

CONSEJO PERMANENTE



OEA/Ser.G
CP/ACTA 1895/13
13 febrero 2013

ACTA
DE LA SESIÓN PROTOCOLAR
CELEBRADA
EL 13 DE FEBRERO DE 2013

En honor del Secretario General de la
Organización de las Naciones Unidas
Su Excelencia Ban Ki-moon

ÍNDICE

	<u>Página</u>
Nómina de los Representantes que asistieron a la sesión.....	1
Palabras del Presidente del Consejo Permanente	2
Palabras del Secretario General.....	3
Palabras del Secretario General de la Organización de las Naciones Unidas.....	5

CONSEJO PERMANENTE DE LA ORGANIZACIÓN DE LOS ESTADOS AMERICANOS

ACTA DE LA SESIÓN PROTOCOLAR CELEBRADA EL 13 DE FEBRERO DE 2013

En la ciudad de Washington, a las once y quince de la mañana del miércoles 13 de febrero de 2013, celebró sesión protocolar el Consejo Permanente de la Organización de los Estados Americanos para recibir al excelentísimo señor Ban Ki-moon, Secretario General de la Organización de las Naciones Unidas. Presidió la sesión el Embajador Denis Ronaldo Moncada Colindres, Representante Permanente de Nicaragua y Presidente del Consejo Permanente. Asistieron los siguientes miembros:

Embajador John E. Beale, Representante Permanente de Barbados
y Vicepresidente del Consejo Permanente
Embajador Bayney R. Karran, Representante Permanente de Guyana
Embajadora Deborah-Mae Lovell, Representante Permanente de Antigua y Barbuda
Embajador Duly Brutus, Representante Permanente de Haití
Embajadora La Celia A. Prince, Representante Permanente de San Vicente y las Granadinas
Embajador Nestor Mendez, Representante Permanente de Belize
Embajadora Gillian M. S. Bristol, Representante Permanente de Grenada
Embajadora Carmen Lomellin, Representante Permanente de los Estados Unidos
Embajador Hubert J. Charles, Representante Permanente del Commonwealth de Dominica
Embajador Allan Culham, Representante Permanente del Canadá
Embajadora Jacinth Lorna Henry-Martin, Representante Permanente de Saint Kitts y Nevis
Embajador Diego Pary, Representante Permanente de Bolivia
Embajador Joel Antonio Hernández García, Representante Permanente de México
Embajador Roberto Bernardo Saladín Selin, Representante Permanente de la
República Dominicana
Embajador Leonidas Rosa Bautista, Representante Permanente de Honduras
Embajadora Niermala Hindori-Badrising, Representante Permanente de Suriname
Embajador Walter Jorge Albán Peralta, Representante Permanente del Perú
Embajador Andrés González Díaz, Representante Permanente de Colombia
Embajador José Rodrigo Vielmann de León, Representante Permanente de Guatemala
Embajador Stephen C. Vasciannie, Representante Permanente de Jamaica
Embajador Milton Romani Gerner, Representante Permanente del Uruguay
Embajadora Sonia Johnny, Representante Permanente de Santa Lucía
Embajador Martín Sannemann, Representante Permanente del Paraguay
Embajador Joaquín Maza, Representante Permanente de El Salvador
Ministro Martín Gómez Bustillo, Representante Interino de la Argentina
Ministro Consejero Breno de Souza Brasil Dias da Costa, Representante Interino del Brasil
Ministra Consejera Carmen Luisa Velásquez de Visbal, Representante Interina de Venezuela
Consejero Freddie Cleveland Tucker, Representante Interino del Commonwealth de las Bahamas
Embajador José de Jesús Martínez González, Representante Interino de Panamá
Ministra Consejera Cynthia Solis Lizano, Representante Interina de Costa Rica
Primera Secretaria Kathleen Seenarine, Representante Interina de Trinidad y Tobago
Ministro Consejero Luís Exequiel Alvarado Ramírez, Representante Alterno de Nicaragua
Embajador Fernando Augusto Suárez Moreno, Representante Interino del Ecuador
Consejero Frank Tressler, Representante Alterno de Chile

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.

PALABRAS DEL PRESIDENTE DEL CONSEJO PERMANENTE

El PRESIDENTE: Señoras y señores Representantes, la Presidencia del Consejo declara abierta esta sesión protocolar del Consejo Permanente, convocada en honor del señor Secretario General de la Organización de las Naciones Unidas, Su Excelencia Ban Ki-moon.

Distinguidas y distinguidos Representantes Permanentes; Representantes Alternos; Observadores Permanentes; señor Secretario General, José Miguel Insulza; señor Secretario General Adjunto, Embajador Albert Ramdin; invitados especiales y miembros de la prensa; señoras y señores:

En mi carácter de Representante de Nicaragua y Presidente del Consejo Permanente de la Organización de los Estados Americanos, me es grato darle la bienvenida a Su Excelencia Ban Ki-moon, Secretario General de las Naciones Unidas así como a los honorables miembros de la comitiva que lo acompañan a esta sesión protocolar del Consejo Permanente. Estoy seguro de que transmito el mensaje cordial de cada uno de los Representantes de los Estados Miembros de la OEA al expresar el honor de recibirlo en esta Casa de las Américas.

Su visita, señor Secretario General Ban Ki-moon, es testimonio de la muy especial relación que existe entre las Naciones Unidas y la OEA, la cual se reconoce en la Carta de San Francisco, en varias resoluciones de su Asamblea General así como en la Carta de la OEA que establece el carácter regional de la Organización en el seno de las Naciones Unidas. Su presencia en el Salón de las Américas y en esta sesión refrenda esa particular relación que existe entre las dos Organizaciones.

Su Excelencia Ban Ki-moon se convirtió en el octavo Secretario General de las Naciones Unidas el 1 de enero de 2007, habiéndose desempeñado previamente como Ministro de Relaciones Exteriores y Comercio de Corea del Sur. Cuenta él con una distinguida carrera en el servicio diplomático de su país, con destino en Nueva Delhi, Washington y Viena, desempeñándose también como Asesor del Presidente en temas de política exterior, Asesor Principal del Presidente en cuestiones de seguridad nacional, Viceministro de Planificación de Políticas y Director General de Asuntos Americanos, por lo que conoce a profundidad las bondades y desafíos de nuestra región.

El Secretario General Ban Ki-Moon estudió relaciones internacionales en la Universidad Nacional de Seúl y cuenta con una maestría en Administración Pública en la Escuela de Gobierno Kennedy de la Universidad de Harvard. En julio de 2008 fue investido doctor honoris causa por la Universidad Nacional de Seúl. Ha sido condecorado en tres ocasiones con la Orden del Mérito, máxima distinción de la República de Corea, por los servicios prestados a su país.

Sus vínculos con las Naciones Unidas se inician temprano en su carrera diplomática, desempeñando el cargo de Primer Secretario de la Misión Permanente de la República de Corea ante las Naciones Unidas y Director de la División de las Naciones Unidas en la sede del Ministerio de Relaciones Exteriores en Seúl.

En 2001-2002, como Jefe de Gabinete del Presidente de la Asamblea General de las Naciones Unidas, facilitó la rápida aprobación de la primera resolución de ese período de sesiones, condenando los ataques terroristas del 11 de septiembre. La paz y la seguridad internacionales continúan siendo un imperativo ineludible de los pueblos y naciones del mundo para la búsqueda del desarrollo, del progreso y de la cooperación internacional.

Compartimos sus preocupaciones, señor Secretario General, por hacer prevalecer la vía del diálogo, la negociación y la no injerencia en los asuntos internos de los Estados y la búsqueda de soluciones pacíficas a conflictos existentes en diversas regiones del mundo, por los medios que dispone el derecho internacional, tareas en las que ambas Organizaciones tienen un importante rol que jugar.

El destacado desempeño del Secretario General Ban Ki-moon al frente de las Naciones Unidas le permitió la reelección en junio de 2011, renovando su mandato por cinco años más. Durante estos períodos ha encabezado importantes actividades de mantenimiento de la paz de las Naciones Unidas, contribuyendo con el acceso de fuerzas de paz a Sudán y sosteniendo en la agenda internacional el tema del calentamiento global.

En su segundo mandato, el Secretario General de las Naciones Unidas ha fijado como prioridades el desarrollo inclusivo y sostenible, el empoderamiento de la mujer, la transparencia y rendición de cuentas, los derechos humanos, el desarme y la no proliferación de armas. Ambas Organizaciones compartimos esfuerzos y los anhelos por establecer un mundo libre de armas nucleares y de destrucción masiva. Nuestra América ha dado pasos importantes en esta dirección con la suscripción del Tratado de Tlatelolco.

Resulta evidente que estas prioridades son complementarias con el trabajo de nuestra Organización, pues todas ellas conducen a la paz, la gobernabilidad y la prosperidad que todos buscamos para nuestros pueblos.

En este espíritu, consideramos indispensable la cooperación y complementariedad entre organismos internacionales para sumar experiencias, recursos y conocimiento, ampliar nuestros campos de acción y obtener resultados de mayor impacto para el bienestar de los ciudadanos de la región.

Su presencia, señor Secretario General Ban Ki-moon, en la sede de la Organización de los Estados Americanos confirma la importancia que usted le otorga a la cooperación entre nuestras organizaciones, cuya tendencia es continuar fortaleciéndose. Es grato para nosotros recibirlo y reiterarle nuestra cálida bienvenida.

Muchas gracias.

[Aplausos.]

PALABRAS DEL SECRETARIO GENERAL

El PRESIDENTE: A continuación le ofrezco la palabra al señor Secretario General de la Organización de los Estados Americanos, Su Excelencia, José Miguel Insulza.

El SECRETARIO GENERAL: Chair of the Permanent Council of the Organization of American States and Permanent Representative of Nicaragua, Ambassador Denis Moncada; His Excellency, the Secretary-General of the United Nations, Ban Ki-moon; ambassadors, permanent representatives of member states; ambassadors and representatives of permanent observer states; heads and representatives of international organizations; ambassadors to the United States

Government; Director of the Pan American Health Organization (PAHO); Vice President of the World Bank; distinguished members of the United Nations delegation; ladies and gentlemen:

It is an honor to receive the United Nations Secretary-General, Mr. Ban Ki-Moon, on his first official visit to the Organization of American States. Excellency, on behalf of the entire inter-American system gathered here at the headquarters of the OAS, I bid you a most cordial welcome.

As you all know, Article 1 of the Charter of the OAS declares: “Within the United Nations, the Organization of American States is a regional agency.” Therefore, I can properly tell you: “*Mi casa es su casa.*”

The Americas and the United Nations have forged deep and broad cooperation ties, an unparalleled level of collaboration that dates from the UN’s creation. Our region, a pioneer of multilateralism, did not hesitate in supporting the new international system that came into being at the San Francisco Conference in 1945. Of the 50 founding member states of the United Nations, 22 are from the Americas and are members of this organization.

That long-standing multilateral tradition has also given rise to multiple forms of cooperation between us. Our work for the advancement of human rights reached an important milestone with the adoption of the American Declaration of the Rights and Duties of Man, a forerunner, by a few months, to the Universal Declaration of Human Rights, adopted by the United Nations.

Our defense of human rights won us recognition for protecting the citizens of the Americas through the difficult times of dictatorships and domestic strife, and we have been building on those endeavors in recent decades.

For more than 60 years, we have worked together continuously in several conflicts that have threatened the peace in our region. We recently marked the 25th anniversary of the Esquipulas Accords, which opened the way for peace in Central America. Our organizations joined forces to monitor and verify their compliance so that Central America might move forward in a climate of peace, cooperation, and solidarity.

We also recall the deployment two decades ago of the International Civilian Mission in Haiti (MICIVIH), in which the two organizations mobilized as one on behalf of our sister republic; and, more recently, of course, the United Nations Stabilization Mission in Haiti (MINUSTAH), in which the region’s countries adopted a predominant role in a gesture of hemispheric solidarity with one of the founding nations of our two organizations. We have recognized the leadership of the UN in our joint efforts in Haiti and have played an important role in helping organize, together with you, its full return to democracy.

Today, our region is consolidating its democratic régimes, cementing the rule of law, and experiencing one of the most positive chapters in its economic history. We must thank you for the continued consultations every time that a situation has arisen that requires coordination—which, fortunately, have been few in the past years—and for the strong support we have received from you on each occasion. Your words and actions have made us feel that we are, indeed, your regional organization.

The OAS and agencies of the United Nations system have signed more than 20 cooperation agreements in the last decade alone. The UN has also worked with us, through the participation of the Economic Commission for Latin America and the Caribbean (ECLAC), the International Labour Organization (ILO), the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP), and the Pan American Health Organization (PAHO), in the Summits of the Americas process, and its support has been most important for this regional dialogue.

We have developed far-reaching cooperation in the areas of education, gender, climate change, water management, drugs and security, and counter-terrorism, with invaluable results. We hope to continue enhancing our cooperation to complement our strengths and coordinate our efforts every time more effectively.

Secretary-General Ban Ki-moon, ambassadors, distinguished guests: the UN and the OAS share a common responsibility where the world's problems are concerned. Protection of human rights, transparency of elections, consolidation of peace and security for our citizens, and integral development for our peoples are universal values that guide our work.

We want a world where the aspirations of our citizens are not stifled by lack of opportunities or by obstacles that restrict the inclusion of societies as dynamic as ours. We want a mutually supportive "Americas region" that acts in solidarity, not only with its members, but with all the nations of the world. We want to work together to free our societies from violence and fear, to face the threats of drug trafficking and organized crime that damage our democracies, and to allow every citizen of our nations to live in peace and security.

Mr. Secretary-General, we know that those aspirations are as dear to you as they are to us. Your uncompromising commitment to the values of the United Nations enhances the organizational ties that unite our two organizations and command our grateful admiration.

Welcome again to the House of the Americas, and thanks for this important visit.

[Aplausos.]

El PRESIDENTE: Muchas gracias, señor Secretario General Insulza, por su mensaje.

PALABRAS DEL SECRETARIO GENERAL DE LA ORGANIZACIÓN DE LAS NACIONES UNIDAS

El PRESIDENTE: Tengo el especial honor de invitar al Secretario General de la Organización de las Naciones Unidas, señor Ban Ki-moon, a dirigirse al Consejo Permanente de la Organización de los Estados Americanos. Señor Ban Ki-moon, tiene la palabra.

EL SECRETARIO GENERAL DE LA ORGANIZACIÓN DE LAS NACIONES UNIDAS: Your Excellency Ambassador Denis Ronaldo Moncada Colindres, Chairman of the Permanent Council and Permanent Representative of Nicaragua; Your Excellency José Miguel Insulza, Secretary General of the Organization of American States; Your Excellency Albert Ramdin, OAS Assistant Secretary General; distinguished permanent representatives and distinguished permanent observers; excellencies; ladies and gentlemen:

Muchas gracias por la cálida bienvenida que me han dado a esta extraordinaria Casa de las Américas.

I am pleased to be here and to finally make good on Secretary General Insulza's kind and long-standing invitation. It has been a great pleasure and source of honor to have worked very closely with Secretary General Insulza as heads of two important international organizations.

And for me, it is a profound honor to address the Permanent Council of the Organization of American States. You are the world's oldest regional organization. The history and vision of the OAS are reflected in every corner of this remarkable building. I am here to pay tribute to that legacy, but I am also here to look ahead with you and to highlight the importance of an even deeper strategic partnership between the United Nations and the Organization of American States. That is my message today.

I am convinced that the United Nations can play a greater role in your region, just as your region can play an ever more important role in the UN. The time is right. You have experiences to share, ideas to spread, and energy to help fuel global solutions.

I know it because I have seen it for myself during the last six years, working together with members of the OAS and this, your great continent. Over the last six years as United Nations Secretary-General, I have had the honor of working closely with your countries and travelling throughout the Americas.

In addition to extensive visits around the United States and Canada, I travelled to Panama for the OAS's regular session of the General Assembly in my first year as Secretary-General. I went to Jamaica and was proud to be the first UN Secretary-General to address a summit of the Caribbean Community (CARICOM). I visited Haiti and Chile soon after terrible earthquakes. I travelled to Guatemala and took part in a meeting of the Central American Integration System (SICA). I have also attended the Summit of the Americas and journeyed through South America on numerous occasions. The countries I named are not all the countries to which I have travelled. I cannot name all the countries here. I hope you will understand.

I have seen even more than I had planned. In 2011, I had firsthand experience with the volcanic ash cloud that spread across South America. My flight was scheduled to arrive in Buenos Aires but was diverted to Córdoba, 700 kilometers away, and I had to travel overnight by bus. It took about 10 hours. Along the way, I had the unexpected pleasure of enjoying *alfajores* in a roadside gas station. [Risadas.] This was in the city of Rosario, which happens to be the hometown of my Chef de Cabinet, Susana Malcorra, who is with me today. By the time I made it to Buenos Aires, it was on national news: "The Secretary-General rode the bus for about 10 hours to make up time to meet the President." Some Argentinians smiled and said: "Please remember: the alfajores are from Argentina, but the ash is from Chile!" [Risadas.]

All joking aside, I have seen tremendous progress and promise wherever I have been. Many economies in the region are growing. Democratic institutions are strengthening. The global influence of the Americas as a whole is on the rise. You are expanding your role as a bridge between the nations of North and South, as well as among those of the South.

You are also exploring new and dynamic ways to integrate your efforts and approaches. There are different configurations in which you work together; some regional, others subregional: the Community of Latin American and Caribbean States (CELAC), the Southern Common Market (MERCOSUR), the Union of South American Nations (UNASUR), the Caribbean Community (CARICOM), the Central American Integration System (SICA), and many others. They reflect your views on how best to associate and advance different issues and objectives. But in whatever form, you are working to fight poverty and inequality, tackle the legacy of past human rights violations, and promote the rule of law and social inclusion.

And there is no doubt in my mind: the engagement of the Western Hemisphere and its regional structures are crucial to addressing 21st century challenges and carrying forward our common agenda. That is why I am here to discuss with you.

Excellencies, ladies and gentlemen, I am also here in the midst of many other pressing realities in the world around us. Let me begin with this week's nuclear test conducted by the Democratic People's Republic of Korea. Your countries may be far away, but this is a very serious nuclear proliferation issue. This was an outrageous and reckless act. I have deep concerns about its impact on regional stability and the global effort to curb nuclear proliferation. Yesterday, I met with the Security Council members, who strongly condemned the test and are exploring further action.

It is in this context that I want to commend your proud record of making Latin America and the Caribbean a nuclear-weapon-free zone more than 45 years ago. The Treaty of Tlatelolco is a model for the world. Today, more than 110 countries are in nuclear-weapon-free zones. With your help, we can make it all 193 UN member states, and that can begin with the long overdue entry into force of the Comprehensive Nuclear Test Ban Treaty (CTBT).

I am also deeply concerned about the ongoing situation in Syria. As you know, nearly 70,000 people in the last 24 months have been brutally killed. The political environment within Syria and across the region remains polarized. The Security Council remains paralyzed. Meanwhile, the death toll keeps climbing. We continue to see unrelenting human rights violations, including widespread sexual violence. Every day, another 5,000 Syrians flee their country.

Despite the difficulties, we must keep pushing for a political solution. Joint Special Representative Dr. Lakhdar Brahimi continues his diplomatic efforts. It is essential that the Security Council overcome the deadlock and find the unity that will make meaningful action possible.

In the wider region, we must also keep working for Israeli-Palestinian peace. With change across the Middle East, it is long past time to resolve this conflict. We know what a just and permanent solution must look like. In the year ahead, we must stop finding excuses and start finding answers.

The crisis in Mali is also front and center. The international community has responded to the Government of Mali's call for help against armed and terrorist groups. These actions are centered on the goal of fully restoring Mali's constitutional order and territorial integrity. But as acute as the problems are, we cannot lose sight of the context in which Mali is only a part: a sustained, systemic crisis across the Sahel region. Climate change, political turmoil, terrorist activity, and arms smuggling are spilling over borders and threatening peace and security. Drug trafficking is also a fundamental part of the picture.

The crisis in the Sahel illustrates our interconnections. It shows how much what happens there is related to what is happening in Latin America. Drugs and crime are not simply matters of North and South, but also East and West.

Central America and the Caribbean are being used as a bridge to North America, but the Americas are a staging post for Europe. One of the trafficking routes is through West Africa, and the notion of origin, transit, and destination countries is also fast disappearing. For example, once purely a transit region, West Africa now confronts increased consumption of cocaine. Several countries in the Americas face similar concerns.

At the Sixth Summit of the Americas in Cartagena last year, hemispheric leaders called upon the OAS to analyze the results of current drug policies and explore new approaches. The UN is contributing to that policy review.

Transnational organized crime and drug trafficking are causing enormous fears for personal safety and fueling rising levels of violence, including some of the highest homicide rates in the world. The United Nations is committed to working with you to combat these regional, and, indeed, global challenges.

Excellencies, ladies and gentlemen, in Syria, Mali, and elsewhere, regional organizations have played a vital role. As you know, Chapter VIII of the UN Charter underscores regional arrangements, but in our increasingly integrated world, cooperation between the United Nations and regional organizations like the OAS is not just an aspiration; it is a necessity. We must continue to promote innovative arrangements and ensure that each partnership arrangement draws on respective comparative advantages.

The UN and the OAS have a solid foundation on which to build. Our organizations have cooperated closely to promote peace in Central America. Exactly 20 years ago this month, we jointly created the International Civilian Mission in Haiti (MICIVIH), the first and only joint mission of the UN and OAS.

We have worked to coordinate our electoral activities.

The Economic Commission for Latin America and the Caribbean (ECLAC), the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP), the Pan American Health Organization (PAHO), and the International Labour Organization (ILO) are partnering with the OAS, the World Bank and the Inter-American Development Bank (IDB) to support follow-up to the recommendations emanating from the Summits of the Americas.

The United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime (UNODOC) works closely with the OAS Secretariat on issues of citizen security, the fight against corruption, drug trafficking, and organized crime.

There are important synergies between the regional human rights bodies and the UN human rights machinery, including the Office of the High Commissioner for Human Rights (OHCHR).

In all these areas and more, our complementary agendas are very clear.

Excellencies, ladies and gentlemen, as I began my second term as Secretary-General, I identified five areas in which needs are greatest and collective action can make the greatest difference:

1. Sustainable development;
2. Preventive diplomacy;
3. Supporting nations in transition;
4. Building a more secure world; and
5. Empowering women and young people.

Those are five action agendas which I have termed generational opportunities to make this world better. These imperatives align with the four pillars of the OAS: democracy, human rights, security, and development.

In recent decades, your experiences and successes have helped show the crucial interconnections between these pillars. Let me elaborate more on those four pillars.

First, regarding the promotion and protection of democracy, the OAS Charter features a democratic stipulation for participation in the Organization. In 2001, the OAS adopted the Inter-American Democratic Charter, codifying essential elements and recognizing people's right to democracy. Your experiences in democratic transitions have benefitted the region and hold valuable lessons far beyond.

Many countries of the Americas have also been pioneers in the field of transitional justice. This area includes the establishment of truth-seeking mechanisms, reparations for victims of human rights violations, and the preservation of memory. As many countries now transition from conflict to peace and from authoritarian rule to democracy, they can learn from you.

In the wake of the Arab Spring, the UN has provided a space for several countries of the Americas to share their experiences on democratic transitions with the countries of the Middle East and North Africa. We can, and should, build on this important work.

That leads me to your second pillar, human rights. Once again, the OAS has helped blaze the trail. Your American Declaration of the Rights and Duties of Man predates even the Universal Declaration of Human Rights. You have also led the way with the first binding treaty in history to address violence against women.

As the UN High Commissioner for Human Rights has stressed, the Inter-American Commission on Human Rights (IACHR) and the Inter-American Court of Human Rights are pioneering examples demonstrating the vitality and effectiveness of regional human rights bodies. I encourage you to preserve the precious legacy and achievements of the inter-American human rights system, and I encourage full participation by all member states.

Let me now turn to the third pillar, security. Since day one as Secretary-General, I have been encouraged that during episodes of tension in the region, this Permanent Council provides a forum for peacefully resolving differences. The Americas region also helps promote peace and security more broadly. Today, some of the top troop contributors to UN peacekeeping hail from the Americas. I thank you deeply for your contribution.

I am also grateful for the Americas' unwavering support to Haiti and our UN Stabilization Mission in Haiti (MINUSTAH). MINUSTAH remains a critical element for Haiti's long-term stability and social and economic development. The Mission has been led by officials from the region, a testament to the importance that the United Nations attaches to your special role.

Excellencies, ladies and gentlemen, finally, let me turn to development—sustainable development.

The Americas have made significant progress in reducing poverty and meeting the Millennium Development Goals (MDGs).

Your economies showed tremendous resiliency in the face of the 2008 financial crisis, but structural problems persist. Inequality runs deep, and you know that inequality feeds instability.

After several years of economic growth, low inflation, poverty reduction and high unemployment, the challenge before the region is to close important gaps that conspire against sustainable development and security. It means creating decent jobs. It means moving toward higher productivity and more sustainable patterns of production. It means opening new doors of opportunity for women, youth, and indigenous peoples.

And it means addressing the clear and present danger of climate change. We have many of the solutions already, but we need to accelerate and scale up implementation.

Some countries in the Americas are embracing the transition to a low-carbon, low-emissions future. I encourage you all to do more, and my Sustainable Energy for All (SE4ALL) initiative aims to support and expand such efforts.

A global climate change agreement would give us the engine we need to advance decisively on this path. We must work together and mobilize all necessary political will and resources so that we will have a legally binding global treaty on climate change by the end of 2015. This was the agreement and decision of member states in Durban, and it was reconfirmed last December in Doha. For my part, I will continue to press for action at every opportunity and plan to convene world leaders next year to focus on making the big decisions the world so urgently needs.

In this regard, I am very encouraged by President Obama's strong commitment yesterday during his State of the Union speech. The United States, as part of the OAS and the world community, will continue to lead this campaign, together with the United Nations, and I am sure that the members of the OAS will continue to commit themselves to reach this goal for humanity.

Ladies and gentlemen, following the success of the Rio+20 United Nations Conference on Sustainable Development (UNCSD) last year in Brazil, the time is ripe to rethink the development agenda, with sustainability at the core and equality as a driver of growth. To forge the way ahead and

help begin to define new goals for sustainable development, I have appointed a high-level panel on the post-2015 development agenda. The panel includes five distinguished members from Brazil, Colombia, Cuba, Mexico, and the United States. I look forward to the panel's recommendations as an input for the intergovernmental process.

Finally, let me say that this region has great potential to strengthen the Global Partnership for Development. I would highlight three initiatives that you have been pursuing in this regard:

- The Energy and Climate Partnership of the Americas (ECPA);
- Connectivity in the Americas; and
- The public-private partnership, Pathways to Prosperity in the Americas.

These are good examples of your dynamism and experience in tackling central problems.

Excellencies, ladies and gentlemen, I have addressed many challenges and opportunities today, but each underscores the interconnections between policies and people, and each highlights the vitality of Latin America and the Caribbean, and of the Americas region as a whole. You are crucial to leading us all to a better world of dignity, prosperity, opportunity, and social justice.

Again, I thank you very much for your commitment and leadership. We have a full agenda before us, and I look forward to continuing to work closely with you at this pivotal time to advance our shared values and common goals.

Muchas gracias. Thank you very much.

[Aplausos.]

El PRESIDENTE: Su Excelencia Ban Ki-moon, muchas gracias por su importante mensaje. Con espíritu de cooperación, en este caso con Protocolo, invitamos a los estimados y estimadas Representantes a, una vez cerrada la sesión, acompañarnos a una sesión de fotografía con los dos Secretarios Generales en las escalinatas que conducen a este salón.

Señoras y señores Representantes e invitados especiales, esta sesión protocolar del Consejo Permanente en honor del Secretario General de la Organización de las Naciones Unidas, Ban Ki-moon, ha concluido.

Muchas gracias.

[Aplausos.]

