

CONSEJO PERMANENTE



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ACTA
DE LA SESIÓN EXTRAORDINARIA
CELEBRADA
EL 2 DE MARZO DE 2007

Aprobada en la sesión del 22 de agosto de 2007

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CONSEJO PERMANENTE DE LA ORGANIZACIÓN DE LOS ESTADOS AMERICANOS

ACTA DE LA SESIÓN EXTRAORDINARIA CELEBRADA EL 2 DE MARZO DE 2007

En la ciudad de Washington, a las diez y treinta y cinco de la mañana del viernes 2 de marzo de 2007, celebró sesión extraordinaria el Consejo Permanente de la Organización de los Estados Americanos para recibir al excelentísimo señor Peter Gordon MacKay, Ministro de Relaciones Exteriores del Canadá. Presidió la sesión el Embajador Izben C. Williams, Representante Permanente de Saint Kitts y Nevis y Vicepresidente del Consejo Permanente. Asistieron los siguientes miembros:

Embajador Denis G. Antoine, Representante Permanente de Grenada
Embajadora Lisa Shoman, Representante Permanente de Belice
Embajador Ellsworth I. A. John, Representante Permanente de San Vicente y las Granadinas
Embajador Rodolfo Hugo Gil, Representante Permanente de la Argentina
Embajadora Marina Valère, Representante Permanente de Trinidad y Tobago
Embajador Francisco Villagran de León, Representante Permanente de Guatemala
Embajadora Abigail Castro de Pérez, Representante Permanente de El Salvador
Embajadora Deborah-Mae Lovell, Representante Permanente de Antigua y Barbuda
Embajador Duly Brutus, Representante Permanente de Haití
Embajador Osmar Chohfi, Representante Permanente del Brasil
Embajador Roberto Álvarez, Representante Permanente de la República Dominicana
Embajador Alejandro García-Moreno Elizondo, Representante Permanente de México
Embajador Pedro Oyarce, Representante Permanente de Chile
Embajador Graeme C. Clark, Representante Permanente del Canadá
Embajador Reynaldo Cuadros Anaya, Representante Permanente de Bolivia
J. Robert Manzanares, Representante Interino de los Estados Unidos
Ministra Consejera Rhoda M. Jackson, Representante Interina de las Bahamas
Primer Secretario Henry Leonard Mac-Donald, Representante Interino de Suriname
Primera Secretaria Deborah Yaw, Representante Interina de Guyana
Ministro Alejandro Riveros, Representante Interino del Perú
Ministra Olga Graziella Reyes Marfetan, Representante Interina del Uruguay
Ministra Consejera Clenie Greer-Lacascade, Representante Interina de Santa Lucía
Consejera Jasmine E. Huggins, Representante Alterna de Saint Kitts y Nevis
Embajador Luis Guardia Mora, Representante Alterno de Costa Rica
Ministra Elisa Ruiz Díaz, Representante Alterna del Paraguay
Ministro Salvador Hernández Vela, Representante Alterno de Venezuela
Ministra L. Ann Scott, Representante Alterna de Jamaica
Primer Secretario Mauricio Baquero Pardo, Representante Alterno de Colombia
Primer Secretario Ricardo Kellman, Representante Alterno de Barbados
Ministro Gustavo Palacio, Representante Alterno del Ecuador
Embajadora Nubia Lezcano, Representante Alterna de Panamá
Consejera Leslie C. Martínez, Representante Alterna de Honduras

También estuvo presente el Secretario General Adjunto, Embajador Albert R. Ramdin, Secretario del Consejo Permanente.

APROBACION DEL PROYECTO DE ORDEN DEL DÍA

El PRESIDENTE: I call to order this special meeting of the Permanent Council of the Organization, which has been convened to receive His Excellency Peter Gordon MacKay, Minister of Foreign Affairs of Canada.

The draft order of business for this special meeting can be found in document CP/OD.1581/07.

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

1. Aprobación del proyecto de orden del día (CP/OD.1581/07);
2. Palabras del Secretario General Adjunto, Embajador Albert R. Ramdín, en ocasión de la visita del excelentísimo señor Peter Gordon MacKay, Ministro de Relaciones Exteriores de Canadá;
3. Palabras del excelentísimo señor Peter Gordon MacKay, Ministro de Relaciones Exteriores de Canadá
4. Otros asuntos.]

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

PALABRAS DEL PRESIDENTE DEL CONSEJO PERMANENTE

El PRESIDENTE: Excellency, on behalf of the Permanent Council and on my own behalf, I am particularly pleased to welcome you today to the Organization of American States.

In welcoming you, sir, please indulge me as I briefly portray for this Council your public profile.

His Excellency Peter Gordon MacKay is Canada's Minister of Foreign Affairs and Minister of the Atlantic Canada Opportunities Agency. He was first elected as Member of Parliament in 1997 and was reelected in 2000, 2004, and 2006.

Most recently, Minister MacKay served as Critic for Public Safety and Emergency Preparedness. Prior to this, he was Critic for the Prime Minister, for the Solicitor General, for Public Security, for the Leader of the Government in the House of Commons, and for Justice.

He has served as Progressive Conservative Party Leader and House Leader, and he has been a member of the Standing Committee on Justice, Human Rights, Public Safety, and Emergency Preparedness and its related subcommittees, including the subcommittees on Public Safety and National Security, on Agenda and Procedure, and on Corrections and the Conditional Release Act.

Minister MacKay was born in New Glasgow, Nova Scotia. After graduating with an arts degree from Acadia University in 1987, he went on to study law at Dalhousie University. He was called to the Nova Scotia Bar in 1991.

Minister MacKay has served on many volunteer boards, including New Leaf, a social development agency, and Tearmann House, a community service organization that primarily provides shelter for battered women and children. He has also been active in Big Brothers Big Sisters, the YMCA, and the Pictou County Senior Rugby Club. We will not forget that, Minister [risas].

As sports enthusiast, he is active in rugby, baseball, football, and hockey.

Excellency, your accomplishments as a leader in the foreign affairs matters of your country and in the Americas is well known. We interpret your presence here today as symbolic of the priority that Canada places on its relations with partner countries in the Americas, and we look forward to your presentation.

PALABRAS DEL SECRETARIO GENERAL ADJUNTO

El PRESIDENTE: Before the Foreign Minister makes his presentation, I am pleased to give the floor to the Assistant Secretary General, Ambassador Albert Ramdin, for some brief remarks.

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

Ambassador Williams, the Honorable Minister Peter MacKay, distinguished permanent representatives, distinguished permanent observers, ladies and gentlemen:

It is indeed an honor for me, on behalf of Secretary General Insulza, to welcome to the Organization of American States the Honorable Peter MacKay, Minister of Foreign Affairs of Canada.

Mr. Minister, we are very pleased with your visit, which, as the Chairman already said, is an expression of the commitment of the Government of Canada to the Organization of American States. Thank you very much for your interest and time.

Also, let me congratulate and express deep appreciation to the Government of Canada for its steadfast and generous support to the Organization of American States. These contributions, and those of other member states, have allowed the OAS to assist in many areas of critical importance to the countries and people of the Americas.

Canada, Mr. Minister, has demonstrated leadership in many areas, such as electoral observation, the demining process, and civil society engagement, and we look forward to your country's continued contribution to the OAS in these areas. With Canada's contribution and that of other member states, the OAS was able to be present at or actively involved in more than 20 of the elections that took place over the past 15 months. We are very pleased to observe today that democratic principles continue to be the main framework for governance in the Hemisphere.

As you all know, the Hemisphere faces many challenges that require the full attention of the political authorities of the countries in the Hemisphere. Beside the key challenge of effective democratic governance, we need to focus on social and economic development, poverty eradication, growth, job creation, the environment, and many more issues.

The new political landscape has created renewed opportunities for engagement, but also new opportunities to further strengthen unity in the Hemisphere. These opportunities are necessary preconditions in order to address the many cross-border problems that we often discuss in the Permanent Council and General Assembly, such as migration, HIV/AIDS, and illegal trafficking in drugs and small firearms. Therefore, we appreciate Canada's commitment to a holistic approach to the establishment of peaceful societies, sustainable economies, and great opportunities for all, and to strengthening the role of the OAS as the principal multilateral platform for debate, decision, and action.

Mr. Minister, we look forward to hearing your views on Canada's role in the OAS and in the Western Hemisphere, and we thank you again for your presence.

El PRESIDENTE: Thank you, Assistant Secretary General Ramdin, for your remarks.

PALABRAS DEL MINISTRO DE RELACIONES EXTERIORES DEL CANADÁ

El PRESIDENTE: I now have the distinct honor and pleasure to give the floor to His Excellency Peter Gordon MacKay, Canada's Minister of Foreign Affairs and Minister of the Atlantic Canada Opportunities Agency.

El MINISTRO DE RELACIONES EXTERIORES DEL CANADÁ: Thank you very much, Mr. Chair.

Mr. Assistant Secretary General, excellencies, distinguished guests, ladies and gentlemen—I would also like to welcome a traveling delegation of staff and students from Sherbrooke University—I'm delighted to see you here today, and it is a great pleasure for me, personally, to be with you here in the Bolívar Room, at the heart of the Organization of American States in Washington, D.C.

As Canada celebrates its 17th anniversary of membership in this distinguished body, our commitment to the Organization, to its principles, and to the democratic values it embodies remains strong and vibrant. Today, more than ever, Canada's new Government values the critical role that the OAS plays in forging a hemispheric consensus on issues fundamental to the achievement of a better life for all in our hemisphere.

Canada has enjoyed an enduring connection with the Americas. Last June, when I attended the General Assembly session in Santo Domingo, I spoke of the historic ties that have linked the Atlantic region of Canada, where I come from, with the Hemisphere, particularly the Caribbean region. For hundreds of years we exported codfish and lumber to the Caribbean and received fruit, spices, and rum in return. In some ways, I think, that held us back in Atlantic Canada for a period of time [risas].

These initial commercial exchanges led to important people-to-people links and political ties, and it fostered a sense of community and belonging within the region that is tangible to this day. Ties of immigration and shared experience have woven us more closely into the fabric of the Americas, a fact that will not be lost on anyone who has ever attended a Toronto Caribana street carnival in our largest city. It rings with the rhythmic and magical sound of steel drums and the enthusiasm and excitement of Caribbean communities and character.

Last year at the General Assembly session, I also spoke of the similarities of politics and football, and with the coming of the Cricket World Cup, I wish all participating teams the very best. Unfortunately, I think Canada's biggest contribution will be to security and the beer tent. [Risais.]

Plus de Canadiens se rendent maintenant en Amérique latine et dans les Caraïbes que dans toute autre région du monde, en dehors des États-Unis. Le climat froid les y pousse probablement, mais nul ne peut nier les relations importantes et durables qui sont nouées par la même.

Et le flux n'est pas unilatéral. Quand je suis allé voir dernièrement mon ami, le ministre Celso Amorim, au Brésil, on m'a rappelé que le Canada est devenu la première destination à l'étranger des Brésiliens qui veulent étudier en anglais et en français. Nous avons parlé de moyens de soutenir et de renforcer ces échanges de jeunes afin de maintenir le lien avec les dirigeants de demain.

Our engagement with the Americas has grown, fueled by the winds of democratic transition and globalization, commercial and investment opportunities, and the movement of people. We are living in the age of adventure. The transformative nature of our populations has become even more mobile and modern, and everyone seems to be yearning for a new experience; yet, we are at a point where our economies, our societies, our health, and the security of our citizens are inextricably intertwined.

Prime Minister Stephen Harper acknowledged the importance of our relationship with the Hemisphere in a speech last month in which he outlined the Canadian Government's domestic and international priorities. The Prime Minister said at that time:

Our neighborhood doesn't end at the 49th parallel—and neither do our interests. That's why we will seek to reengage relationships throughout the Americas, with our partners in Mexico, the Caribbean, and Central and South America.

Our interests are not just about trade and investment balance sheets. They include the importance that Canada attaches to being part of a community of states committed to working together to ensure the freedom, security, and prosperity of our peoples. It means ensuring a predictable and transparent regulatory and judicial environment in which the private sector can contribute to strengthening our economies. It means effective and accountable governance at all levels to ensure the benefit of prosperity for our societies and our citizens. It also means shouldering our responsibilities to help other member countries of the communities when they are having difficulties in achieving these goals. This bond of humanity transcends, sometimes, the static and staid formalities of international diplomacy. It means, even more, putting action behind the words "we care."

Nous avons, dans les efforts collectifs que nous déployons pour aider la population haïtienne, un exemple édifiant de ce type de solidarité dans notre hémisphère. Haïti se trouve à un moment

critique de son histoire. Mon gouvernement est fier de travailler en collaboration avec ses partenaires hémisphériques et avec l'OEA pour aider Haïti à rompre avec la violence, la pauvreté et leurs effets déstabilisants. Le système onusien apporte certes une contribution immédiate importante, mais c'est l'OEA qui sera essentielle pour Haïti à long terme. Je félicite le Secrétaire général adjoint Ramdin du leadership dont il fait preuve dans ce dossier.

Nous avons promis pour Haïti plus d'un demi-milliard de dollars en aide au développement sur les cinq prochaines années. De concert avec les partenaires représentés dans cette salle, nous aiderons Haïti à bâtir un avenir meilleur pour sa population.

Within the community of the Americas represented by the OAS, there are several subregional groups, from the Caribbean Community (CARICOM) to the Southern Common Market (MERCOSUR), that contribute to the stability, prosperity, and security of the Hemisphere.

Just last week, I hosted my counterparts, Minister Espinoza of Mexico and Secretary of State Rice of the United States, in Ottawa at a meeting of the Security and Prosperity Partnership (SPP) of North America. The goals of the Partnership are to promote cooperation on security, economic, and commercial issues within the North American context, but it is really about improving the quality of life of the people of our shared continent.

We all know from our own experiences that even within regions, there can be important differences in perspective. Working through these differences toward a consensus view, which I believe the OAS does so well, is no small achievement, but we do so for the betterment of our collective societies.

We are also, in our collective efforts, committed to doing more, as a tripartite group of nations, within our CARICOM and OAS partnerships.

As I have learned more about the work of the OAS, I have been struck by the high degree of consensus among 34 nations on the critical issues of democracy, security, and sustainable development. In terms of a consensus on democratic values, the Inter-American Democratic Charter is a landmark document, unique among all regions of the world, and we must preserve and uphold this singular achievement by ensuring its full application.

On security, the OAS has adopted the Declaration on Security in the Americas, which recognizes that security threats, concerns, and challenges affect us in different ways and include political, economic, health, and, of course, environmental aspects. We have come a long way from a narrow definition of traditional security threats. As we share challenges to our security, we must share the responsibilities in dealing with them.

Dans quelques semaines, l'OEA se réunira pour évaluer les progrès accomplis dans la mise en œuvre de la Déclaration sur la sécurité dans les Amériques. Par ailleurs, le Canada se réjouit d'accueillir l'an prochain les ministres de la défense de l'hémisphère par la Conférence des ministres de la défense des Amériques. Ces deux rencontres seront l'occasion de dresser le bilan de nos efforts individuels et collectifs face à nos problèmes de sécurité.

Nous examinerons notamment le rôle important joué par l'OEA et ses divers organes spécialisés, comme le Comité interaméricain contre le terrorisme, dont la réunion annuelle se termine

au Panama, et la Commission interaméricaine de lutte contre l'abus des drogues, ainsi que d'autres, dans la promotion d'une coopération accrue face aux problèmes de sécurité.

Partnerships with the private sector are also very important. A good example of this was seen last week as our government announced a \$111 million contribution to work with the Bill and Melinda Gates Foundation on the development of an HIV vaccine. I know, Assistant Secretary General, that you and this Council are constantly looking for ways in which we can do more to deal with this worldwide pandemic.

As we have seen in Haiti and in other countries recovering from conflict, there is also an integral relationship between security, development, democracy, and freedom.

The Inter-American Democratic Charter recognizes that democracy and social and economic development are independent and mutually reinforcing. Work is underway on the draft Social Charter of the Americas, which will seek to establish a framework for national and hemispheric efforts to promote social equity and inclusion. Given the ongoing challenge of promoting equitable and inclusive societies in all nations, this is extremely important and relevant work. It should be seen within the context of a balanced hemispheric agenda, anchored in the promotion of equitable development; expanded prosperity; and full respect for human rights, democracy, and the rule of law.

I would like to turn to what I see as the central mandate of the OAS: the promotion and preservation of representative democracy in our hemisphere.

You will recall that in this very same hall last September, a special meeting of the Permanent Council was held to mark the fifth anniversary of the adoption of the Inter-American Democratic Charter. The Democratic Charter marks a key achievement of our collective efforts to uphold the principles and values of democracy in our region. It is also a pledge for mutual support when democracy is faltering. It has served us well over the past number of years in guiding the actions of the Organization in support of democracy and in addressing challenges to democracy when they have emerged.

We are not alone in these challenges in our own region. We have seen what is happening in Europe with the former Soviet states. There is always a danger of slippage and falling back, and we never want to leave our partners in this exercise feeling abandoned. I think particularly of Haiti. The importance of persevering and pushing forward at this critical time comes to mind.

I am pleased to tell you today that the Government of Canada, through the Canadian International Development Agency (CIDA), will continue to sustain the efforts of this organization in this crucial area of democracy by providing a \$1.2 million grant to build on the notable progress made and the success achieved in terms of electoral democracy and to strengthen and sustain the social and civil dimensions of democracy beyond the holding of elections. This support will enable the OAS to continue to contribute substantially to democratic governance in the Hemisphere. Canada will maintain its support of the work of the OAS in following up on the Summit of the Americas process and mandates, in line with the ongoing reforms of the OAS.

But support for the electoral agenda is just one aspect of the pledges to reinforce representative democracy enshrined in the Inter-American Democratic Charter. We have also entrusted the Secretary General of the Organization with the responsibility to draw to the attention of

the Council any concerns that he may have about challenges to democracy in the region. This is a sensitive, yet critical, function that we have asked the Secretary General to exercise, and when it is upheld, we must support him and listen carefully to what he is telling us. I look forward to discussing further with my counterparts in Panama, in June, how we might enhance our efforts to uphold these and other democratic principles as expressed in the Charter of our organization and the Inter-American Democratic Charter.

I believe our Prime Minister properly characterized our country when he spoke of us being an energy superpower. We are truly blessed as a country with enormous resources, not just oil and gas, but hydro and tidal power and wind potential. Canada believes, from our experience, that an open, transparent, and predictable marketplace is the most effective means of ensuring energy security and encouraging much-needed investment over the long term.

When I was in Mexico recently, I discussed with Foreign Minister Espinoza the Plan Puebla Panama. Its innovative agenda to connect energy grids in Mesoamerica was in part formulated on a Canadian feasibility study sponsored by CIDA.

We must also recognize the role of international financial institutions (IFIs) in tackling energy challenges, and we must encourage multilateral development banks to promote greater investment in energy infrastructure, alternative energy sources, and increased energy efficiency. We are all seized with these environmental challenges, and Canada will not shirk its responsibility.

We must never forget that the increasing demand for energy can have an impact on environmentally, socially, or culturally sensitive areas. To address those impacts, we need to develop and implement effective mechanisms for dialogue and stakeholder engagement in the energy sector as it continues to grow in the region, and we need to promote the concept of corporate social responsibility (CSR) in this regard.

As the Organization advances in its dialogue on energy, Canada believes that it is crucial to bear in mind the overarching need to seek sustainable growth that balances economic, social, and environmental objectives while promoting access to safe, reliable, and affordable energy.

Il est rassurant de savoir, tandis que nous cherchons des moyens de progresser à l'Organisation dans ce secteur et dans d'autres secteurs clés, que nous pouvons compter sur un réseau impressionnant d'autres institutions régionales pour nous aider à atteindre nos objectifs collectifs. En encourageant une plus étroite coordination avec la Banque interaméricaine de développement et d'autres institutions, comme l'Organisation panaméricaine de la santé et l'Institut interaméricain de coopération pour l'agriculture, nous pouvons former les véritables partenariats nécessaires pour réaliser nos objectifs.

This is particularly important in the context of the Summits of the Americas process, in which the OAS has a key coordinating role. As a former host—and perhaps future host—of the Summit of the Americas, Canada is fully committed to ensuring that the Summit process continues to deliver a balanced agenda, built on the fundamental pillars of democracy, prosperity, and equity. I wish to assure all of you that we will continue to work with our partners in the region and member states, as well as with Trinidad and Tobago, to ensure the success of the Summit process.

As you can see, Canada's agenda for the OAS is ambitious, but we are engaged, and we have high aspirations for strengthening its contributions to democracy, development, and security in our hemisphere. I am confident that under the capable leadership of Secretary General Insulza, Assistant Secretary General Ramdin, and their team, the OAS will continue to evolve and move in an effective and modern direction as an institution that will play a critical role in our collective efforts to make the Americas a better place for all of us.

Thank you, merci beaucoup, *muchas gracias, muito obrigado*.

[Aplausos.]

El PRESIDENTE: Minister, on behalf of the members of this Permanent Council, I wish to thank you for honoring us with your presence and for reaffirming Canada's commitment to and full engagement with this organization by its support for a constructive agenda of cooperation and development in the Americas. Thank you very much for being here with us.

I now ask the distinguished representatives to stand and remain in their places so that the Honorable Minister may greet them before he departs.

[El Ministro de Relaciones Exteriores del Canadá saluda a los Representantes y abandona la sala.]

ANUNCIOS DE LA PRESIDENCIA

El PRESIDENTE: Please be seated.

The Chair takes this opportunity to inform representatives of the following meetings to be convened during the month of March.

- On Wednesday, March 7, at 10:00 a.m., there will be a regular meeting of the Permanent Council.
- On Friday, March 9, at 9:00 a.m., there will be a special meeting of the Council on "Childhood, Identity, and Citizenship in the Americas."
- On Wednesday, March 14, at 10:00 a.m., there will be a regular meeting of the Council. On that occasion, the Permanent Council will receive the Foreign Minister of Panama, His Excellency Samuel Lewis Navarro.
- On Wednesday, March 21, at 10:00 a.m., we will have a meeting of the Preparatory Committee of the General Assembly, followed by a regular meeting of the Council.

The Chair looks forward to your participation in these meetings.

The Representative of the United States has the floor.

El REPRESENTANTE INTERINO DE LOS ESTADOS UNIDOS: Thank you, Mr. Chair.

I want to remind representatives that on March 8, there will be a special meeting of the Committee on Hemispheric Security (CSH) on "Effective Strategies to Mitigate the Threat Posed by the Use of Man-Portable Air Defense Systems (MANPADS)." The U.S. Department of Defense will mount a fairly extensive exhibit in front of the State Department from 9:00 a.m. to 6:00 p.m. on March 8, and I encourage member states to participate, if at all possible.

El PRESIDENTE: Are there any other interventions? There being no further business, this meeting now stands adjourned.

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