós nos deveríamos fazer é o que a Organização dos Estados Americanos pode fazer com relação ao tema das quadrilhas? Esta é a primeira pergunta.

É óbvio que o tema é integral. Nós podemos tratar do tema na Comissão Executiva Permanente do Conselho Interamericano de Desenvolvimento Integral (CEPCIDI), por ser um tema de desenvolvimento econômico e social. Nós podemos tratar o tema em qualquer das comissões.

A meu ver, realmente nós discutimos demais onde vamos colocar, quando deveríamos ter decidido imediatamente colocar em algum dos órgãos políticos e se, no decorrer das primeiras discussões, nós verificássemos que não caberia estar naquele órgão, passaríamos para outro.

A reflexão a ser feita é a seguinte: o que a OEA pode fazer com relação ao tema e não dizer o que é o tema. Porque o tema nós todos conhecemos. O que a OEA pode fazer com relação a este tema? Qual é o aspecto essencial que nós vamos tratar? O aspecto essencial, primeiro, é cooperação internacional, ou seja, o que nós estamos fazendo aqui com relação a todos os temas.

Em termos de cooperação internacional, no âmbito da OEA, o que podemos fazer? Qual é o aspecto essencial do tema que chamou a atenção da Organização e dos países membros? É o aspecto de transnacionalidade e o aspecto de delito. Não é o aspecto das origens socioeconômicas. As origens socioeconômicas devem ser tratadas no nível nacional. Também podem ser tratadas com cooperação internacional. Mas isso é um tema basicamente nacional.

O tema, na visão da Delegação do Brasil, é transnacional, é um tema relativo a atividades delitivas com causas profundas – nós podemos discutir todas. Mas, a pergunta principal é a seguinte:

o que podemos fazer? E se soubermos o que a OEA pode fazer, nós poderemos colocar o tema no âmbito apropriado desta Organização.

Na opinião da Delegação do Brasil, por ser transnacional e por ser delitivo com causas profundas, etc., será na Comissão de Segurança Hemisférica.

Obrigado, Senhor Presidente.

[Ocupa la presidencia el Representante de San Vicente y las Granadinas.]

El PRESIDENTE: Ambassador of Paraguay, you have the floor.

El REPRESENTANTE PERMANENTE DEL PARAGUAY: Muchas gracias, Presidente.

Sean mis primeras palabras para expresar las palabras de bienvenida a la distinguida colega del Uruguay y, por supuesto, también a la distinguida Delegación de Colombia en su día nacional.

Presidente, creo que hace una hora estamos discutiendo sobre un tema en el que en esta sala hay un consenso y es remitirlo a la Comisión de Seguridad Hemisférica. Si bien varias delegaciones dieron su opinión y, tal vez, se pueda entender que no estaban de acuerdo, nadie se opuso al consenso. La propia distinguida Delegación de la Argentina, que introdujo el tema, siempre dijo que se uniría al consenso.

Aquí se ha formado un consenso. Creo que aunque este debate es enriquecedor, deberíamos estar avanzando y hacer posible que el día de hoy demos por terminado este tema. Presidente.

Así que yo lo insto a recoger el consenso expresado en esta sala el día de hoy, que fue remitir este tema a la Comisión de Seguridad Hemisférica, y solicitarle al Embajador Denis Antoine que una vez más, con su gran espíritu de flexibilidad, se sume a este consenso para dar por terminado el tratamiento el día de hoy.

Muchas gracias, Presidente.

El PRESIDENTE: Thank you very much, Ambassador of Paraguay.

We have been discussing this issue for a considerable amount of time. As there is no definite agreement on the issue, I recommend that this issue remain with the Permanent Council for further consideration and discussion at a later date. There is no urgency in assigning it specifically today. Whatever differences exist can be resolved if we postpone a decision until the next meeting. Seeing no objections, it is so agreed.

PALABRAS DEL REPRESENTANTE DE PANAMÁ SOBRE RECIENTES EVENTOS OCURRIDOS EN EL ORIENTE MEDIO

El PRESIDENTE: We move to the final item on the order of business, "Other business." I give the floor to the Ambassador of Panama.

EL REPRESENTANTE PERMANENTE DE PANAMÁ: Gracias, señor Presidente.

Sé que llevamos mucho tiempo en esta sesión y todos debemos estar ansiosos ya, ansiosos no, pero preparados para despedir a dos distinguidos colegas. Ellos no deben estar tan ansiosos de que se les despida por la tristeza que les va a dejar esta compañía.

Venimos a la OEA a decir cosas, a expresar los sentimientos de los países, y a veces esos sentimientos son sueños, son aspiraciones, son deseos.

Hoy en día se está produciendo una crisis en el mundo, una en especial que ocupa los medios de comunicación diarios. Sé que no se trata de sacar ningún comunicado, ninguna declaración, ninguna resolución, pero por lo menos la República de Panamá, por mi conducto, desea que se diga algo al respecto en este Consejo Permanente, y me toca a mí decirlo en nombre de mi país, no puedo asumir representación de ningún otro. Quiero expresar los deseos de Panamá de que haya paz, de que haya conciliación, de que cesen las hostilidades, de que cesen las matanzas, lo que se está dando en el Oriente Medio.

Podríamos decir que eso no nos afecta, pero ¿podríamos realmente decirlo? ¿No está afectando inmediatamente el precio del petróleo? ¿No está afectando las bolsas latinoamericanas? ¿No tenemos ciudadanos en nuestros países que son del Líbano, de Israel? En la República de Panamá hay una distinguida comunidad hebrea; hay una distinguidísima comunidad libanesa que trabaja y convive. A pesar de ser un país tan pequeño, tenemos panameños que están ahora en los lugares afectados visitando familiares o pasando vacaciones, así que sí nos preocupa.

Lo que quiero expresar es que Panamá tiene el deseo, y estoy seguro de que es el deseo de todos los países aquí presentes, de que haya paz sin sindicarse a ninguna parte, simplemente de que se dejen de descerrajar tiros en esa área del mundo.

Quiero informar nada más que en la última reunión ordinaria de Jefes de Estado y de Gobierno de los países miembros del Sistema de la Integración Centroamericana, que presidió el Presidente de Panamá, Martín Torrijos, los Jefes de Estado que fueron allí convocados sacaron un comunicado en el cual expresaban su profunda preocupación por el deterioro de la situación en el Medio Oriente, el recrudecimiento de la violencia, así como la ausencia del diálogo entre las partes involucradas. Llamaban a la renovación de las negociaciones como único método para resolver el conflicto y crear las condiciones para la coexistencia en paz, cooperación y seguridad de todos los Estados y naciones de la zona, con base en los principios y resoluciones de las Naciones Unidas.

Ya con esto, señor Presidente, yo me siento muy feliz porque ya no podrá decir el mundo que en una sesión del Consejo Permanente de la Organización de los Estados Americanos nosotros pusimos la cara a un lado y no dijimos absolutamente nada de la crisis del Medio Oriente. Se trata de decir simple y llanamente que deseamos que prevalezca la paz en ese lugar.

Muchas gracias.

EL PRESIDENTE: Thank you very much, Ambassador.

I can say that my delegation is not prepared to discuss this particular issue in this forum at this point in time. We have given instructions to our ambassador at the United Nations, if need be, to issue a statement on our behalf. I would recommend, however, seeing that there are no requests for the floor at the moment on this issue, that we take note of your concerns in the minutes of this meeting. In that way, we have on record that the Delegation of Panama issued this call for us to be concerned about the situation between Lebanon and Israel.

Seeing that there are no requests for the floor on the issue, it is so agreed.

Thankfully, the Chairman is back!

[Vuelve a ocupar la presidencia el Representante de Suriname.]

PALABRAS DE RECONOCIMIENTO AL REPRESENTANTE DE LAS BAHAMAS CON MOTIVO DE SU ALEJAMIENTO DEL CONSEJO PERMANENTE

El PRESIDENTE: Ambassador John, thank you for saving me. [Risas.]

We have already arrived at the last item on the order of business, “Other business,” and on this occasion, we must bid farewell to one of our most cherished colleagues and friends in this Council, Ambassador Joshua Sears, Permanent Representative of the Commonwealth of The Bahamas.

Ambassador Sears has been in this organization since May 2000 and has represented his country with dignity and distinction. He has been a valued colleague and friend to the members of this body, and to me, he is a brother. He was always prepared to exchange views on developments in the Hemisphere.

Ambassador Sears, this Council has benefited from your leadership and contributions in numerous ways, including as Chairman of the Committee on Administrative and Budgetary Affairs (CAAP) and in the planning process for the renovation of the Simón Bolívar Room, which is where we are assembled today.

I would also like to commend you on your leadership of the Working Group on the Scale of Quota Assessments, over which you so ably presided in the months prior to the thirty-first special session of the General Assembly.

Ambassador Sears, your presence will be missed in this Council. We wish you and your family all the best in your new endeavors and look forward with great anticipation to future collaboration.

Saying farewell to people in this Council in the 21st century is more of a physical act, because in spirit we remain connected. You know that in our capitals, people who are interested can go to the Internet and see and hear a live broadcast of this meeting. It means that those who go back to their capitals can remain in contact with us and contribute. I hope you will, Ambassador Sears. Thank you.

I offer the floor now to delegations that wish to speak. The first speaker is Ambassador Williams of Saint Kitts and Nevis.

EI REPRESENTANTE PERMANENTE DE SAINT KITTS Y NEVIS: Thank you, Chair.

I speak on behalf of the Caribbean Community (CARICOM) caucus of ambassadors.

The CARICOM ambassadors and, indeed, the entire diplomatic corps at the Organization of American States will miss the presence and participation of Ambassador Joshua Sears. We recognize, however, that while we are saying with regret, “There he goes,” there are others on the other side of the horizon who are waiting to proclaim, “Here he comes.” More than that, we understand that his welcome, in the new and the contagious democratic tradition of the Americas, will be not only with shouts of acclamation, but by ballots of representation, an endorsement to be part of a political directorate, we understand, in time. We wish you all success, Ambassador, in your new pursuits.

Ambassador Sears has come to typify an admirable commitment to the inter-American system. He has raised the participation of the Commonwealth of The Bahamas through the several capacities in which he has served—Vice Chair of the Permanent Council, Chair of the Committee on Administrative and Budgetary Affairs (CAAP), Chair of the CARICOM caucus, as well as his valued input in the recommissioning of the Simón Bolívar Room.

Ambassador Sears has brought level-headedness and a mature diplomatic presence to the inter-American discourse, as well as an experienced administrative approach, grounded not only in an awareness of the interests and needs of his country, but also of the needs and expectations of member states in general and of small states in particular. He has demonstrated, too, a deep understanding of the imperative of strengthening the foundations of the inter-American system.

Chair, I am sure I speak not only for CARICOM, but for the representational spectrum of this Council when I say that above all, what we have admired most about Ambassador Joshua Sears is his quiet dignity and the admirable humility with which he represented his country.

The CARICOM delegations member states wish Josh and his family success and happiness. We look forward to hearing good news, not only of you, Josh, but of your wife, Lady Michelle Sears. Now that she will be back on her home turf, may she spread her wings. Godspeed!

El PRESIDENTE: Thank you. I give the floor now to the Ambassador of Chile, in his capacity of Coordinator of the delegations from the Latin American Integration Association (ALADI) group.

EI REPRESENTANTE PERMANENTE DE CHILE: Muchas gracias, Presidente.

Como Coordinador del grupo de países miembros de la Asociación Latinoamericana de Integración (ALADI), tengo el honor y la misión de despedir en nombre de mi grupo al Representante Permanente del Commonwealth de las Bahamas.

El Embajador Sears ha representado a su país ante este Consejo desde el año 2000, pero sobre todo ha sido un activo promotor de los intereses de la Comunidad del Caribe (CARICOM) y de la gente y de la riqueza de las Américas. De sus conocidas actitudes profesionales y habilidades diplomáticas nos hemos beneficiado todos los miembros de esta Organización. Sus aportes en materia de cooperación y desarrollo integral nos muestran lo necesario que es fortalecer la democracia día a día, atendiendo a una diversidad de temas sociales y de desarrollo.

En particular, desearía destacar la presidencia del Embajador Sears de la Comisión de Asuntos Administrativos y Presupuestarios. En los trabajos de la renovación de esta sala, el Embajador Sears, como aquí se ha señalado, tuvo también una contribución decisiva.

Los miembros del grupo ALADI tenemos la convicción de que usted, querido Embajador, continuará promoviendo nuestros principios y valores comunes y trabajará asimismo para superar los desafíos que debemos enfrentar.

Gracias por su dedicación y por la dignidad con que ha ejercido su cargo. Le deseamos un futuro personal y familiar pleno de éxito.

Muchas gracias, señor Presidente.

EL PRESIDENTE: Thank you. I give now the floor to the Permanent Representative of Costa Rica in his capacity as Coordinator of the Central American Group (GRUCA).

EL REPRESENTANTE PERMANENTE DE COSTA RICA: Muchas gracias, señor Presidente.

Como Coordinador del Grupo Centroamericano –Guatemala, Belice, Nicaragua, El Salvador, Honduras, Costa Rica, Panamá y la República Dominicana– tengo la difícil encomienda de despedir al distinguido Embajador de las Bahamas, Joshua Sears, quien ha sido un excelente Representante de su país ante esta Organización y un gran amigo de todos nosotros.

Nuestro agradecimiento al Embajador Sears por sus buenos consejos y colaboración en los trabajos de la OEA, por su don de gentes y su gran sentido de amistad.

Para él, su señora Michelle, que también ha hecho una labor extraordinaria trabajando con las señoras esposas de los representantes y diplomáticos de esta Organización, nuestros deseos, nuestros votos sinceros por sus continuados éxitos en su próximo destino.

Gracias, Embajador Sears, y gracias a las Bahamas por habernos dotado de un gran embajador y un extraordinario ser humano.

Gracias.

EL PRESIDENTE: Thank you. I have the pleasure of giving the floor to the Alternate Representative of Canada.

La REPRESENTANTE ALTERNA DEL CANADÁ: Thank you very much, Mr. Chairman.

It is with some sadness that the Delegation of Canada joins the chorus of voices bidding farewell to Ambassador Joshua Sears, for while we know he moves on to exciting new undertakings, we are sure that everyone around this table will feel his absence.

Since his arrival at the Organization of American States six years ago, Ambassador Sears has been a strong, constructive presence. One of his most notable achievements was chairing the Committee on Administrative and Budgetary Affairs (CAAP), which we all know to be a difficult and very important task, yet he carried it out with remarkable enthusiasm and dedication. In fact, his commitment was so great that following his term as Chair, he went on to serve as Vice Chair of that same committee. We can say without hesitation that we all benefited from his leadership in the CAAP.

Of course, Ambassador Sears has served in other important capacities, including Vice Chair of the Permanent Council and Chair of the group that made recommendations on the OAS Special Mission in Haiti. It is worth noting that he did all of this while serving not only as Permanent Representative to the OAS, but as Ambassador to the United States of America. Clearly, the Ambassador's energy reserves are to be envied!

Ambassador Sears, Canada will miss your commitment, your warmth, and your quiet strength. We are sure that these qualities will be put to excellent use as you continue to serve the people of The Bahamas as you have done, sir, during the past six years at the OAS. We wish you, your wife, Michelle, and your family the very best in your new endeavors.

El PRESIDENTE: Thank you. The Permanent Representative of the United States has the floor.

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

Before saying a few words about Joshua Sears, I wanted to take the opportunity to welcome our new Uruguayan Permanent Representative, María del Luján Flores, whom I had the opportunity to meet in Montevideo several months ago. She will add very much to this body.

Second, I wanted to congratulate the new chairs of the Committee on Political and Juridical Affairs (CAJP) and the Committee on Hemispheric Security (CSH). We did very well in those two selections.

Third, Colombia's national day is always special. I always think of a presentation by Horacio Serpa two years ago that did not precisely have to do with Colombia's national day; rather, it recognized this room's namesake. It is one of those speeches that you want to keep in your speech file because it was so eloquent, so historic, so good! So congratulations to Colombia on its day.

And now to Joshua Sears. We knew that this day was going to come, but at the same time that it is exciting and new for him, it is a little nostalgic for us. This six-year veteran as Ambassador of The Bahamas to the United States and as Permanent Representative to the Organization of American States has our gratitude for so many things. We have heard them:

- His stewardship of the Committee on Administrative and Budgetary Affairs (CAAP), both as Chair and Vice Chair—he really put his shoulder to the wheel to make this organization run more effectively and was a driving force behind the successful reforms enacted at the special session of the General Assembly last January;
- His thoughtful and conciliatory approach regarding everything having to do with Haiti ultimately contributed to the successful restoration of democracy to the Haitian people.

So he has been, I would submit, a rock of this Permanent Council. Why? Because of his intellect, his wisdom, and his energy. He is a very principled man, and that comes through in everything he does and says. He is truly a diplomat; he is a gentleman; he is a friend. Whatever he does in the future, he will do a very, very good job. We trust it will be in public service because he is the example of a true public servant that comes to my mind of when I think about this *oficio* of ours.

Farewell, friend, and farewell also to Michelle, who is a companion of the rock and who has meant so much to this organization.

Thank you, Mr. Chair.

El PRESIDENTE: Thank you. I give the floor to the Assistant Secretary General, Ambassador Ramdin.

El SECRETARIO GENERAL ADJUNTO: Thank you very much, Mr. Chairman.

Distinguished ambassadors, much has been said over the last 10 to 15 minutes about the qualities of Ambassador Sears and his work in the Organization of American States. I can add very little to what has been said, other than to endorse and applaud, in the strongest terms, what has been said by others to Ambassador Sears.

On behalf of Secretary General Insulza, on my own behalf, and on behalf of the entire staff of the General Secretariat, I would like to thank Ambassador Sears for his contribution to this organization. It has been excellent and exemplary, and we will certainly miss him.

We value your contribution to the OAS. Two days ago you handed over funds on behalf of your government to different activities of the OAS. It reaffirms your commitment and that of your country to the Americas and to the objectives of the Organization. No doubt your legacy will remain in this organization, as we have seen and heard here today in this very Simón Bolívar Room.

Ambassador Sears, we wish you and your family well in your future endeavors. I am sure, as others have stated, that we will see you around and that we will continue to benefit from your trust, knowledge, and expertise in the Americas. Thank you very much for your service.

El PRESIDENTE: I now have the honor and the pleasure to give the floor to Ambassador Joshua Sears, Permanent Representative of the Commonwealth of The Bahamas.

El REPRESENTANTE PERMANENTE DE LAS BAHAMAS: Thank you very much, Mr. Chairman.

Mr. Chairman of the Permanent Council; Mr. Secretary General; Mr. Assistant Secretary General; your excellencies, permanent representatives to the Organization of American States; alternate representatives; permanent observers; staff of the Secretariat, particularly the Secretariat to the Permanent Council, the Office of Protocol, the Office of the Secretary General, the Department of Administration and Finance (DAF), and the interpreters; members of the Permanent Mission of The Bahamas; family members; friends; distinguished ladies and gentlemen:

Let me welcome Ambassador del Luján Flores to this assembly and wish her well as she assumes office.

I congratulate Colombia on the celebration of its national day.

Mr. Chairman, I wish to express my thanks and gratitude for the kind sentiments expressed regarding my service to this organization and to my country during my tenure as Permanent Representative of the Commonwealth of The Bahamas. I am extremely honored to have served my country during this period in the history of the Americas and of this organization. I wish to pay special tribute to then Chairman of the Permanent Council, Ambassador Ostria Trigo of Bolivia, Secretary General César Gaviria, and Assistant Secretary General Christopher Thomas, who welcomed me to this Permanent Council on May 11 and 12, 2000.

I particularly recall Ambassador Trigo seeking to know the committee that I would be interested in. Of course, I was not fully aware of all issues in front of me, so I politely said to him: "You know, I think I will just wait and see, and I'll talk to you a bit later." He then proceeded to state a list of areas and issues, and I got the distinct impression that I was being pressed into immediate service, or I was being put on notice, but I wish to thank him most profusely for that very subtle message he gave me on that day.

I wish also to pay tribute to Ambassador Luigi Einaudi with whom I had the pleasure of working on many issues, including Haiti and the Committee on Administrative and Budgetary Affairs (CAAP).

Mr. Chairman, when The Bahamas joined the OAS in 1982, we pledged to work with members of this organization to achieve its laudable goals and objectives, including the maintenance of peace and security, the eradication of poverty, respect for the rule of law, respect for human rights, and economic development and prosperity for the peoples of the Americas.

Next year, we celebrate the twenty-fifth anniversary of our membership in this organization. We look forward to a number of activities commemorating this important anniversary. We seek and welcome the support of this organization towards that end. The commemoration of this important anniversary will afford the peoples of The Bahamas the opportunity to review the important role that this organization has played in the integration, development, and governance of Latin America and the Caribbean.

Indeed, Mr. Chairman, this organization's scope of activities covers a wide range of subjects of importance to this hemisphere, including security, combating drugs, terrorism, human rights, corruption, trade, integral development, democracy, and education.

Apart from our participation in the multilateral process, an important and significant benefit of our membership in this organization is the facilitation of the development of closer relations with all the member states of this hemisphere and the establishment of diplomatic relations with several of them.

Mr. Chairman, as one who has followed the activities of this organization over the last several decades, one could easily succumb to cynicism, but just as quickly, sober reflection will suggest—and I dare say, demand—recognition of the contributions that this organization has made to the political, economic, and social development of the Americas. Kindly permit me a few reflections.

The Summit of the Americas process has created a valuable framework for the heads of state and government of this hemisphere to engage in dialogue and arrive at important decisions, bearing in mind the interests of all member states of this hemisphere. Multilateralism, though confronted by challenges from time to time, has been recognized by all member states as the principle upon which our relations should be conducted.

The Summits have made landmark decisions:

- At the First Summit, held in Miami in 1994, the decision to establish the Free Trade Area of the Americas (FTAA);
- At the second Summit in Santiago, the establishment of the Summit Implementation Review Group (SIRG) process and the institutionalization of hemispheric meetings;
- At the Third Summit in Quebec City, the Inter-American Democratic Charter and the participation of civil society in the Summit process were the focus;
- At Monterrey, we discussed economic growth with equity to reduce poverty; social development; and democratic governance; and
- In Mar del Plata, we talked about the creation of jobs to fight poverty and strengthen democratic governance.

Mr. Chairman, the decision by the heads of state in Quebec to establish the Inter-American Democratic Charter was a landmark decision. Its elaboration and consequent adoption in September 2001 has the support of all the active members of this organization. This instrument has already been immortalized, and we see its provisions at work every day in the Americas. By constantly referencing this important instrument, we help to facilitate its institutionalization in the psyche, culture, and governance of the Americas.

I welcome the Secretary General's plan, announced at the recently concluded thirty-sixth regular session of the General Assembly, to establish an early warning system to monitor, assess, and

respond to threats to democracy. The delegations of the Caribbean Community (CARICOM) are extremely pleased, as it will be recalled that during the elaboration of the Democratic Charter, we made several proposals.

I am also reminded of a number of recommendations to strengthen and make the Charter a more effective instrument, including those made by former President Jimmy Carter when he addressed us in the distinguished Lecture Series of the Americas in the Hall of the Americas. This year, we celebrate the fifth anniversary of the Charter, and now is an appropriate time to take the necessary action.

Mr. Chairman, when we agreed to the adoption of the Inter-American Democratic Charter, we also agreed to elaborate a companion instrument, the Social Charter of the Americas, whose primary objective was to address the social and economic issues confronting the governments and peoples of Latin America and the Caribbean. It is my hope that this instrument can be agreed upon in the near future so that we can accept a multilateral framework to approach these challenging issues.

The issue of the legal and institutional relationship between the OAS and the Inter-American Defense Board (IADB), which has been the subject of much negotiation and work, was brought to a successful conclusion recently, and today we witnessed the transfer of the chairmanship of that entity. This decision enables the IADB to make its expertise available effectively to all the member states of the Hemisphere, and I wish to commend the leadership of the Board for its work now and in the future.

Mr. Chairman, we have on occasions reflected upon what further measures are needed to make the OAS and our work more efficient and effective. We have instituted a number of initiatives over the years, but clearly, some fundamental measures need to be implemented.

The Working Group on Guidelines and Strategies has done some valuable work on the procedures to facilitate the work of this organization. It is regretted that we were unable to reach consensus, but I sincerely hope that this issue can be addressed in the very near future, as I believe it is imperative for us to continue to improve and then implement measures for the effective organization of our work.

The issue of the financing of mandates and activities of the Organization has engaged member states for several years. In January of this year, after intense negotiations, the thirty-first special session of the General Assembly arrived at an interim solution with respect to the scale of member states quota assessments. Considerable progress has been made toward arriving at a permanent solution to this difficult and sensitive subject. It is my sincere hope that the mandate to find a permanent solution, issued at the special session of the General Assembly, will be realized, thus putting behind us a problem that has dogged this organization for so many years.

Mr. Chairman, the capacity of this organization to respond to the mandates of member states and to administer the affairs of the Secretariat relies heavily and fundamentally on the personnel of this organization. At the recently concluded thirty-sixth regular session of the General Assembly, the Foreign Minister of Trinidad and Tobago raised the issue of the conditions of service of the staff, on behalf of CARICOM, and his comments received considerable support at the Assembly. This critical issue requires our expeditious attention and support so that it can be settled. Prompt resolution of the

concerns of our personnel at all levels can only enhance their dignity and commitment to this organization and maintain a cohesive environment.

So, too, is the matter of fellowships and scholarships. We must be forever mindful that in seeking to maintain and implement guidelines that foster better administration, we must not lose sight of the fact that the lives of our youth are being placed on hold and, most importantly, one of the most important vehicles for development, particularly for the small states of this organization, is being interrupted.

Mr. Chairman, during my tenure here in this Council, there have been a number of protocolary visits by prime ministers, presidents, and foreign ministers. These visits reaffirmed the important role played by the Organization throughout this hemisphere. This reaffirmation of support and solidarity has, on a number of occasions, been complemented by pledges of additional resources and initiatives. I believe that herein lies a great opportunity for us to significantly impact the resources of this organization positively.

As I take leave of this Permanent Council and this organization, I am conscious that I do so on a day when we commemorate the birth of Simón Bolívar, the Great Liberator, whom we have honored here this morning.

I wish to thank for their support my CARICOM colleagues, the representatives and the observers in this Council, and the Chairman and members of the Committee on Administrative and Budgetary Affairs (CAAP); the staff of my Mission, many of whom are present here today—Eugene, Betty, Chet, Monique, Chanelle, for the work they do in this organization; and Cameron, Cecile, Colleen, Inga, Hetti, and Ryan, for supporting the work of the Mission to the OAS.

I want to recognize Ms. Sheila Carey, who is now back in The Bahamas, and Ms. Edda Adolph, who is present with us, for the valuable work and guidance they provided to me upon my arrival and stay in the Mission.

I do thank Mrs. Sears and our children, Khandra, Kirsti, Kharin, and Mikhail, who have accompanied me on this journey. Mrs. Sears has served in her own right as an active member of the Organization of Women of the Americas.

I should, of course, thank my colleagues from Argentina and Barbados for the security they provided me on my left and right. [Risas.]

Mr. Secretary General, Mr. Assistant Secretary General, I extend best wishes to you as you continue to lead this organization.

I will cherish the memories, the many General Assembly sessions, the art and cultural exhibitions, the concerts, the Food Festival of the Americas, where I was able to sample the goodies of the Americas, and the collegial attitude and atmosphere that exist among our colleagues.

You are custodians of the hope and dreams, and hope of the Americas. I wish you well. I thank for the honor you have bestowed upon me and my country.

Thank you. *Muchas gracias. Merci. Muito obrigado.*

[Aplausos.]

El PRESIDENTE: Ambassador Sears, thank you very much for your remarks today. I don't know whether they will be final remarks, but I note that you are at the end of your tenure here. I am very glad that you did not listen to my plea last week to keep interventions short and simple, because I enjoyed every line you used today in speaking to us. Thank you very much.

PALABRAS DE RECONOCIMIENTO AL REPRESENTANTE DEL PERÚ
CON MOTIVO DE SU ALEJAMIENTO DEL CONSEJO PERMANENTE

El PRESIDENTE: We are also saying farewell today to another distinguished member of this Council, our colleague and friend, His Excellency Ambassador Fernando de la Flor Arbulú, Permanent Representative of Peru to the Organization of American States.

Ambassador de la Flor has been in this organization for just one year, but he has been very active. He has represented his government with enthusiasm and great diplomatic skills. Because of his efforts, dedication, and leadership, the General Assembly adopted the Declaration on the Decade of the Americas for the Rights and Dignity of Persons with Disabilities.

Ambassador, it has been a pleasure working with you. We wish you all the best in your future endeavors.

I now offer the floor to delegations. The Representative of Chile, as Coordinator of the Latin American Integration Association (ALADI) group of delegations, has the floor.

El REPRESENTANTE PERMANENTE DE CHILE: Muchas gracias, señor Presidente.

Como Coordinador del grupo ALADI, tengo el alto honor de despedir a un miembro de nuestro grupo, al Representante Permanente del Perú.

El Embajador de la Flor, distinguido jurista, ha contribuido de manera sustantiva a la preparación de numerosas iniciativas vinculadas al fortalecimiento de la Carta Democrática, a la promoción y protección de los derechos humanos, y a la discapacidad, como usted lo acaba de mencionar, tema este último imperativo en la búsqueda de sociedades más inclusivas.

Su disposición cooperativa y su experiencia son un testimonio más del compromiso del Perú con un sistema interamericano eficaz, operativo, un sistema que esté, en definitiva, presente en la vida diaria de los pueblos de las Américas.

Querido Embajador, le deseamos que el futuro les depare a usted y a su familia los éxitos que merece. Y confiamos en que usted seguirá contribuyendo al bienestar de su pueblo y al fortalecimiento de las instituciones de nuestra región.

De manera muy personal, le agradezco su amistad y cooperación. El mejor de los éxitos y que Dios lo bendiga.

El PRESIDENTE: Thank you, Mr. Ambassador. I give the floor to the Ambassador of Costa Rica in his capacity as Coordinator of the Central American Group (GRUCA).

El REPRESENTANTE PERMANENTE DE COSTA RICA: Gracias, señor Presidente.

Como Representante de Costa Rica y de los países miembros del Grupo Centroamericano (GRUCA), nos unimos a las palabras de despedida del Representante Permanente del Perú, Embajador de la Flor, quien ha dejado su huella en este Consejo por su sabiduría, su energía y su excelente trabajo en favor de la Organización de los Estados Americanos y del Consejo Permanente y sus órganos.

Lamentamos que la presencia del Embajador de la Flor como Representante Permanente del Perú haya sido corta en este Consejo. Estamos seguros de que por sus dotes personales y de gran jurista pronto lo volveremos a ver en algún destino o bien en algún ámbito de nuestro hemisferio.

Muchas gracias, Embajador de la Flor. Buena suerte para usted y su familia.

Gracias, Presidente.

El PRESIDENTE: Thank you, Mr. Ambassador. I give the floor now to Ambassador John Maisto, Permanent Representative of the United States.

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

Mr. Chairman, Ambassador Fernando de la Flor is leaving us. It seems like just yesterday that he arrived. Of course, he is leaving us in response to Peru's democratic process that he has represented so ably here.

Fernando de la Flor follows in the tradition of the Peruvian diplomats who preceded him. He is a true believer in representative democracy. He has spoken, acted, and worked eloquently and ardently against corruption in public life and in support of the basics of the representative democratic system and our democratic institutions. Of course, he is a genuine spokesman for human rights, and in this organization he has spoken very eloquently, very notably in defense of the principle of nonintervention during the recent democratic elections in Peru.

Our Peruvian colleagues are veterans of what the Inter-American Democratic Charter is all about because they have lived it in their professional lives, in their public lives, and in their personal lives. In Fernando de la Flor, as in his predecessors, we have seen a carrying out of the principles of the Inter-American Democratic Charter, and particularly in Ambassador de la Flor, we have a professional who understands the breadth and the reach and the depth of the Inter-American Democratic Charter as perhaps only a Peruvian can, in a very personal way.

Ambassador Fernando de la Flor represents the departing administration of President Alejandro Toledo, which, I would venture to say, history is going to look upon very, very well.

He is a good friend, good diplomat, strong democrat, very much an intellectual who thoroughly enjoys interchanges, because Fernando de la Flor is a good lawyer who can really get into the international legal underpinnings, but he does not get all tangled up in that web. He makes sure that representative democracy and true democratic institutions are his guiding light. We will miss that here, because even though it has been only one year, it has been a year of significant contribution.

Thank you, Ambassador de la Flor, and good fortune! You, too, will continue to be a success in whatever undertaking you pursue.

Thank you.

El PRESIDENTE: Thank you. I give the floor now to the Permanent Representative of Saint Kitts and Nevis in his capacity as Coordinator of the Caribbean Community (CARICOM) group of delegations.

El REPRESENTANTE PERMANENTE DE SAINT KITTS Y NEVIS: Thank you, Chair.

Chair, the Caribbean Community (CARICOM) joins in bidding farewell to Ambassador de la Flor, who has represented his country, in our estimation, with dignity and distinction, pursuing a quiet diplomacy, the quality of representation that we have come to expect of Peru. Ten months ago, he succeeded the inimitable Alberto Borea Odría, whose spirited and lively interventions we got to know very well. His is an easier manner, but sound and equally effective.

Very evident in his representation within this Council is his interest in strengthening the democratic processes of this hemisphere generally and of his country in particular. His knowledge of the law has come to the benefit of this Council in many instances. He has done much to strengthen the Inter-American Democratic Charter and all that it stands for.

Ambassador de la Flor is a lawyer by training and he has fought boldly for the restoration of democracy in his country. In recent times, he has been Chief of Staff and a key advisor to President Toledo.

Chair, for most of us, September 11, 2001, has come to represent a pivot. The world has not been what it was before 9/11, nor will it ever be. Peru continues to be highly symbolic. It was in Lima, Peru, that on September 11, 2001, the foreign ministers of this hemisphere met and signed the Inter-American Democratic Charter, so in that regard, Peru and its struggles with democracy and its pursuit of the democratic ideals of the Hemisphere will be very symbolic to us at all times. Ambassador de la Flor, being an integral part of that process, will come to represent a part of that struggle and that symbolization.

CARICOM certainly wishes him all the very best. He has done much work with the Organization of American States in the 10 months that he has been here. He participated in very important initiatives, not least among which were initiatives regarding persons with disabilities, good

governance, and human rights, and we wish him all the very best. Thank you for your contribution to our deliberations.

El PRESIDENTE: Thank you, Ambassador Williams. I give the floor now to the Representative of Canada.

La REPRESENTANTE ALTERNA DEL CANADÁ: Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

The Delegation of Canada would like to take this opportunity to join in bidding a fond farewell to Ambassador de la Flor and to recall some of his achievements during his time at the Organization of American States.

In his short time as Permanent Representative, Ambassador de la Flor has exemplified Peru's tradition of maintaining a very active and committed presence in the Organization. Under his leadership, the Peruvian Delegation has continued to demonstrate a serious commitment to issues of the utmost importance. Of these, the first that come to mind are democracy; human rights; the rights of indigenous peoples; multidimensional security; and the fight against corruption, drugs, and terrorism. In all of these areas, Ambassador de la Flor has served his country very well. His commitment to the key issues of the Organization, his enthusiasm for a meaningful dialogue, and his lively presence will all be missed.

Ambassador, as you move on to new challenges and opportunities, Canada would like to thank you for your contribution to the Organization, and we wish you and your family the very best in your future endeavors.

Thank you.

El PRESIDENTE: Thank you. The final request for the floor that I see on my monitor is from the Assistant Secretary General, Ambassador Ramdin.

El SECRETARIO GENERAL ADJUNTO: Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Distinguished Ambassador de la Flor, it's a privilege, on behalf of Secretary General José Miguel Insulza and on my own behalf, to join members of this body in expressing our best wishes to you and to your family as you move on to other duties in your home country.

During your term in office, however short, you have made an indelible impression on your colleagues within this body. You have served with passion, distinction, and dedication, but also with firm adherence to your principles and by solidly promoting the aspirations of the peoples of the Americas. You have done so in a very short timeframe, but also during a very important period in the history of your country, and we thank you for that.

We especially want to thank you for your support in coordinating activities that facilitated the work of the Electoral Observer Mission (EOM) of the Organization of American States in Peru. That support was very relevant and important for us in promoting peace and democracy in your country.

For this and all the other contributions you have made to this organization, we salute you, and we wish you the very best.

Thank you very much.

El PRESIDENTE: Thank you. The Ambassador of Peru has the floor.

El REPRESENTANTE PERMANENTE DEL PERÚ: Señor Presidente, tenga la plena seguridad de que no me voy olvidar de la OEA. Exactamente en el día de mi despedida, participo en la sesión más extensa. Voy a ser absolutamente breve.

Quiero dar la bienvenida a la Embajadora del Uruguay. Ella llega y junto con mi colega Sears, nosotros nos vamos. Y eso simplemente es la renovación de la institución.

Voy a ser, señor Presidente, como ha sido mi paso por la OEA, breve. Intentaré ser intenso, como siento que también ha sido mi estadía en esta Organización.

El Presidente Alejandro Toledo tuvo a bien encargarme representar al Perú en la última etapa de su Gobierno, principalmente para colaborar en el testimonio que se determinó hacer ante el Hemisferio acerca de la firme decisión de realizar en el Perú elecciones limpias y transparentes y entregar el mando supremo de la República a quien los peruanos libremente eligiesen. Ese objetivo, señor Presidente, se ha sido cumplido. Por ello, me siento satisfecho. Para ese propósito, sin embargo, es de justicia reconocer el decidido apoyo recibido de la OEA.

Permítame, señor Presidente, siempre dentro de la brevedad que voy a cumplir de manera escrupulosa, hacer breves comentarios adicionales.

La agenda interamericana tiene objetivos muy claros y dentro de ellos quisiera destacar dos: la promoción y consolidación democrática y la defensa de los derechos humanos.

El sistema democrático debe ser una preocupación constante de nuestra región. La Carta Democrática Interamericana es ciertamente un gran avance. Constituye una suerte de hoja de ruta. Para mantener su vigencia es menester, sin embargo, asegurarse de que la democracia sea, en efecto, un derecho de los pueblos y un deber de los gobiernos, como, por lo demás, lo ordena la propia Carta.

La protección de los derechos humanos es una característica distintiva del sistema interamericano a nivel mundial. Ha habido, sin duda, grandes avances, en su concepción y en mejorar los mecanismos para que nuestros pueblos crean en el sistema y accedan a él con verosimilitud. La OEA ha ganado, con justicia, una enorme legitimidad en la defensa de los derechos humanos en el Hemisferio. No hay que ceder en ese empeño.

Señor Presidente, cuando asumí mis funciones ante este Consejo Permanente, me permití hacer referencia a algunas reflexiones de dos notables escritores de nuestra región: el colombiano universal, Gabriel García Márquez, y el mexicano siempre vigente, Octavio Paz. Y lo hice para terminar señalando que en nuestra América los novelistas son nuestros genuinos historiadores.

Quiero aprovechar esta oportunidad de mi paso por la OEA para ratificarme en dicha apreciación. En nuestra América, los novelistas son nuestros historiadores.

Ahora, cuando me toca despedirme, en medio de la difícil situación mundial, quisiera traer a colación a otro literato, esta vez al Premio Nobel ruso, Joseph Brodsky, quien en su discurso de aceptación dijo:

Solo voy a decir que creo que para alguien que ha leído mucho a Dickens, dispararle a otro ser humano en nombre de una idea es más difícil que para quien no lo ha leído. Y estoy hablando precisamente de leer a Dickens, a Stendhal, Dostoyevsky, Flaubert, Proust y otros. Una persona letrada, educada, sin duda es totalmente capaz, después de tal o cual disertación o planteamiento político, de matar a un igual, e incluso de experimentar, al hacerlo, un raptó de convicción. Lenin era letrado. Stalin era letrado, también lo eran Hitler y Mao Tse-tung, quien incluso escribió versos. Lo que todos ellos tenían en común, sin embargo, era que su lista de poderosos era más larga que su lista de lecturas.

Señor Presidente, concluyo reiterando mi aprecio por cada uno de los Representantes sentados alrededor de esta mesa, agradeciendo la colaboración que siempre nos dispensó la administración de la OEA, así como todos los funcionarios de la Misión del Perú, y estando aquí presentes mi esposa Pilar y mi hija Alejandra –mi hijo Fernando ya está de regreso en Lima– aprovecho para decirles públicamente gracias también, ya que sin duda ninguna valió la pena esta notable experiencia.

Muchas gracias.

[Aplausos.]

El PRESIDENTE: Thank you, Ambassador de la Flor, for your final remarks. I apologize once again for not seeing your request for the floor. I am just a driver of this vehicle, so you should alert me if you want to make a contribution. Thank you.

There being no other matters to discuss, after nearly five hours, this meeting of the Permanent Council stands adjourned.

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