

CONSEJO PERMANENTE



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ACTA  
DE LA SESIÓN ORDINARIA  
CELEBRADA  
EL 11 DE OCTUBRE DE 2006

Aprobada en la sesión del 21 de abril de 2009

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DOCUMENTO CONSIDERADO EN LA SESIÓN  
(SE PUBLICA POR SEPARADO)

CP/doc.4147/06, Candidatura para vacante en el Comité Jurídico Interamericano – Venezuela

CONSEJO PERMANENTE DE LA ORGANIZACIÓN DE LOS ESTADOS AMERICANOS

ACTA DE LA SESIÓN ORDINARIA  
CELEBRADA EL 11 DE OCTUBRE DE 2006

En la ciudad de Washington, a las diez y veinte de la mañana del miércoles 11 de octubre de 2006, celebró sesión ordinaria el Consejo Permanente de la Organización de los Estados Americanos. Presidió la sesión la Embajadora Marina Valère, Representante Permanente de Trinidad y Tobago y Presidenta del Consejo Permanente. Asistieron los siguientes miembros:

Embajadora Sonia Merlyn Johnny, Representante Permanente de Santa Lucía y Vicepresidenta del Consejo Permanente  
Embajador Ellsworth I. A. John, Representante Permanente de San Vicente y las Granadinas  
Embajador Henry Lothar Illes, Representante Permanente de Suriname  
Embajador Francisco Villagrán de León, Representante Permanente de Guatemala  
Embajadora Deborah-Mae Lovell, Representante Permanente de Antigua y Barbuda  
Embajador Aristides Royo, Representante Permanente de Panamá  
Embajador Duly Brutus, Representante Permanente de Haití  
Embajador Manuel María Cáceres Cardozo, Representante Permanente del Paraguay  
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 Alejandro García-Moreno Elizondo, Representante Permanente de México  
Embajador Pedro Oyarce, Representante Permanente de Chile  
Embajador Carlos Sosa Coello, Representante Permanente de Honduras  
Embajadora María del Luján Flores, Representante Permanente del Uruguay  
Embajador Camilo Alfonso Ospina, Representante Permanente de Colombia  
Embajador Graeme C. Clark, Representante Permanente del Canadá  
Primer Secretario Eugene F. Torchon-Newry, Representante Interino del Commonwealth de las Bahamas  
Embajador Nelson Pineda Prada, Representante Interino de Venezuela  
Segundo Secretario Marco Antonio Valverde Carrasco, Representante Interino de Bolivia  
Embajador Luis Menéndez-Castro, Representante Interino de El Salvador  
Consejera Jasmine E. Huggins, Representante Alterna de Saint Kitts y Nevis  
Primera Secretaria Deborah Yaw, Representante Alterna de Guyana  
Consejero Mackisack Logie, Representante Alterno de Trinidad y Tobago  
Ministra Silvia María Meregá, Representante Alterna de la Argentina  
Consejera Patricia D. M. Clarke, Representante Alterna de Grenada  
Ministra Consejera Ana María Sánchez, Representante Alterno del Perú  
Consejero Hugh Neighbour, Representante Alterno de los Estados Unidos  
Primer Secretario Santiago Noboa, Representante Alterno del Ecuador  
Tercera Secretaria Judith Anne Rolle, Representante Alterna del Commonwealth de Dominica  
Ministra L. Ann Scott, Representante Alterna de Jamaica  
Primera Secretaria Tanya Musa, Representante Alterna de Belice

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

La PRESIDENTA: 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.1564/06.

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

1. Aprobación del proyecto de orden del día (CP/OD.1564/06)
2. Aprobación del acta de la sesión ordinaria del Consejo Permanente celebrada el 4 de abril de 2005 (CP/ACTA 1470/05)
3. Palabras del Secretario General Adjunto, Embajador Albert Ramdin, sobre los preparativos para el trigésimo séptimo período ordinario de sesiones de la Asamblea General
4. Elección de un miembro del Comité Jurídico Interamericano
  - Candidatura para vacante (CP/doc.4147/06)
5. Transmisión de la resolución AG/RES. 2247 (XXXVI-O/06), “Promoción de la cooperación hemisférica para el tratamiento de las pandillas relacionadas con actividades delictivas”
6. Transmisión de informes a las Comisiones pertinentes:
  - Informe del Perú de 2006 sobre el seguimiento de la Carta Democrática Interamericana, de conformidad con la resolución AG/RES. 1957 (XXXIII-O/03)
  - Informe Anual de la Inspector General correspondiente al período del 1 de enero al 31 de diciembre de 2005 (CP/doc.4149/06)
  - Informe de Actividades de la Oficina del Inspector General correspondiente al período del 1 de enero al 31 de diciembre de 2005 (CP/doc.4150/06)
  - Informe sobre el Estado de Ejecución Presupuestaria y Transferencias entre Capítulos del Programa-Presupuesto del Fondo Regular para 2006, así como el Estado de Ejecución Presupuestaria de los Fondos Específicos (por el período del 1 de enero al 30 de junio de 2006) (CP/doc.4152/06)
7. Otros asuntos.]

If there are no objections, the draft order of business is approved.

PALABRAS DE LA REPRESENTANTE DE TRINIDAD Y TOBAGO  
AL ASUMIR LA PRESIDENCIA DEL CONSEJO PERMANENTE

La PRESIDENTA: Your Excellency Ambassador Albert Ramdin, Assistant Secretary General; Your Excellency Sonia Johnny, Vice Chair of the Permanent Council; your excellencies, permanent, interim, and alternate representatives; your excellencies, permanent observers; directors and members of staff of the Secretariat; ladies and gentlemen:

I deem it a special honor to have been afforded this opportunity to preside over the deliberations of this august political forum during the fourth quarter of 2006. In accepting this solemn responsibility, I can rest assured of your support as we work assiduously as member states to advance the agenda of the Organization of American States in the interest of the Hemisphere as a whole.

My term as chairperson follows the chairmanship of His Excellency Henry Illes, Ambassador, Permanent Representative of the Republic of Suriname. As I did on October 2 when he passed the gavel to me, I take this opportunity today to formally congratulate him and his Vice Chair, Ambassador Ellsworth John of Saint Vincent and the Grenadines, for their professional conduct of the affairs of the Permanent Council during their tenure.

It is a pleasure for me, too, to share on yet another occasion the duty of chairing this Council with our current Vice Chair, Her Excellency Sonia Johnny, Permanent Representative of Saint Lucia. I served as Vice Chair when she chaired the Council at the start of the year.

Trinidad and Tobago assumes the chairmanship of the Council at the closing phase of an unbroken 18-month period in which Caribbean countries have served in this capacity. In this calendar year alone, we have had the privilege of welcoming three heads of government of the Caribbean Community (CARICOM) subregion at protocolary meetings of the Permanent Council: the former Prime Minister of Jamaica, the Most Honorable Percival Patterson; the then President-elect of Haiti, His Excellency René Preval; and my own head of government, the Honorable Patrick Manning, Prime Minister of the Republic of Trinidad and Tobago.

At the same time, my country has also taken up the mantle of chairmanship of the Summits of the Americas process. Trinidad and Tobago looks forward to working with you all and with other hemispheric partners and civil society representatives as we embark on the road toward the 2009 Summit and implement previous Summit decisions adopted by the General Assembly.

Distinguished ambassadors and representatives, there remains a singular goal underlying all our efforts as member states: improving the welfare and productivity of all the peoples of the Americas. Like charity, such efforts always begin at home, and in the spirit of mutual concern for our global neighborhood, we must repeatedly underscore our commitment to combine such efforts at the hemispheric level. In this context, I call upon us all to take another look at our measures to reduce and eradicate poverty and to address the concerns and special needs of women and children throughout our region.

Our hemispheric initiatives to promote health, environmental awareness and sustainable development, education and training, human rights, the strengthening of democratic institutions,

entrepreneurship, a knowledge-based society, and mutual respect for our shared and self-defining cultural heritage and traditions lie at the heart of our most earnest endeavors.

To help fight poverty, we must continue to support programs and projects that promote the livelihood of our citizenry. This means taking decisions to support national and multinational strategies for the creation of decent jobs for our people and to provide micro-, small-, and medium-sized businesses with the kind of financial backing that is necessary to make them thrive.

Initiatives must be encouraged to enable communities to access and utilize the inward flow of remittances more effectively and to ensure their own capacity building, thereby slowing the exodus of many members of poor working families from rural areas. This will help to halt the premature dispersal and disintegration of family units, which are so vital for building and maintaining strong communities.

We must also concentrate more keenly on initiatives to promote the training of teachers, doctors, nurses, and technicians, whose services are even more direly needed within the more inaccessible and economically challenged regions of the Hemisphere. Our special projects to educate not only our students, but to provide the most relevant and up-to-date training for our teachers, is an essential element in giving our citizens the competitive edge they must maintain globally in order to stand shoulder to shoulder with the rest of the world. As an organization, a renewed commitment to strengthening our scholarship program and other training opportunities will become all the more the *sine qua non* for our success in this century as we provide greater opportunities for our citizens at home, in particular for our youth. Violence and crime, sadly, seem to hold a greater attraction for many of our despondent youth in schools across our hemisphere in the absence of more wholesome pursuits.

In addressing the question of training, we must also recall our security needs and the ongoing work related to the less charismatic but equally important aspects of our democratic responsibilities. Efforts have been underway in the context of the Meeting of Ministers of Justice or of Ministers or Attorneys General of the Americas (REMJA) and other hemispheric fora to deal with anticorruption strategies, mutual legal assistance and extradition, the denial of safe haven to corrupt officials, and prison reform, to cite only a few areas of concern. More attention must also be paid to information exchange and training in these areas as part of a comprehensive framework for good governance.

Moreover, with the formal incorporation of the Inter-American Defense Board (IADB) into the family of OAS entities, we must make an extra effort to harness and augment the technical knowledge of our defense and protective forces, conjointly with our civilian institutions, to better assist with disaster mitigation, demining, and humanitarian challenges throughout the Hemisphere.

Additionally, at the thirty-sixth regular session of the General Assembly held last June in the Dominican Republic, our member states took special note of the seemingly inexorable march towards a knowledge-based society. In so doing, both the importance of constructing such a society and the inequity that currently exists between the haves and the have-nots within such a framework were highlighted. It is my hope that our efforts in this area will continue to make advances in technology and access to information more readily available to all our member states, within the framework of our respective national laws and mindful of the potential for abuse of information systems by criminally-minded individuals and others whose intentions fall far short of our global ideals.

Our challenges become even more pronounced in smaller, more vulnerable states whose economies are, at present, less able to diversify or keep up with the Jones's of the industrialized world. We should always bear this in mind in our deliberations on issues affecting member states.

I wish once again to make special reference to the important work of the General Secretariat in helping us to utilize our time more effectively and make our meetings all the more productive. In this regard, I wish to highlight the important function of all staff, including our interpreters and translators, who aid our communication with each other and upon whom we rely for the timely distribution of our documents. I also seek the continued cooperation of all delegations in the ongoing effort to commence our meetings promptly and to conduct them in as efficient a manner as possible.

Distinguished colleagues, ladies and gentlemen, I thank you.

#### BIENVENIDA AL NUEVO EMBAJADOR REPRESENTANTE DEL CANADÁ

La PRESIDENTA: Excellencies, permanent and alternate representatives, I would now like to welcome to the Permanent Council Ambassador Graeme Clark, Permanent Representative of Canada, who presented his credentials on September 11, 2006

Ambassador Clark has a bachelor's degree in English and history from the University of Toronto and studied modern languages at Merton College, Oxford.

Ambassador Clark has had an extensive career in government service. From 1993 to 1997, he was a member of the senior staff of the Prime Minister of Canada and was his legislative and departmental assistant. Ambassador Clark served as Ambassador of Canada to Peru and Bolivia from 1997 to 2001, providing direction on trade promotion and investment protection, political relations, and consular and administration programs.

From June 2000 to January 2001, Ambassador Clark played a key role in the democratic governance initiative of the Organization of American States in Peru and co-chaired a national dialogue table that brought together key political players and stakeholders from civil society, leading to the setting up of a transitional administration and the holding of free elections.

From 2002 to 2005, Ambassador Clark was Director of the Mexico Division of the North America Bureau of the Foreign Ministry of Canada. In 2006, he was nominated Director of the Media Relations Office.

Ambassador Clark, on behalf of this Council and on my own behalf, I congratulate you on your appointment as Permanent Representative of Canada to the OAS. I now give you the floor.

El REPRESENTANTE PERMANENTE DEL CANADÁ: Madam Chair, thank you very much for those comments. As I listened to you, I was wondering who you were speaking about, and then I realized that you were speaking about me. Thank you very much for those warm words of welcome.



Madam Chair, Secretary General José Miguel Insulza, Assistant Secretary General Albert Ramdin, distinguished permanent representatives and colleagues, distinguished representatives of the permanent observer states, ladies and gentlemen, mesdames et messieurs:

It is a great privilege for me to represent Canada in this premier political forum of the Americas, the forum where we come together to address issues of the utmost importance to our countries and our citizens.

As I make my first intervention in the Permanent Council, I would like to assure all of you that you have my full cooperation, as well as that of the Canadian Delegation. I look forward to working with all of you to advance our common objectives.

When Canada joined the Organization of American States 16 years ago, we did so because we believed that it was the most effective way for Canada to engage with the Hemisphere as a whole on issues of common concern. It is, after all, the only forum that brings together, on an ongoing basis, representatives of all of the democratic countries in the Americas. In that sense, our affectionate term for the OAS, "*la Casa de las Américas*," is entirely appropriate. Whether our perspectives are shared or differ, our countries continue to strive to find consensus on the issues that affect us. This is the unique advantage of the OAS and one of the reasons why Canada is so committed to working with this institution and our fellow member states to strengthen it and, by so doing, to strengthen our hemisphere.

It is difficult to encompass in a single address the myriad important issues encompassed by the OAS, but the Secretary General has laid out compellingly, I think, the major priorities and challenges before us: the promotion of democracy and human rights, multidimensional security, and integral development.

Señora Presidenta, hace poco más de un mes tuve el placer de participar en la sesión especial del Consejo Permanente sobre la implementación de la Carta Democrática Interamericana. Esa reunión nos dio la oportunidad de reflexionar acerca del camino recorrido hasta el momento y considerar modos de fortalecer la Carta y su aplicación en el futuro.

La Carta establece estándares a los que debemos aspirar para la realización de la democracia y una gobernabilidad responsable, lo que incluye no solo el respeto por los derechos humanos y las libertades fundamentales, sino también la transparencia en las actividades del gobierno, probidad y una administración pública responsable. Debemos ahora evaluar cómo hacemos honor a esos estándares, estimando de ese modo la vitalidad o debilidad de la democracia en la región.

Los últimos 18 meses han permitido ver la importancia de efectuar elecciones y el liderazgo de la OEA en la labor de observación electoral en el Hemisferio. No obstante, las elecciones, aunque son fundamentales para el proceso democrático, no son sino un aspecto de la democracia. Al mismo tiempo, es igualmente importante asegurar que las condiciones prevalecientes en torno de las elecciones, sobre todo antes de que se lleven a cabo, son propicias para procesos electorales libres, justos y transparentes. Una de las prioridades de Canadá es que la Organización tenga un rol mayor en la promoción de la democracia, más allá de las elecciones. Ello incluiría un papel más activo para la OEA en el fortalecimiento democrático, prevención de conflictos y apoyo a los países en crisis política o que estén saliendo de una crisis política.

Madame la Présidente, l'OEA a joué un rôle crucial en Haïti, et nous avons tout lieu d'en être fiers en qualité d'États membres. Le soutien de l'OEA au processus électoral haïtien et, tout particulièrement, à l'inscription des électeurs, a été déterminant dans le succès des élections. Toutefois, nous devons éviter les erreurs du passé et veiller à ce que Haïti continue de figurer en tête des priorités régionales. Aussi l'OEA et les États membres doivent-ils continuer à faire preuve de la même détermination et du même dynamisme dont nous avons été témoins récemment. Nous invitons l'OEA à aider le Gouvernement haïtien à créer des mécanismes durables, tels qu'un registre national, en mettant à profit les investissements consentis ces 18 derniers mois. À cet égard, je désire souligner la contribution importante apportée par le Canada à la mission spéciale de l'OEA en Haïti, et le très important programme bilatéral de coopération au développement poursuivi par le Canada dans ce pays.

Señora Presidenta, en el caso de Colombia, la OEA ha tenido, debemos reconocerlo, un papel importante en el apoyo al proceso de paz. Si bien algunos lo consideran arriesgado, la presencia de la OEA en Colombia ha sido un elemento constructivo en la búsqueda de una paz duradera. Por ese motivo, Canadá ha respaldado la Misión de Apoyo al Proceso de Paz en Colombia. Actualmente estamos estudiando qué recursos adicionales podríamos ofrecer para apoyar a la OEA y al Gobierno de Colombia en sus esfuerzos.

Madam Chair, recently in Guyana, the Organization demonstrated its effectiveness, under the able guidance of Assistant Secretary General Ramdin, in supporting national efforts to ensure fair, transparent, and inclusive electoral processes in the lead-up to the elections. Now, we must consider possibilities for sustained post-electoral support for Guyana, building on the success of the elections.

As member states, we should not hesitate to turn to the OAS for this expertise and support, recognizing that for the OAS to be most constructive in this role, it must have the resources and the lead time to ensure it can play a meaningful part and maximize its effectiveness.

The Organization can also play a valuable role in assisting member states work towards the peaceful resolution of territorial disputes. One example is the support that has been provided through the Fund for Peace and mechanisms, such as the Group of Friends, to support the efforts of Belize and Guatemala to find a lasting solution to their differences. We must remember that to be most effective, these efforts require the continued support of member states.

Along with the promotion of democracy and accountable governance, the protection and promotion of human rights and fundamental freedoms is a high priority for Canada. In this regard, I very much look forward to contributing to strengthening the functioning of the Inter-American Commission on Human Rights (IACHR).

I also look forward to continued work on indigenous issues. Canada has a long tradition of actively supporting and advancing the rights and well-being of indigenous peoples at home. The creation in 1999 of the Nunavut territory in Northern Canada, which is governed by its indigenous Inuit majority, is an example of this commitment. We intend to continue working internationally to promote the rights of indigenous peoples and supporting initiatives such as the Indigenous Peoples Partnership Program (IPPP), which encourages Canadian aboriginal peoples to form partnerships with other indigenous peoples in the Americas. Canada was also a principal supporter of the 2005 Indigenous Peoples Summit of the Americas, which has fostered hemispheric dialogue and cooperation among the indigenous peoples of our hemisphere.

Canada has been very actively engaged in the promotion and protection of both women's rights and gender equality in the Hemisphere, and we strongly support the role of the Inter-American Commission of Women (CIM) as the principal forum for generating hemispheric policy to promote gender equality and women's rights. We urge the CIM to maintain an active role, particularly in the follow-up to the Fourth Summit of the Americas. Together, we must continue to strive so that the work of the Organization brings equitable benefits to men and women of the Hemisphere.

Madam Chair, the abundance of threats to our collective security is a pressing concern for us all. These threats range from terrorism to transnational organized crime, drug trafficking, trafficking in persons, and health and environmental concerns. The multidimensional nature of these threats requires a multifaceted response. The OAS system provides us with a wealth of mechanisms and programming options to address these challenges. The Declaration on Security in the Americas provides the framework to guide our work; bodies like the Committee on Hemispheric Security (CSH), the Inter-American Committee against Terrorism (CICTE), and the Inter-American Drug Abuse Control Commission (CICAD) are the practical tools that we must use efficiently to combat threats to our security. The eventual Hemispheric Plan of Action against Transnational Organized Crime, the outcomes of the recent Seventh Conference of Ministers of Defense of the Americas in Managua, and the formal link between the OAS and the Inter-American Defense Board (IADB) will also provide us with new opportunities to enhance dialogue and cooperation on hemispheric security.

Canada is committed to ensuring that the OAS enhances its focus on, and support to, effective integral development programming. A priority for us is ensuring that our support to the OAS will enable it to more effectively channel development cooperation resources and technical expertise, in accordance with the mandates of the Summits of the Americas process. The ultimate goal is our shared objective and obligation: to reduce poverty and inequity in the Hemisphere and to achieve sustainable results. In this sense, I am particularly encouraged that the Canadian International Development Agency (CIDA) is finalizing an inter-American programming framework to focus support on key areas in governance, health, and working with civil society. We will make efforts to strengthen the Organization's capacity, and that of the other inter-American institutions, to collaborate more effectively in the planning, execution, and assessment of strong, relevant programs to address the Hemisphere's economic, political, and social development priorities.

It is in this same spirit of addressing the Hemisphere's priorities that Canada is committed to working with others in the drafting of a Social Charter of the Americas, which we view as an important tool to strengthen the OAS's work on democracy, integral development, and the fight against poverty, and it is a valuable guide for member states in advancing their own national efforts to address social issues.

While I have outlined some of the specific priorities for Canada at the OAS, I would like now to reflect on the process that brings all of these issues together at the highest levels, the Summit of the Americas. Canada, as a former Summit host, is committed to the process. We believe that what is needed is a Summit agenda balanced between the objectives of democracy, prosperity, and equity.

As the primary political forum of the Hemisphere, the OAS plays a key role in ensuring the effectiveness and success of the Summit of the Americas and in coordinating the actions of Summit partner institutions. It is vitally important to keep the Summit process on track by making constructive use of the Summit Implementation Review Group (SIRG) and the Joint Summit Working Group to advance the Summit's agenda and to monitor the implementation of existing

commitments. We must strive for coherence in the hemispheric agenda by ensuring that the SIRG process is linked to the agendas of ministerial meetings and closely coordinated with the inter-American institutions.

In this sense, I am very pleased to note that from November 13 to 15, Canada will host the Third Inter-American Meeting of Ministers of Culture and Highest Appropriate Authorities in Montreal. The central themes of this meeting will reflect priorities expressed by our leaders at the Fourth Summit of the Americas in Mar del Plata concerning the preservation and protection of national heritage, culture and the enhancement of dignity and identity, culture and the creation of decent jobs to overcome poverty, and culture and the role of indigenous peoples.

Señora Presidenta, la lista de actividades y cuestiones prioritarias que acabo de mencionar es larga y representa un desafío. No obstante, creo que tenemos razones para ser optimistas. Esta Organización tiene puntos fuertes y ventajas, algunas que le son únicas. Los conocimientos especializados de la OEA en misiones electorales en varias de las cuales he tenido el honor de participar; su participación en la prevención y resolución de crisis en Estados Miembros; su impresionante conjunto de mecanismos para luchar contra la corrupción, el terrorismo y otros problemas; y su Plan Estratégico de Colaboración para el Desarrollo Integral demuestran la capacidad de la Organización para lograr un cambio positivo en el hemisferio.

Eso no quiere decir que debemos volvernos autocomplacientes. Debemos asegurar que la Organización tiene los recursos e instrumentos necesarios para llevar a cabo las tareas que tiene entre manos. Para ello, se requiere un liderazgo fuerte y eficaz, centrado en mejorar la eficiencia, la transparencia y la coordinación general de las políticas. En ese sentido, Canadá apoya la visión y el compromiso del Secretario General Insulza.

La Organización requiere enfoques innovadores para maximizar sus activos y los recursos humanos tanto como financieros adecuados para abocar su ambiciosa agenda. Debemos buscar constantemente modos que nos permitan que la OEA sea más eficaz y eficiente; promover mayor responsabilidad, transparencia, probidad y responsabilidad presupuestaria; trabajar con la sociedad civil; lograr una consolidación del proceso de reestructuración iniciado por el Secretario General; y un compromiso de los Estados Miembros para que eventos como la Asamblea General sean más eficientes. Sobre todo, debemos tener presente que el éxito de la Organización depende directamente de lo que nosotros, los Estados Miembros, hagamos para lograrlo. Se requiere la voluntad política de todos sus miembros para que tenga el máximo de eficacia.

Madam Chair, Canada believes in the Organization of American States as a powerful tool to work for the Hemisphere that we all want—one in which democracy, prosperity, and equity are realities. I reiterate my commitment to working with the Secretary General, all of the permanent representatives, and the permanent observers to meet these shared objectives.

As a final word, in addition to what you mentioned, Madam Chair, I would like to thank the interpreters for their patience. I was told that the last time I spoke, I spoke too quickly, and I have tried to pace myself to help the work of our interpreters.

Muchísimas gracias, merci beaucoup, muito obrigado.

La PRESIDENTA: Ambassador Clark, I, too, wish to thank you very much for your remarks. You will recall that my predecessor welcomed you informally at a previous meeting of the Council, and I am pleased to have the opportunity to do so formally at this meeting.

On behalf of this Council and on my own behalf, I congratulate you on your appointment as permanent representative, and I am confident that your experience and knowledge of the inter-American system, as evidenced by your remarks, will enrich the dialogue in this chamber.

ENTREGA DE UN MALLETE AL REPRESENTANTE DE SURINAME,  
PRESIDENTE SALIENTE DEL CONSEJO PERMANENTE

La PRESIDENTA: I now have the special honor of presenting the commemorative gavel to our colleague and friend, Ambassador Henry Illes, Permanent Representative of Suriname, who chaired the Permanent Council for the last three months. I am sure that I speak for all the members of this Council in recognizing Ambassador Illes's dedication throughout his tenure as Chair.

It is my pleasure, Ambassador Illes, to invite you to approach the head table to receive this gavel as a token of our recognition for your outstanding job as Chair of the Council.

[La Presidenta del Consejo hace llegar un mallete al Representante de Suriname.]

[Aplausos.]

PALABRAS DEL REPRESENTANTE DE SURINAME AL LLEGAR AL  
TÉRMINO DE SU MANDATO COMO PRESIDENTE DEL CONSEJO

La PRESIDENTA: Ambassador Illes, you have the floor.

El REPRESENTANTE PERMANENTE DE SURINAME: Thank you, Madam Chair, for the gavel.

Madam Chair; Secretary General, don José Miguel Insulza; Assistant Secretary General Ambassador Albert Ramdin; distinguished representatives, ladies and gentlemen:

It has been a great honor for Suriname and for me, as Permanent Representative of Suriname to the Organization of American States, to chair the Council over the past three months.

When I assumed the Chair, I was told that the summer months are usually slow and the number of activities is reduced. That was not the case. We have had a number of regular and special meetings of the Permanent Council. A few weeks ago, the Permanent Council was pleased to host such a special meeting with the Inter-American Institute for Cooperation on Agriculture (IICA).

I also had the honor to chair a special meeting commemorating the fifth anniversary of the adoption by the General Assembly in Lima, Peru, of resolution AG/RES. 1 (XXVIII-E/01), which established the Inter-American Democratic Charter.

Over the past three months, our discussions have covered a wide range of issues, such as elections, reports from electoral observation missions, and rural poverty reduction.

But friends, the one concern that I have noted since my arrival at the OAS five years ago, is the backlog of minutes of meetings of the Permanent Council, which are usually two years behind. As Chair, I used the opportunity to look into this matter, and I recognized that if this body is to receive minutes of its meetings in a timely manner, some resources will have to be allocated to beef up the staff in this area that provides support to the Council. Having voiced this concern, I will leave this matter for those who follow me.

On October 2, I passed the chairmanship of the Council to my dear friend and colleague from Trinidad and Tobago, Ambassador Marina Valère. I am confident that she will receive the same support that you have given me.

Let me take the opportunity to thank the regional coordinators for their advice and support at various meetings that I had with them. These consultations were essential in helping to move forward the agenda of the Council and the member states.

Let me also thank the Assistant Secretary General, Ambassador Ramdin, who is the Secretary to the Permanent Council, and his team for their support and for being available whenever I required their input or advice. I also wish to say a special thank you to Ms. Sherry Tross, Chief of Staff of the Assistant Secretary General; Reinaldo Rodríguez; Inés Larroque; and Gillian Bristol. All of these individuals were only a phone call away at any time. My sincere thanks to you all.

The past three months have been a pleasure and, for me, a rewarding learning process. Thank you, Madam. Thank you all. Merci beaucoup, muchas gracias, muito obrigado.

[Aplausos.]

La PRESIDENTA: Thank you, Ambassador Illes.

#### APROBACIÓN DE ACTA

La PRESIDENTA: We now move on to the next item on the order of business, the approval of the minutes of the special meeting of the Permanent Council held on April 4, 2005, CP/ACTA 1470/05. The changes suggested by delegations have been duly incorporated into the minutes. There being no further proposed changes, the minutes are approved. Approved.

#### PALABRAS DEL SECRETARIO GENERAL ADJUNTO SOBRE LOS PREPARATIVOS PARA EL TRIGÉSIMO SÉPTIMO PERÍODO ORDINARIO DE SESIONES DE LA ASAMBLEA GENERAL

La PRESIDENTA: The next item on our order of business is the remarks by the Assistant Secretary General on preparations for the thirty-seventh regular session of the General Assembly. Ambassador Ramdin, you have the floor, sir.

El SECRETARIO GENERAL ADJUNTO: Thank you very much, Madam Chair.

Secretary General Insulza, distinguished permanent and alternate representatives, distinguished permanent observers, ladies and gentlemen:

You may recall that at the close of the thirty-sixth regular session of the General Assembly, I made a brief presentation to the Permanent Council in which I promised to keep this body apprised of the planning leading up to the thirty-seventh regular session of the General Assembly which, as you know, the Government of Panama has graciously offered to host.

No doubt the General Assembly provides an important opportunity for foreign ministers to meet each year to make decisions and establish mandates that will govern the activities of the General Secretariat of the Organization of American States and impact the lives of the people of the Hemisphere. However, I wish to emphasize that the outcome of the General Assembly session is affected by the process leading up to the session, including policy negotiations and decision-making by the political body, coordination with the host government, and logistical preparations by the Secretariat.

In my view, and based on the observations I have received verbally from many delegations and on attendance at the General Assembly session, there is room for improvement in the planning and implementation of sessions of the General Assembly in order to execute activities more efficiently, optimize the time allocated to dialogues, and expand public outreach.

The General Assembly provides a unique opportunity each year for foreign ministers of the Hemisphere to jointly examine the political realities of the Americas, as well as emerging challenges and opportunities. Permanent observers utilize this forum to engage with member states, and the General Assembly also provides an important opportunity for dialogue with civil society and the private sector. As such, I believe that it is incumbent upon the Secretariat to the General Assembly, Meeting of Consultation, and the Permanent Council to work with member states to ensure the continuous improvement of General Assembly sessions.

With this in mind, our review of the most recent General Assembly session supports an approach that focuses on:

- planning ahead, including early and consistent engagement with the host government;
- coordination of activities related to the General Assembly that may be planned by substantive areas of the General Secretariat along with the Secretariat to the General Assembly;
- use of technology to achieve greater time savings, accuracy, and cost-efficiency;
- adherence to the approved work plan of the permanent committees; and
- timely submission of reports to meet the required deadline of 90 days before the start of the General Assembly. According to Article 35.a of the Rules of Procedure of the Permanent Council:

The annual and special reports to be presented by the organs, agencies, and entities of the Organization in compliance with Article 91.f of the Charter shall be delivered to the Permanent Council through the Secretary General at least 90 days before the opening of each regular session of the General Assembly.

We need also to encourage the timely submission of new resolutions by member states to allow enough time for consultation and negotiations. In so doing, we would be facilitating the work of the General Committee during the General Assembly session in order to arrive at adopted resolutions.

In this regard, the Chair of the Permanent Council has indicated that the Preparatory Committee of the General Assembly will hold its first meeting on October 25. At that meeting, the Preparatory Committee will install its two subcommittees, the Subcommittee on Agenda and Procedure and the Subcommittee on Administrative and Budgetary Matters.

I wish to acknowledge and thank the chairs of the permanent committees and working groups of the Permanent Council, who, I note, have been meeting frequently, for their commitment to moving forward the agendas of the committees and acting on the mandates from the last General Assembly session.

The Chair of the Permanent Council has also convened a brief meeting tomorrow for chairs and vice chairs of the permanent committees and working groups in an effort to enhance coordination among the various committees, as well as between the committees and the support areas of the Secretariat. In this way, we hope to facilitate the more efficient functioning of the preparatory process leading up to the General Assembly session.

Today, you will receive a compact disk of the thirty-sixth regular session of the General Assembly, which will include all the documents, speeches, photos, and videos related to this event.

Distinguished representatives, later this month the General Secretariat and the Government of the Republic of Panama, host of the thirty-seventh regular session of the General Assembly, will hold a series of preparatory meetings as a first step in the early planning for that General Assembly session. The OAS official mission will address five main areas of *in situ* planning in preparation for the session.

First, the OAS mission will visit several of the proposed facilities for the General Assembly session and other related activities. These on-site visits will provide an opportunity to establish, in conjunction with the host country, the technical and practical requirements for the General Assembly session and the deliberations of the ministers of foreign affairs.

Second, team members will hold meetings with government officials, as well as providers of on-site services, with respect to the operative aspects of the Assembly and the relationship between all its components.

Third, preliminary meetings will be held regarding protocol, security, information technology, press and communication, lodging and transportation services, and other needs for the holding of the General Assembly session. These conversations will create the basis for more detailed planning and for preparation of the agreement to be signed between the Government of Panama and



the General Secretariat. We plan to hold several meetings on developing the most effective and efficient format for the session.

Fourth, we will use the opportunity to consult with the Government of Panama and agree on timelines for the various stages of planning and implementation of the Assembly session. I wish to extend my thanks to Ambassador Royo, who has met with us on several occasions in the past weeks and has demonstrated, along with his permanent mission, a desire to be a full partner in the preparations for the Assembly session. I thank him for facilitating the advance work in Panama and for agreeing to accompany the OAS team on its first site visit later this month.

Finally, Madam Chair, my office has received a number of recommendations and suggestions since the last regular session of the General Assembly, and they are all being duly considered. We welcome this feedback, and I look forward to continuing this dialogue with member states as we prepare for the thirty-seventh regular session of the General Assembly.

I thank you.

La PRESIDENTA: Thank you, Ambassador Ramdin. I now give the floor to Ambassador Aristides Royo, Permanent Representative of Panama.

El REPRESENTANTE PERMANENTE DE PANAMÁ: Muchas gracias, señora Presidenta.

En primer lugar, quisiera decir que la explicación que ha dado aquí nuestro Secretario General Adjunto ha sido bastante completa y muy informativa. Es poco lo que yo podría agregar.

Simplemente, decir que fuimos testigos del éxito en República Dominicana. No tenemos grandes esperanzas de mejorarlo pero trataremos de ponernos en las huellas de lo que ellos hicieron con su gran organización y su impresionante hospitalidad. Vamos a cometer errores, habrá omisiones, habrá algunos descuidos, pero nosotros confiamos realmente en que la Secretaría General, con ese equipo que tiene una gran experiencia en la organización de Asambleas Generales, nos pueda conducir y ayudar para que todo salga bien.

Como ha anunciado el Embajador Ramdin, el día 25 se celebrará una reunión y pronto la Comisión Preparatoria comenzará a organizar las cosas. Nosotros tenemos mucha ilusión en un tema, aunque yo sé que su selección será responsabilidad de la Comisión Preparatoria. Nos interesa mucho el tema de “energía para el desarrollo”, el cual aspiramos a que sea aprobado y que pueda ser llevado como tema principal de la declaración de Panamá del 2007.

Para estos efectos, ya estamos comenzando a trabajar en una especie de esqueleto de lo que podría ser la declaración; queremos avanzar en esta tarea de manera muy temprana, para que no haya afanes de última hora. Tan temprano como el 15 de enero quisiéramos poder lograr que todos ustedes tengan ese borrador de borradores para la declaración del próximo año en Panamá.

También quiero darle las gracias al Embajador Ramdin y a su equipo por todo que lo han hecho. No sé si ustedes están enterados pero hoy en la mañana firmamos otro acuerdo. El Embajador Ramdin cuando vaya a Panamá, dirigiendo la Comisión Preparatoria de la Asamblea General, se convierte en otra persona a partir del viernes próximo, porque presidirá la delegación de la OEA para el referéndum que tendrá lugar el 22 de octubre próximo.

No puedo dejar de aprovechar esta oportunidad para darle la bienvenida al Embajador Graeme Clark y hacerle una confesión. Hace muchos años, cuando yo era joven, veía a Canadá como el H2O; me parecía un país insípido, incoloro e inodoro. Créame, Embajador, que he cambiado esa opinión, primero desde que Canadá ingresó a la OEA. Pero la he cambiado también gracias a sus diplomáticos, a toda la participación impresionante que ustedes han tenido en las actividades de esta Organización. Especialmente a lo que ustedes han desarrollado y siguen desempeñando y lo que significan para la OEA. Hoy son un país muy antiguo y lamento haber tenido esa equivocación durante muchos años.

Muchas gracias.

La PRESIDENTA: Thank you, Ambassador. The Chair proposes that the Council take note of the information presented by the Assistant Secretary General, as well as the remarks made by Ambassador Royo. It is so agreed.

#### BIENVENIDA AL NUEVO EMBAJADOR REPRESENTANTE DE HONDURAS

La PRESIDENTA: Permanent and alternate representatives, I wish to ask us to pause in our deliberations on the items on our order of business in order to welcome to the Permanent Council Ambassador Carlos Alejandro Sosa Coello, Permanent Representative of Honduras.

Ambassador Sosa Coello, who is a medical doctor and psychiatrist, presented his credentials to the Organization of American States on May 31, 2006. He pursued his studies at universities in Argentina, Mexico, and Honduras. He served as director of the Italian Hospital in Argentina and was president of the Honduran Association of Psychiatry.

Besides his work in the medical field, Ambassador Sosa Coello was a representative in the National Congress of Honduras, and he was his country's Ambassador Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary to Venezuela from 1998 to 2002. For several years he was the representative of Honduras on the Inter-American Drug Abuse Control Commission (CICAD), and he eventually served as Vice President of CICAD. He received the order of Francisco de Miranda from Venezuela in 2005. Ambassador Sosa Coello was a presidential candidate in the 2005 elections in Honduras.

Ambassador, on behalf of this Council and on my own behalf, I congratulate you on your appointment as Permanent Representative of Honduras to the OAS. I now give you the floor, sir.

El REPRESENTANTE PERMANENTE DE HONDURAS: Muchas gracias.

Señora Presidenta del Consejo Permanente; señor Secretario General; señor Secretario General Adjunto; señores Representantes Permanentes y Alternos; señores Observadores Permanentes; señores invitados especiales:

Mi llegada a esta ciudad coincidió con dos acontecimientos que tienen alguna importancia, alguna trascendencia histórica que no puedo dejar de mencionar.

El 11 de septiembre se cumplió el quinto aniversario de una horrorosa tragedia que conmovió a toda humanidad y, en particular, a nuestro hemisferio, con pérdidas de centenares de valiosas vidas

y la reiteración de un peligroso fundamentalismo, que nos lleva a determinadas conductas. Honduras condena enérgicamente todos los terrorismos y los fundamentalismos que preceden a los terrorismos. Sobre esto queremos abundar.

Siempre hemos sido respetuosos de las ideologías, de la alteridad, es decir, de la condición de otro que tiene el otro. Pero nos preocupan mucho los estandartes, señores delegados, porque con frecuencia cuando se eleva un estandarte, o una bandera, con demasiado entusiasmo, y se empieza a hablar un lenguaje hiperbólico en el sentido peyorativo acerca de nuestro adversario, que es nuestro prójimo, es posible, como alguien dijo, que detrás de cada estandarte levantado haya un fusil apuntándonos a nosotros, a nuestros hijos, a nuestras familias.

Es por eso que no nos limitamos a condenar los actos terroristas, sean hechos a pie o en avión. Eso es el medio, nada más, no es el fondo del propósito de obtener ventajas y decisiones políticas a través de aterrorizar, de atemorizar a personas no beligerantes, a seres inocentes. Y eso es obligar a adoptar decisiones a Estados enteros, a naciones enteras, a través del temor.

Quizás la primera referencia que tengamos de eso sea la muerte de los primogénitos de todos los egipcios que está inscrita en el Libro del Éxodo de la Sagrada Biblia. Quizás debemos combatir ese espíritu de obligar a tomar decisiones a través del temor. Creo que donde lo debemos combatir es en el campo donde somos más exitosos; donde somos más eficaces y eficientes es el campo de nuestra propia cabeza, de nuestra propia ideología, en nosotros mismos. De ahí que el combate contra el terrorismo no se limite a medidas de carácter de seguridad o la construcción de medidas puramente en el campo de lo material. La conducta y los actos humanos son productos del pensamiento, fundamentalmente, que en determinado momento puede condicionar la conducta. Es contra ese pensamiento que quizás debamos enderezar nuestros esfuerzos contra el terrorismo.

También hace cinco años, los Estados Miembros democráticos de la Organización llegamos a la culminación de un proceso que selló nuestro compromiso para alejarnos del autoritarismo, de los conflictos internos, de las amenazas a la paz, de la falta de desarrollo, para dar vida a la Carta Democrática Interamericana que ordena, de manera integral y coherente, los elementos que definen la organización democrática, los instrumentos hemisféricos que puedan ser usados para su defensa y los lineamientos generales para su perfeccionamiento.

Sobre esto sabemos que, como todo texto, es reformable y perfectible, y contiene algún elemento de utopismo. Por ahí, algún jurista mexicano, por cierto, hablaba de la utopía constitucional. Y sí. Nosotros creemos que debe haber un elemento utópico en todo propósito, porque el renunciar a la utopía, el renunciar al idealismo, el renunciar al desideratum de nuestras sociedades es adscribirnos a la realidad concreta. Y toda realidad concreta del aquí y del ahora tiene una lectura necesariamente triste y melancólica y conduce al conservatismo, al mantenimiento del *status quo*, o al temor. El temor a lo nuevo, a la imaginación, a los saltos, el temor a mirar a las estrellas. No estamos en contra de que se mire y se tenga los pies en la tierra. Pero la mirada en las estrellas, malo sería tener la mirada en el suelo o los pies en las estrellas. Entonces, estaríamos, como bien dice el compatriota uruguayo Eduardo Galeano, "patas arriba". Eso sí debemos evitarlo con un enorme cuidado.

Mi país coincide en gran manera en que el ser humano no debe ser un medio, sino el fin de toda preocupación, el fin de todo esfuerzo gubernamental, privado o colectivo. Al fin y al cabo, y pienso en términos universales, todos compartimos una patria, todos compartimos una Tierra, un

oxígeno, unas necesidades. Todos somos vecinos de ese país que es el tercero azul a partir del sol en el sistema solar. Quien no entienda que ese hecho, el hecho de pertenecer a una especie que comparte un hogar sideral hace, entonces, de la solidaridad no una virtud. La solidaridad es una necesidad biológica instintiva, que obedece a nuestra herencia biológica, a nuestra evolución, y que está inscrita no únicamente en nuestras constituciones o en nuestros tratados. La solidaridad, señores Delegados, amigos todos, está impresa en el código genético, en el ácido desoxirribonucleico. Entonces, no es una virtud, es una obligación.

Esto es importante porque entonces, su contrario, la falta de solidaridad y de espíritu de fraternidad entre todos los seres humanos, el doble discurso, la doble moral, donde se nos habla de la libertad de mercados, de comercio, la libertad para los grandes, y se nos olvida la libertad no solo para las inversiones, sino para los individuos, los ciudadanos, los hombres y mujeres que sin poder añoramos una vida mejor, ya no solo es un error político y conceptual sino que es un vicio contra natura, visto desde esta perspectiva.

Queremos, para finalizar y no aburrirlos, asegurar a todas las representaciones de la OEA la colaboración más genuina en la Misión que dirijo para llevar adelante nuestras tareas conjuntas. Muchas son: derechos humanos, equidad de género, derecho de las etnias, Carta Democrática, democracia que ojalá pasase de lo electoral e ingresara en el campo de realidades más cotidianas y no ese domingo, cada cuatro o cada seis años en el que vamos a votar, sino que esa Carta Democrática tuviese su par dialéctico y no antagónico en una carta social y de derechos económicos, que incluyan cosas tan concretas como la que leía yo ayer de un ilustre pensador uruguayo que ya no limitaba el concepto de derechos humanos al respecto a la vida y la integridad personal, sino que iba más allá, al disfrute de cosas que son tan biológicamente necesarias, tan concretas, tan cotidianas como el agua misma. Y aquél hombre hablaba del agua y de las instalaciones sanitarias como parte de los derechos humanos, opinión que nuestro Gobierno, nuestro pueblo y nuestro Presidente compartimos plenamente.

Entonces, si compartimos eso plenamente, y estamos comprometidos en esforzarnos en la dirección que más o menos he tratado de esbozar, entonces habrá esperanza, habrá posibilidad de mirar al futuro con alegría. Entonces podremos repetir con el paisano de nuestro Secretario General, refiriéndose a la figura máxima de la historia de Centroamérica, que lo que nos deba preocupar no es la oscuridad de la noche diciendo “Alta es la noche y Morazán vigila. Es hoy, ayer, mañana? Tú lo sabes.”

Hermanos, amanece. Y Morazán vigila.

Muchas gracias.

La PRESIDENTA: Ambassador Sosa Coello, on behalf of this Council, allow me to once again congratulate you on your appointment as Permanent Representative of Honduras to the Organization of American States. I am confident that the wealth of knowledge and experience you bring to this organization will greatly enrich the dialogue between member states.

ELECCIÓN DE UN MIEMBRO DEL COMITÉ JURÍDICO INTERAMERICANO –  
CANDIDATURA PARA VACANTE

La PRESIDENTA: We move on now to the election of a member of the Inter-American Juridical Committee (CJI).

At its meeting held on August 1, 2006, and accordance with Article 7 of the Statutes of the CJI, the Permanent Council set September 1, 2006, as the deadline for the presentation of candidates to fill the remaining term of the member of the CJI who resigned. To date, there has only been one candidate, Dr. Freddy Castillo Castellanos, whose candidacy was presented by the Permanent Mission of Venezuela in document CP/doc.4147/06.

The Chair would now like to proceed with the election, in accordance with Article 50 of the Statutes of the Council. Since there is only one candidate, the Chair suggests that the election be by acclamation.

[Aplausos.]

Thank you. Dr. Freddy Castillo Castellanos of Venezuela has been elected to the Inter-American Juridical Committee. On behalf of the Council, I congratulate him on his election and wish him all the best, and I ask the Permanent Mission of Venezuela to transmit our congratulations to Dr. Castillo Castellanos. The Representative of Venezuela has the floor.

El REPRESENTANTE INTERINO DE VENEZUELA: Gracias, señora Presidenta.

Señor Secretario General de la OEA, señor Secretario General Adjunto, estimados amigos y colegas de Canadá y Honduras, que en esta mañana se incorporan como Representantes Permanentes de sus respectivos países a este órgano, permítanme expresar, en nombre del pueblo venezolano, de su gobierno presidido por Hugo Chávez Frías, de la Cancillería venezolana y del doctor Freddy Castillo Castellanos, el agradecimiento de Venezuela por la elección de tan honorable académico y estudioso de las ciencias jurídicas de mi país y de América como es el doctor Freddy Castillo.

No voy a detenerme a enumerar esta mañana el largo y enjundioso currículum que acompaña al doctor Castillo. Solo diré que se trata de un jurista de una dilatada experiencia en el campo de las ciencias jurídicas, sobre todo referido a lo que tiene que ver con el ámbito de la cultura, los derechos del hombre –derechos políticos, los derechos sociales, los derechos culturales, los derechos económicos– de nuestros compatriotas, así como también una dilatada experiencia en la administración de los quehaceres de la rama jurídica de las instituciones jurídicas de mi país.

En ese sentido, entonces, estimados colegas, Representantes Permanentes, Alternos, señores del presidium, quiero en nombre de Venezuela ratificar nuestro agradecimiento y decirles a ustedes que, con toda seguridad, el doctor Castillo se convertirá en un firme cooperador del Comité Jurídico Interamericano en la discusión de las materias respectivas que habrán de desarrollarse en el primer período de sesiones que se realizará en el mes de febrero de 2007.

Muchísimas gracias, Presidenta.

La PRESIDENTA: Ambassador, I thank you for your remarks.

TRANSMISIÓN A UNA COMISIÓN DEL CONSEJO PERMANENTE DE LA  
RESOLUCIÓN AG/RES. 2247 (XXXVI-O/06),  
“PROMOCIÓN DE LA COOPERACIÓN HEMISFÉRICA PARA EL  
TRATAMIENTO DE LAS PANDILLAS RELACIONADAS CON  
ACTIVIDADES DELICTIVAS”

La PRESIDENTA: The next item on our order of business is the referral of resolution AG/RES. 2247 (XXXVI-O/06), “Promotion of Hemispheric Cooperation in Dealing with Gangs Involved in Criminal Activities,” to one of the committees of the Permanent Council. Delegations will recall that in a previous Council meeting, it was suggested that the resolution be referred either to the General Committee or the Committee on Hemispheric Security (CSH).

During his tenure, my predecessor Ambassador Illes met with the regional coordinators on this matter, and he has advised me that there was consensus to send the resolution to the Committee on Hemispheric Security. If there are no objections, the Chair proposes that this resolution be forwarded to the CSH for further study. It is so agreed.

TRANSMISIÓN DE INFORMES A LAS COMISIONES PERTINENTES

La PRESIDENTA: Our next topic is the referral of reports to the relevant committees. The Chair proposes that document CP/doc.4151/06, the report of Peru for 2006 on follow-up to the Inter-American Democratic Charter, which was presented in accordance with resolution AG/RES. 1957 (XXXIII-O/03), be referred to the Preparatory Committee, taking into account that this is a permanent topic on the agenda of the General Assembly. This document was presented to the Permanent Council by the Permanent Mission of Peru at the special meeting of the Council on September 12, 2006, to commemorate the fifth anniversary of the adoption of the Inter-American Democratic Charter. On that day, the Permanent Mission also presented the translation of the Inter-American Democratic Charter in the Aimara language, document CP/INF.5393/06.

The Chair suggests that the Council request that the Secretariat for Political Affairs (SPA) publish both these documents on the webpage of the Organization of American States. If there are no objections, it is so agreed.

The Chair proposes that the following three reports be transmitted to the Committee on Administrative and Budgetary Affairs (CAAP) for its consideration and eventual recommendations to this Council:

- The annual report of the Office of the Inspector General for the period January 1 to December 31, 2005;
- The activity report of the Office of the Inspector General for the period January 1 to December 31, 2005; and
- The budget execution status report and transfers between chapters for the 2006 Regular Fund program-budget, as well as the status on the financial execution of specific funds.

The Chair proposes that all future reports of an administrative, budgetary, or financial nature requested in General Assembly resolutions adopted in June 2006 and assigned to the CAAP be submitted directly to the Chair of the CAAP. A courtesy copy of each report should also be sent to the Chair of this Council. This procedure is in keeping with the provisions of the Rules of Procedure of the Council, in particular Article 19, and will allow for the more timely consideration of matters by the CAAP.

I now give the floor to Ambassador Francisco Villagrán de León, Permanent Representative of Guatemala and Chair of the CAAP, to comment on this proposal.

EL PRESIDENTE DE LA COMISIÓN DE ASUNTOS ADMINISTRATIVOS Y PRESUPUESTARIOS: Gracias, señora Presidenta.

Quiero expresar mi apoyo a su propuesta de remitir estos informes a la Comisión de Asuntos Administrativos y Presupuestarios (CAAP). El contenido de estos informes abarca temas que forman parte de la agenda de la Comisión, y en ese sentido, caben dentro de las áreas de estudio que le han sido encomendadas. De hecho, la Comisión aprobó su plan de trabajo para el período actual del 2006 al 2007, el cual incluye mandatos de la Asamblea General relacionados directamente con estos informes.

En mi calidad de Presidente de la Comisión de Asuntos Administrativos y Presupuestarios, quisiera aceptar esta encomienda y asegurarle a usted y al Consejo que estos informes serán debidamente considerados y que elevaremos nuestras recomendaciones sobre ellos de manera oportuna.

De la misma manera, también estaría de acuerdo con que informes o documentos relacionados con la agenda de trabajo de la Comisión de Asuntos Administrativos y Presupuestarios le sean remitidos directamente.

Dado que me encuentro en el uso de la palabra, quiero además darle la bienvenida más cordial a los Embajadores Graeme Clark, del Canadá, y Carlos Sosa Coello, de Honduras. Sus elocuentes intervenciones auguran aportes valiosos e importantes al trabajo de este Consejo, por lo que nos complace mucho su incorporación. Ambos representan países por los que guardo especial cariño: Honduras, un país hermano y vecino, que le ha dado extraordinarios próceres a la patria centroamericana, entre ellos Francisco Morazán, cuyos pensamientos nos ha traído el Embajador Sosa Coello en esta oportunidad; y Canadá, un país donde estudié de joven y fui Embajador hace varios años, así que lo conozco y guardo gratísimos recuerdos de mi vida en Canadá.

Les deseo a ambos los mayores éxitos y les ofrezco todo el apoyo y la amistad de mi Delegación.

Muchas gracias.

La PRESIDENTA: Thank you, Ambassador. There being no objections to this proposal, it is so agreed.

We now move on to the final item on our order of business today, "Other business." The Chair offers the floor to delegations that may wish to bring matters to the attention of the Council. I now give the floor to the Ambassador of Colombia.

El REPRESENTANTE PERMANENTE DE COLOMBIA: Señora Presidente, únicamente para felicitarla a usted por su designación en la Presidencia, y manifestarle todo nuestro interés de colaborar desde el grupo regional ALADI.

Igualmente, quiero aprovechar la oportunidad para dar la bienvenida al Embajador Clark y al Embajador Sosa quienes, estamos seguros, colaborarán enormemente en la realización de las actividades de este foro.

Era simplemente para eso y agradecer a usted su amabilidad.

La PRESIDENTA: I now give the floor to the Ambassador of Costa Rica.

El REPRESENTANTE PERMANENTE DE COSTA RICA: Muchas gracias, señora Presidenta.

En el mismo sentido que lo ha hecho mi colega de Colombia, presentarle a usted nuestros más respetuosos saludos a nombre del Grupo Centroamericano (GRUCA), y desearle éxito en sus trabajos como Presidenta de este Consejo Permanente. Estamos seguros que bajo su acertada conducción, lograremos las metas que nos hemos propuesto en este trimestre.

Asimismo, celebrar la reincorporación de nuestro querido amigo y colega, el Embajador Manuel María Cáceres, del Paraguay, quien luego de un quebranto de salud, nos acompaña nuevamente en el Consejo Permanente.

Como lo ha expresado tan claramente mi distinguido colega de Guatemala, celebrar la incorporación del Embajador Clark, del Canadá, y del Embajador Sosa Coello, de Honduras. Estamos seguros que con sus aportes valiosos darán un mayor realce a las actividades del Consejo y, por ende, de la Organización.

Muchas gracias.

La PRESIDENTA: Ambassador, I thank you very much for your remarks and for the confidence that you and the other ambassadors and alternate representatives of Central America have placed in me. I now give the floor to the Representative of the United States.

El REPRESENTANTE ALTERNO DE LOS ESTADOS UNIDOS: Thank you, Madam Chair.

My delegation joins other regional representatives in offering support to you as you assume the solemn responsibility of chairing the Permanent Council over the coming months. We look forward to working with you in this capacity, as well as in the Summit of the Americas process, which is also so very important. We expect that we will be covering many important issues.



We would also like to express our appreciation and thanks to Ambassador Henry Illes of Suriname for his professional conduct and leadership of this body and in recognition of his outstanding work.

The U.S. Delegation also welcomes Ambassador Clark of Canada and Ambassador Sosa Coello of Honduras to this Council. We thank them for their very elegant and insightful remarks and are delighted to have them here. They both bring to the Council a very broad and deep background in hemispheric affairs throughout the Americas. As I think about where the two of them have served and have gathered direct experience, almost every subregion has been covered by our two new ambassadors. Ambassador Clark and Ambassador Sosa Coello, I offer you the support of our delegation, and we look forward to working with your delegations.

Thank you very much, Madam Chair.

La PRESIDENTA: I thank you for your remarks, and the Delegation of Trinidad and Tobago looks forward to ongoing collaboration with the Delegation of the United States as we deliberate on diverse issues within this forum. I now give the floor to the Ambassador of Antigua and Barbuda.

La REPRESENTANTE PERMANENTE DE ANTIGUA AND BARBUDA: Thank you, Madam Chair.

On behalf of my colleagues from the Caribbean Community (CARICOM), I wish to say how delighted we are to have you as Chair of the Permanent Council. You can be assured of our cooperation and our support as you take on the mantle of this high office.

I thank my CARICOM colleague, His Excellency Henry Illes, for his very excellent work as Council Chair over the past three months. Your wisdom and vision steered this body, and you have done us proud.

While I have the floor, Madam Chair, I wish also to welcome our new colleagues to this hallowed chamber and to say that the ambassadors of CARICOM look forward to working with them as we deliberate upon the issues affecting our hemisphere.

To our colleague from Canada, I wish to say, on a personal note, that I spent seven wonderful years as Acting High Commissioner in the Antigua and Barbuda office in Ottawa. Canada has a very special place in my heart.

I extend the hand of friendship to our colleague from Honduras. You can be assured, Ambassador, of the support and cooperation of CARICOM.

Madam Chair, thank you for giving me the floor.

La PRESIDENTA: Ambassador, I thank you very much for your heartfelt remarks. They are fully appreciated, and I do look forward to ongoing collaboration and consultation with my Caribbean Community (CARICOM) colleagues.

There being no further requests for the floor, this meeting is adjourned. I hope that the length of this meeting is a signal of the length of future meetings. Thank you so much again.

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