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ACTA
DE LA SESIÓN ORDINARIA
CELEBRADA
EL 24 DE SEPTIEMBRE DE 2014

Aprobada en la sesión del 3 de junio de 2015

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DOCUMENTOS CONSIDERADOS EN LA SESIÓN
(SE PUBLICAN POR SEPARADO)

[CP/doc.5073/14](#), Proyecto de declaración “Año Internacional de los Pequeños Estados Insulares en Desarrollo”

[CP/INF.7014/14](#), Nota de la Misión Permanente de Brasil en la que solicita que el tema “Red de Consumo Seguro y Salud. Informe del Tercer Seminario Internacional Consumo Seguro y Salud y de la Primera Reunión Ordinaria de la RCSS, celebrados en Brasilia, del 3 al 5 de septiembre de 2014” sea incluido en el orden del día de la sesión del Consejo Permanente prevista para el miércoles, 24 de septiembre de 2014

CONSEJO PERMANENTE DE LA ORGANIZACIÓN DE LOS ESTADOS AMERICANOS

ACTA DE LA SESIÓN ORDINARIA CELEBRADA EL 24 DE SEPTIEMBRE DE 2014

En la ciudad de Washington, D.C., a las diez y treinta y tres de la mañana del miércoles 24 de septiembre de 2014, celebró sesión ordinaria el Consejo Permanente de la Organización de los Estados Americanos. Presidió la sesión la Embajadora Sonia Johnny, Representante Permanente de Santa Lucía y Presidenta del Consejo Permanente. Asistieron los siguientes miembros:

Embajadora Deborah-Mae Lovell, Representante Permanente de Antigua y Barbuda
Embajadora La Celia A. Prince, Representante Permanente de San Vicente y las Granadinas
Embajador John E. Beale, Representante Permanente de Barbados
Embajadora Carmen Lomellin, Representante Permanente de los Estados Unidos
Embajadora Jacinth Lorna Henry-Martin, Representante Permanente de Saint Kitts y Nevis
Embajador Andrés González Díaz, Representante Permanente de Colombia
Embajador Stephen C. Vasciannie, Representante Permanente de Jamaica
Embajador Emilio Rabasa Gamboa, Representante Permanente de México
Embajadora Nilda Celia Garré, Representante Permanente de la Argentina
Embajador Juan Federico Jiménez Mayor, Representante Permanente del Perú
Embajador José María Argueta, Representante Permanente de Guatemala
Embajador Jorge Hernán Miranda Corona, Representante Permanente de Panamá
Embajador Pablo Barahona Kruger, Representante Permanente de Costa Rica
Ministro Consejero Breno de Souza Brasil Dias da Costa, Representante Interino del Brasil
Ministro Consejero Luís Exequiel Alvarado Ramírez, Representante Interino de Nicaragua
Embajador Luis Menéndez-Castro, Representante Interino de El Salvador
Primer Secretario Forbes July, Representante Alterno de Guyana
Embajadora Carmen Luisa Velásquez de Visbal, Representante Alterna de Venezuela
Consejero Rodrigo Olsen, Representante Alterno de Chile
Primera Secretaria Sachi Antrieka Soekhoe-Ramlal, Representante Alterna de Suriname
Consejera Marisol del Carmen Nieto Cueva, Representante Alterna del Ecuador
Consejera Erika Álvarez Rodríguez, Representante Alterna de la República Dominicana
Ministra María Isabel Marca Choque, Representante Alterna de Bolivia
Ministro Néstor Alejandro Rosa Navarro, Representante Alterno del Uruguay
Ministra Consejera Elizabeth Darius-Clarke, Representante Alterna de Santa Lucía
Ministra C. Inés Martínez Valinotti, Representante Alterna del Paraguay
Segundo Secretario Jean-Luc Pilon, Representante Alterno del Canadá
Ministro Consejero Jean Josué Pierre, Representante Alterno de Haití
Embajador Eugene Glenwood Newry, Representante Alterno del Commonwealth
de las Bahamas
Ministra Consejera Ardelle Lisette Sabido, Representante Alterna de Belize
Ministro Consejero Luis Fernando Cordero Montoya, Representante Alterno de Honduras
Consejero Colin Michael Connelly, Representante Alterno de Trinidad and Tobago

También estuvo presente 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, convened to consider the items included in the draft order of business, document CP/OD.1988/14 rev. 1.

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

1. Aprobación del orden del día (CP/OD.1988/14)
2. “Empoderamiento de la mujer, promoción del desarrollo económico”, a cargo de la doctora Claire Nelson
3. Presentación informativa técnica sobre el brote del virus del Ébola, a cargo de la Organización Panamericana de la Salud (OPS)
4. Consideración del proyecto de declaración “Año internacional de los pequeños Estados insulares en desarrollo”
 - Nota de la Misión Permanente de Belize ([CP/doc.5073/14](#))
5. Red Consumo Seguro y Salud. “Informe del Tercer Seminario Internacional Consumo Seguro y Salud y de la Primera Reunión Ordinaria de la RCSS, celebrados en Brasilia, del 3 al 5 de septiembre de 2014”
 - Nota de la Misión Permanente de Brasil ([CP/INF. 7014/14](#))
6. Aprobación de las siguientes actas de sesiones del Consejo Permanente:
 - CP/ACTA 1923/13 (sesión ordinaria del 28 de mayo de 2013)
 - CP/ACTA 1931/13 (sesión ordinaria del 26 de julio de 2013)
 - CP/ACTA 1932/13 (sesión ordinaria del 7 de agosto de 2013)
 - CP/ACTA 1947/13 (sesión extraordinaria del 20 de noviembre de 2013)
 - CP/ACTA 1944/13 (sesión ordinaria del 29 de octubre de 2013)
 - CP/ACTA 1951/13 (sesión ordinaria del 18 de diciembre de 2013)
7. Otros asuntos.]

This document is presented for approval. If there are no objections, it is so approved.

PRESENTACIÓN INFORMATIVA DE LA DOCTORA CLAIRE NELSON SOBRE “EMPODERAMIENTO DE LA MUJER, PROMOCIÓN DEL DESARROLLO ECONÓMICO”

I'd like to welcome to the Permanent Council Dr. Claire Nelson, who will be making a presentation on the second item on our order of business, “Women Empowerment, Engendering Economic Development.”

Dr. Nelson is an integral development engineer, a futurist, a social entrepreneur, and a White House Champion of Change. She has been actively engaged in the business of international development for over 30 years at the Inter-American Development Bank (IDB), where she has amassed experience in portfolio identification, as well as in the ideation and development of technical assistance programs across a wide variety of sectors, including public sector modernization, private sector development, community development, and trade development.

The first female engineer of African descent to be hired by the IDB, Dr. Nelson is a diversity pioneer and a thought leader who has served to initiate many programs, such as the Bank's work in the private sector of Guyana and the hinterlands of Suriname, intellectual property in the Caribbean, strategic foresight in development, and development with equity for Blacks in Latin America. She has also served as Vice President of the 2,000-plus member Staff Association of the IDB.

Dr. Nelson is a trailblazer who was honored with the IDB's prestigious Antonio Ortiz Mena Award for placing the topic of social exclusion due to race and ethnicity on the agenda of multilateral finance and development assistance institutions. As a result of her pioneering work on development with equity for people of color in Latin America, Dr. Nelson was invited to the prestigious Salzburg Global Seminar four times, including serving as faculty in 2003 at its Session 410: "Capitalizing on our Differences: Leadership Across Cultural Boundaries and Geographic Borders in a Global Society."

She was named a Fellow of the Bellagio Consultation on the UN World Conference against Racism (UNWCAR), organized by Global Rights, which brought together 40 global leaders to construct a vision for the outcomes of the Conference.

As a result of her leadership in promoting the right to development, she was one of 25 leaders featured in the publication *Journey to Durban*.

Dr. Nelson is the Founder and President of the Institute of Caribbean Studies (ICS), a nonprofit community think/do tank founded in 1993, and the visionary behind the successful campaign to declare June as National Caribbean-American Heritage Month. Under her leadership, the ICS has become known as the leading Caribbean-American advocacy group in Washington, D.C. and has succeeded in placing the Caribbean-American agenda on the national policy stage. The ICS also pioneered the White House Caribbean-American Community Briefings; the annual Caribbean-American Legislative Forum on Capitol Hill; and the Caribbean-American Leadership Dialogue: Invest Caribbean, which focuses on economic development and investment opportunities in the Caribbean.

Dr. Nelson has served on numerous boards, including:

- The Commission for Pan-African Affairs;
- The Policy Committee of the African-American Unity Caucus (AAUC);
- Black Professionals in International Affairs (BPIA);
- The Advisory Board on Renewable Energy Alliance; and

- The Advisory Board on Afro-America XXI US.

Dr. Nelson is also a winner of numerous awards and honors and has received commendations from U.S. congressmen in the U.S. Congressional Record.

At the invitation of the Chair, Dr. Nelson has kindly agreed to share with us some of her ideas on the engendering of development. Dr. Nelson, I give you the floor, ma'am.

La DOCTORA CLAIRE NELSON: Thank you.

Imagine September 24, 2030, and in the news, the Association of Caribbean States (ACS) announces that virtual reality software called Tech Learn for Life—the marine edition, which allows players to experience learning principles in science, technology, engineering, and mathematics (STEM)—would be provided at no cost to all primary students in the Caribbean Sea region! Tech Learn for Life was initially developed in 2018 as an initiative of the Caribbean Basin Agricultural Society to train school leavers with the skills required for the agribusiness sector.

Recognizing that many students in Caribbean high schools in particular did not have adequate access to science labs, the initial goal of the project, launched in 2016, was to provide adept students with intensive science and technology practical training. In 2018, the gaming platform was unveiled, which has allowed students to experience science labs through 3D simulations. In 2022, the 4D simulation version was adopted.

In other stories, the Caribbean Agricultural Research and Development Institute (CARDI) has developed a high-protein supplement from seaweed. Also, Inova for Tech meets its target of providing 200,000 communities in rural Caribbean and Central America with off-grid solutions to meet their energy, water, and sanitation infrastructure needs, using new tidal energy technology.

Is such a future possible, really? This is the story I'd like to share of the road trip to that future.

But I am getting ahead of myself, so allow me to begin again by saying thank you, Madam Chair, Ambassador Sonia Johnny.

Secretary General, Assistant Secretary General, and member state representatives: It is with deep gratitude I acknowledge your invitation to me to be here to share with you some ideas I have on how the Americas, particularly the Caribbean region, might better address the shaping and the sharing of an inclusive, prosperous future through engendering economic empowerment, with women at the center. These ideas will draw on my more than 30 years as a development practitioner at the Inter-American Development Bank (IDB.)

So, how will we secure our future?

Japanese Prime Minister Shinzō Abe stated at the Women in Business Summit in May this year that “abonomics cannot succeed without womenomics.” Given the global economic realities and the challenges of crime, climate change, and catastrophic social, political, and economic dysfunctions unfolding or unraveling in one nation or another, I daresay that the economies of the Latin American and Caribbean region cannot succeed without womenomics. In other words, global competitiveness,

national competitiveness, and local competitiveness are doomed to failure in the absence of a paradigm that holds women active in the economic strategy of a country. After all, we know that women hold up half the sky!

Now, by that, I mean that an intentional strategy to ensure an integral development approach to the region begins with addressing the culture of that country or region, and then developing antidotes, if you will, to the ills that befall it—antidotes that empower, that address equality of rights and opportunities, and that ensure equity in development investments that do unlock opportunity. For truly, in the twenty-first-century economy, the innovation and ingenuity needed to survive—and, indeed, to thrive—in these economies is equally distributed among female and male brains alike.

This week, we are all aware that the United Nations will begin final deliberations on the goals for 2030 that will serve as a sort of global roadmap for the human families' shared vision of our common future. I was in New York on Friday at a small gathering of wayfarers or journeyers launching a Caribbean Youth Exchange on Media and Climate Change. There were very few of us, but again, we want to make sure that the Caribbean-American voice is present. The UN Climate Summit, which was held yesterday, is also a touch point for this global vision-making, and certainly this idea of climate change has a very special meaning for the small island developing states (SIDS), of which the Caribbean islands—Antillean America—have a special role to play.

So, how would the Caribbean region cope with these challenges, and where might opportunities be found in this world of 2030, which will have close to 8.5 billion people? It is said that by 2030, the middle class around the world will reach 4.9 billion people. Literacy rates globally will be above 90 percent. It is assumed that by that era, women's rights, including reproductive rights and protection against gender-based violence, will be more widely considered as human rights, and more than half of the world will have access to the Internet.

But when we hear these statistics, do we place them in the framework of how science, technology, engineering, and mathematics (STEM) are shaping the solution space, what I call the knowledge of the development effectiveness, which varies depending on how the problem emerges on one hand and how the solution space emerges on the other?

According to the National Intelligence Council (NIC) of the United States, there are four megatrends predicted to influence the world to 2030:

- Individual empowerment;
- The fusion of global power, in which there would be more balance between the East and the West;
- Demographic changes, in which more people will move from rural to urban areas; and, of course,
- An increasing strain on global resources.

The National Intelligence Council has developed four scenarios for our neighbors to the north, the United States. In one, the “stalled engines” scenario, the U.S. energy revolution fails and the American economy enjoys no resurrection. For the Caribbean, that will mean that we're also in

the grave alongside the United States. In a best-case world, there is fusion, a collaboration between the United States and China—another interesting idea.

These are only two of the scenarios that have been floated around by policymakers and in think tanks in the Washington, D.C. area.

And as for our neighbors to the south in Latin America, many of you would have heard of the Millennium Project's report *Latin America 2030*, which cover four different possible scenarios for the future of Latin America. In this case, their best-case scenario assumes that economic, social, and political indicators will continue to improve, and Latin America will gradually converge with developed countries.

So, we see that on both sides of the fence, the Caribbean is embedded in the economy of the Americas and in scenarios that vary widely from good news to bad news. The thing is, for us in the Caribbean region, we still have to carve out a 2030 roadmap that places our scenarios and possibilities in this context.

Having said that, I still come back to this question: in the world anticipated for the year 2030, with eight billion people to give water, to feed, to house, to clothe, and to heal, what possible drivers and trends will be the story for the Caribbean? What is the future we wish to shape and emerge? How will we promote economic success in the Caribbean in the face of the unrelenting reality of climate change, which creates challenges through floods and droughts, soil erosion, and loss of species? In my own country, Jamaica, the recent drought has placed the price of cabbage, a common staple, out of the reach of the average person. So, this is real. This is reality.

Given the challenges I have just described, I propose three lenses through which the Caribbean could promote an economic success story. The future has three colors: the future for us must be green; the future for us must be blue; and the future for us must be orange.

In the green economy, which looks at agriculture and agribusiness and renewable energy as a main driver, we must make sure that water security, energy security, and food security—that triumvirate—are at the forefront of all we do going forward.

The blue economy encompasses the marine and maritime socioeconomic spaces. For a region that owns more marine territory than land territory, we have a lot of work to do in ensuring that more of our societies are familiar with, engaged with, and employed through the various opportunities in the new technologies and jobs emerging in this sector.

Orange, which is the new black economy, deals with the creative industries, such as film, fashion, festivals, information technology, and, of course, music. The orange economy is another area in which the Caribbean already has experienced global competitiveness with its Caribbean-style, Trinidadian-style carnivals and reggae music—which, as we all know, has been called the sound of the century due to Bob Marley's genius. This industry is one in which we need to move from simply being producers of the art to being conveyors of the business that surrounds these arts.

Whatever color you choose for your preferred palette, in all instances, a constant truth shines through: economic equity is a critical factor in shaping a stable and prosperous society, and providing access to economic opportunity is a critical factor in shaping economic equity.

So, what is it that we must do? We know that jobs of the future will have titles, such as vertical farmers, classroom avatar managers, waste data handlers, symbiotic waste designers, and robot counselors, for yes, one of the fears that us futurists hold is that, indeed, by 2030, when the singularity of artificial intelligence converges with that of humans—or so they say—what will there be left for humans to do? I say that to say in order to say that our policies in designing and adopting new technologies must be part of our considerations as a human society.

We know that in order to move this agenda, there are issues that must be taken into account. We need to look at education and training. We need to look at the development of an innovation ecosystem to support the science, technology, engineering, and mathematics (STEM) that will be needed to drive success in these economies—blue, green, or orange.

We need to also look at leadership and governance needed to manage the policy spaces in which these things occur. One of the indexes that interests me is the Women's Economic Opportunity (WEO) Index, provided by the Economist Intelligence Unit (EIU) of *The Economist* magazine. It has in it, of course, access to finance. It was disappointing to see that the Caribbean was nowhere featured, although I would like to add, for our colleagues and friends from Latin America, that Mexico occupied position four on that scale; Costa Rica, position six; and Chile, position five out of 100. So, there is good news in terms of women's economic opportunities, as far as the index developed by the Economist Intelligence Unit, and we know that there is some hope.

The good news for the Caribbean, however, is that in a study done in the United Kingdom in 2012, The Bahamas was declared the best place for economic participation of women, ahead of the United Kingdom, which ranked 33rd. I was very excited by that! The study also stated that the Caribbean was the best place for a woman to be a journalist. That was also good news. The study also stated that in the Caribbean, radio and print news stories are reported by women 45 percent of the time. It says that Jamaica is the best place for high-skilled jobs. They do say that Jamaica has the highest ratio of women in high-skilled jobs, such as legislators, senior officials, and managers. So, that's some good news for the Caribbean.

But now, back to the future.

How can we survive, however, in a society in which the economics used to measure our success is predicated on long-dead theories by economists of the seventeenth century who defined this behavioral science, if you will, based on an era of Newtonian physics; an era when ships took six months to sail from point A to point B carrying sugar, which was the oil of the sixteenth and seventeenth centuries; an era when time really traveled as slowly as the goods and services? How can we continue to define economies in the twenty-first century by those theories, in this era when the time it takes for information to travel is instantaneous and iron birds fly goods across the Atlantic in the space of a mere six hours?

One of the things that must first happen for the Caribbean economies to be rationalized is the creation of a new rulebook around economic decision-making. There's a physics of the new economy that values natural capital and waste in ways that really are meaningful to this new economy.

We also need to look at the area of education around gender and to use the case of the agribusiness sector, which is of much importance and which holds a great future for the Caribbean.

We want to then ask that education and training for women in the Caribbean be focused much more strongly around science, technology, engineering, and mathematics (STEM), beginning in kindergarten and continuing through grade 12, and to ensure that basic school teachers, for example, are equipped and trained to teach and train students as young as six years old with respect to ideas around scientific inquiry. This is critical in order to ensure that children begin to adopt an inquiring type of learning, as opposed to the rote system that is now common in the Caribbean region. We will need this approach if we are to compete with robots and artificial intelligence.

We would need for universities in the Caribbean to get the funding required to ensure that science labs develop the potential of the agricultural produce—be it banana, sugar, herbs, and spices of various types and qualities—so as to ensure that we’re maximizing agricultural production.

We also want to ensure that we increase skills training in the area of processing technologies and waste management technologies for women in the agriculture sector, in the productive sector, so that they are better able to learn how to produce competitive, value-added goods.

Moving to access to finance, we know that many approaches have been tried at the IDB and here at the OAS; there are many experiments in terms of providing access to finance for women. There is, however, a gap in terms of macro-insurance for agribusiness, at all levels of the scale, and for small farmers and women in particular. I think we need to include that as another area of study and inquiry that would allow us to unlock the potential of women going into these fields.

Thirdly, I want to talk about leadership development. It is a known fact that, yes, many women are at the epitome, if you will, of leadership in the Caribbean, especially in Jamaica, but in many instances, they remain locked in the public sector: government. We would like to ensure that more women in the Caribbean are placed on statutory boards, especially those statutory boards in the productive sector. There is still a gap in that regard.

Also, women need to become ministers and junior ministers in the economic sectors. We tend to give women ministers what I call the “soft” sectors: youth and culture. It is time that Caribbean governments and prime ministers place women as ministers and junior ministers in the economic sectors, such as trade, industry, and agriculture.

Finally, we certainly would like to see women on corporate boards.

We think these are spaces in which the OAS, through its leadership capital, can play a part in opening this dialogue and this conversation in the Caribbean region.

I know that for many Caribbean people, agriculture conjures up bad memories and is not considered an area of aspiration. But when we look at the dangers of an insecure food future, an insecure water future, and an insecure energy future against the specter of climate change, I believe a critically important and bold step that must be taken is for the OAS to launch, if you will, a renewed look at agriculture and agribusiness as an important driver for economic development in the Caribbean region, Central America, and beyond. For those small, excluded, poor, black, and indigenous farmers in Central America, those poor farmers in Jamaica, and the fisher folk, this area of endeavor will ensure that, indeed, we continue on the march to inclusive prosperity that began so many years ago in the founding of this august institution.

I wish to thank you for the opportunity to share my ideas, and I look forward to answering any questions. Thank you.

La PRESIDENTA: Thank you, Dr. Nelson, for this very thought-provoking and interesting presentation. You have certainly given us quite a bit of food for thought regarding a futuristic look at the empowerment of women.

We have known that, although income has increased to some extent and it has contributed to an unprecedented narrowing of gender gaps, women still face enormous obstacles in terms of health and labor opportunities. You have outlined some of those obstacles, particularly in the Caribbean and some areas of Central America. We are quite pleased that you have made recommendations as to how these obstacles can best be addressed, and we look forward to working on some of the issues that you presented here, using your suggestions as a basis for moving forward in some of our discussions.

I now give the floor to the Ambassador of Antigua and Barbuda. Ambassador, you have the floor.

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

Madam Chair, I would like to thank you for bringing Dr. Nelson to the Organization of American States this morning. I particularly want to make note of your consistent effort to highlight the work of women in the Hemisphere. This delegation recalls, Madam Chair, that when you were Chair some eight years ago, you highlighted the plight of women in disaster areas, so we wish to record our appreciation.

We would like to thank Dr. Nelson for her very thought-provoking presentation, which I would like to describe as spatially exciting and multicolored in approach. You have certainly given us a different approach to the empowerment of women, which we would like to study in more detail, and I believe that it certainly will enhance our work. Your recommendations should be considered, especially as we embrace the tenets of the Strategic Vision of the Organization of American States.

Thank you very much.

La PRESIDENTA: Thank you, Ambassador Lovell. I give the floor to the Ambassador of Jamaica. Ambassador, you have the floor, sir.

El REPRESENTANTE PERMANENTE DE JAMAICA: Thank you, Madam Chair.

I'd like to thank the Chair for inviting Dr. Nelson to come here and make her presentation this morning, and I would like to thank Dr. Nelson for her thoughtful analysis and her advocacy in respect of development and the special role of women in the development process.

Jamaica has paid much attention to the role of women in development, particularly in recent years, and we are satisfied that progress is being made, but there is scope for further progress. I thought it was particularly helpful that Dr. Nelson was able to note some of the areas in which Jamaica has made progress in supporting and advancing the case of women in development.

I was impressed by Dr. Nelson's emphasis on science, technology, engineering, and mathematics (STEM) and by her futuristic perspective on issues relating to development.

It is true, Madam Chair, that many of the countries served by the Organization of American States are facing the challenges of development on a day-to-day level. We strive to provide basic commodities for our nationals, and we hope that through technological developments and through cooperation, we can enhance their lives. In this regard, it is very important, as Dr. Nelson has noted, to recall that women hold up half the sky; women are, therefore, central to the process of development. We note the urban-rural drift that our societies face, and we note that there are certain cultural features that still militate against the progress of women in society.

I was also interested in the characterization of green, blue, and orange economies put forward by Dr. Nelson. I will certainly encourage Jamaican officials to give careful thought to this concept. Those three colors happen to be political colors in Jamaica. I don't know whether that is a coincidence or not!

I also welcome the emphasis placed on education and training by Dr. Nelson, as well as on leadership development.

Finally, Madam Chair, many of us in Jamaica have been seized with the matter of having more women on corporate boards. I would note that in Jamaica, the Prime Minister is female, the Chief Justice is female, the Director of Public Prosecutions is female, the Solicitor General is female, and the head of Jamaica's largest bank is female, so there are some signs of progress, but the struggle continues.

Thank you, Chair.

La PRESIDENTA: Thank you, Ambassador, for your very informative contribution. I now give the floor to the Ambassador of Saint Kitts and Nevis. Ambassador, you have the floor.

La REPRESENTANTE PERMANENTE DE SAINT KITTTS Y NEVIS: Thank you very much, Madam Chair.

I'd like to say a very warm welcome to Dr. Claire Nelson. I want to be very brief and to thank you, Dr. Nelson, for your presentation, which was quite thought-provoking. I particularly appreciated all that you spoke about in relation to science, technology, engineering, and mathematics (STEM) education.

I don't know whether I should ask or just make a statement, but I wanted to mention the prospect of encouraging more of our women to vie for political decision-making positions and what that would mean for everything that you spoke about. I believe that once we are able to put on the table what we want in order to make this world a fairer and more balanced place, all of the elements that you put before us for consideration will stand a much better chance of coming to fruition.

Women are already very much involved, but we do what I call "leading from behind": we put men at the forefront, and we do all the grassroots work and ensure that men get elected. Then, we

stand aside and allow them to make the decisions for us, to a large extent, although there are women who are very much politically engaged.

So I just wanted to throw that in the mix: the political engagement of women at a higher level.

Thank you very much.

La PRESIDENTA: Thank you, Ambassador. I now give the floor to the Ambassador of Mexico. Ambassador, you have the floor.

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

Al igual que quienes me precedieron en el uso de la palabra, celebro que se haya incluido este tema en nuestro orden del día de hoy y más celebro que se haya invitado a la doctora Claire Nelson a estar presente con nosotros para escuchar sus palabras. En efecto, el empoderamiento de la mujer es algo sobre lo que todos hablan hoy en día; es algo que está en el discurso público y privado pero sobre lo que poco se efectúa y poco se materializa y se realiza.

La señora Representante Permanente de Antigua y Barbuda señaló algo fundamental con relación a la nueva visión estratégica cuyas orientaciones y objetivos acabamos de aprobar el 12 de septiembre pasado. En los objetivos y las orientaciones específicas de esa visión estratégica se incluye el compromiso de que todos los programas de la Organización de los Estados Americanos, absolutamente todos, cuenten con un porcentaje presupuestal en materia de equidad e igualdad de género; es decir, este es un lineamiento transversal que va a recorrer a todos los programas de la OEA para que en cualquiera que estos se lleven a cabo en el Continente, se cuente con una aportación presupuestal específica, de tal manera que contemplen equidad de género en cualquiera que sea el programa que se lleve a cabo.

Yo creo que eso es un avance importante en nuestra Organización y, desde luego, sería también muy importante que ahora que entremos en la fase de implementación de la visión estratégica, pudiéramos contar con el consejo, con el apoyo, con el juicio de la doctora Nelson y ciertamente del nuevo grupo de trabajo ad hoc que se va a crear, según se señala en la resolución sobre las orientaciones y objetivos de la visión estratégica de la OEA. Celebro mucho su presencia, doctora Nelson y le felicito por el desempeño que ha tenido.

Muchas gracias, señora Presidenta.

La PRESIDENTA: Thank you, Ambassador. I now give the floor to the Representative of Brazil.

El REPRESENTANTE INTERINO DEL BRASIL: Obrigado, Senhora Presidente.

Também para primeiro agradecer a Presidência do Conselho pelo convite estendido à Doutora Claire Nelson, e evidentemente, saudar a apresentação que nos foi feita aqui hoje.

O tema do empoderamento da mulher, como mencionou o Embaixador do México, é uma questão significativa e que tem pouca atenção na maioria dos nossos governos. Mas, no caso do Brasil, eu tenho a felicidade de reconhecer que muito já se tem feito nesse sentido.

Um dos exemplos dessa proposta é justamente a decisão do governo e, como todos aqui conhecem, o Governo brasileiro tem um programa chamado Bolsa Família, que fornece subsídios a famílias carentes em troca de alguns compromissos, entre eles o da manutenção de crianças na escola, da vacinação de menores, de uma série de requisitos que são estabelecidos para a concessão desse benefício.

Mas, o interessante, justamente, nesse programa é que esses recursos que são providos pelo governo às famílias são sempre direcionados às mulheres, às mães de família, e nunca aos pais de família. E isso se dá exatamente pelo entendimento, ou pelo reconhecimento da seriedade com que as mulheres administram esses recursos e com o comprometimento delas com a execução desses requisitos que são estabelecidos, ou seja, são as mães que estão conscientes da importância de se manterem os filhos nas escolas, são as mães que cuidam e que zelam pela adequada e devida vacinação das suas crianças, e são as mães que têm essa responsabilidade e que assumem isso com muito vigor. E, de fato, é isso que permite que o programa avance de uma maneira exitosa, exatamente por conta desta responsabilidade que as mulheres assumem na administração desses recursos.

Da mesma forma, nós temos outros programas no Brasil que buscam a igualdade de gênero. Agora mesmo que estamos vivendo um período de eleições no Brasil, há uma série de incentivos à maior participação das mulheres na política brasileira, o que ainda é quase insignificante, porque a porcentagem de participação das mulheres é muito reduzida no Congresso brasileiro, e justamente as leis nesse sentido tratam de estimular e de incrementar essa participação.

Mas, evidentemente, como a Doutora Nelson mencionou aqui, ainda temos muito que fazer e o trabalho nesse sentido da igualdade de gênero e do estímulo ao empoderamento das mulheres é algo que merece a atenção desta Organização e que merece um trabalho efetivo que possa transformar essa realidade que os nossos países vivem.

Muito obrigado.

La PRESIDENTA: Thank you, Representative of Brazil. I now give the floor to the Representative of Canada.

El REPRESENTANTE ALTERNO DEL CANADÁ: Thank you, Madam Chair.

First, thank you very much, Dr. Nelson, for your address to the Permanent Council this morning on this important issue, which is central to Canada's foreign and domestic policies. Canada sees equality between men and women not only as a human rights issue but also as an essential component of sustainable development, social justice, peace, and security.

One of the most effective ways of improving the status and well-being of women is by ensuring their full, equal, and effective participation in decision-making at all levels of political, economic, and social life. This approach promotes and protects women's human rights while allowing society to benefit from the diverse experiences, talents, and capabilities of all of its

members. As Amartya Sen once said, “Empowering women and girls with more choices and more freedoms is crucial to achieving a better future for all.”

As part of Canada’s engagement in the Americas and through projects training and capacity-building initiatives, we are working with our partners to improve socioeconomic conditions and the protection of the rights of women and to help them take advantage of opportunities in an environment that increasingly embraces their democratic and economic participation.

Within the inter-American system, we are pleased to support the efforts of the Inter-American Commission of Women (CIM) and the General Secretariat to mainstream gender and women’s empowerment into the strategic planning of the Organization of American States. We are particularly pleased with the CIM’s proposals regarding its upcoming work plan, and we look forward to continuing to work on this issue with all OAS member states.

Thank you Dr. Nelson; thank you, Madam Chair.

La PRESIDENTA: Thank you, Representative. I now give the floor to the Representative of Colombia.

El REPRESENTANTE PERMANENTE DE COLOMBIA: Gracias, Presidenta.

Permítanos expresar igualmente nuestra complacencia por la presencia de la doctora Nelson y por la iniciativa de ustedes para adelantar, en este escenario, una reflexión de tanta importancia. Sin lugar a dudas, uno de los horizontes de desarrollo humano, de mayor inclusión, de prosperidad en el sentido integral de la palabra, incluye el que todas nuestras políticas públicas tengan una perspectiva en la cual la mujer posea un papel relevante.

En ese orden de ideas lo que debe inspirarnos, además de tener un buen diagnóstico, es el unir esfuerzos para construir políticas públicas que permitan realmente realizar este tipo de anhelos de manera que pasen del sentimiento a la realidad. Y en ese sentido es mucho lo que tenemos que avanzar en la Organización de los Estados Americanos. En el campo social destacaríamos, especialmente, los esfuerzos que haya que hacer en materia de educación. Desde hace muchos años la humanidad ha entendido que cuando se invierte en la mujer, el conocimiento se traslada de inmediato a la familia, a los hijos y es el mecanismo más eficiente para lograr el desarrollo humano y el desarrollo en nuestras naciones.

Por ello, en países como el nuestro, como en Colombia, se ha dado una prelación especial en todos los retos de la educación al lugar que ocupa la mujer, porque finalmente en la medida en que se cuenta con la educación y la formación se va a lograr que ella tenga las oportunidades apropiadas. Es curioso e importante, en el sistema educativo colombiano, por ejemplo, y en varios de los países de América, ya superan el 50%. Hay universidades e instituciones de educación superior, donde la participación de la mujer en las posibilidades de educación es del 55 al 60%. De manera que yo subrayaría la importancia, quizás, de tener normas marco que trabajemos conjuntamente los países y creo que puede ser un horizonte absolutamente apropiado que ellas estén en la Carta Social de las Américas y en los esfuerzos que hagamos para compartir políticas públicas. Es a través de la educación y de la formación como se pueden lograr los espacios correspondientes.

El señor Breno da Costa recordaba cómo esa magnífica política pública del Brasil –la de los subsidios a las familias encabezadas por mujeres– es sobresaliente y en Colombia se siguieron de cerca políticas parecidas con el Programa de Familias en Acción. Estos son estímulos que deben estar ligados a la educación de los niños, a la salud de los niños y a la gestión que deben adelantar en esa tarea las madres que, en países afectados por la pobreza y por el conflicto, muestran un sinnúmero de hogares en los cuales no hay dos padres sino madres cabeza de familia y que, en esa medida, tiene relevancia especialísima en las políticas de desarrollo en esta materia.

Pero habrá que destacar, entonces, el tema de la mujer emprendedora así como las políticas de emprendimiento, la cultura del emprendimiento, la formación de pequeñas y de medianas empresas encabezadas en la gerencia o gestión por mujeres. Y en este orden de ideas, resulta de la mayor importancia tener buenas políticas públicas y buenos estímulos. Uno podría, por ejemplo, subrayar en América, en nuestro hemisferio, las distintas iniciativas de bancos de mujeres; pequeños créditos, capital de trabajo que se asignen de manera eficiente. Hay estudios muy importantes que han hecho el Banco Interamericano de Desarrollo (BID) y el Banco Mundial en esta materia y que muestran las soluciones, las alternativas, las buenas políticas y los buenos ejemplos pero también –especialmente en este caso– la formación de una cultura de emprendimiento para un ser humano como la mujer que, como punto de partida, tiene siempre la disciplina, la organización, el cuidado del manejo de los recursos del hogar; eso aplicado a la economía y al Estado es de especialísima importancia.

De manera, pues, que celebramos especialmente esta iniciativa. Creemos que los intercambios que hagamos entre nuestros países sobre buenas políticas, buenas prácticas, así como el compromiso de los Estados para excluir malos hábitos y lograr políticas mucho más equitativas como la realidad de la paridad en los ingresos serán muy valiosos. Es evidente, según lo muestran los últimos estudios que a igual trabajo no siempre corresponde igual remuneración y hay una remuneración mucho más alta para hombres, en desmedro de la remuneración a la mujer cuando tiene el mismo o más nivel profesional. De manera que habrá que seguir avanzando en todas estas políticas públicas y la oportunidad que se brinda en este Consejo es sumamente útil, lo celebramos y renovamos nuestros deseos de incrementar esfuerzos.

Gracias.

La PRESIDENTA: Thank you, Ambassador. I now give the floor to the Ambassador of Barbados.

El REPRESENTANTE PERMANENTE DE BARBADOS: Thank you, Madam Chair.

I would like to endorse and echo the comments of my colleagues in thanking you for inviting Dr. Claire Nelson here to discuss women empowerment, which we all know is very important for us and for the future. Dr. Nelson certainly has all the qualities to speak on this subject.

The Ambassador of Jamaica has said it all, but I would like to mention that Barbados' Minister of Foreign Affairs is a good example of what Dr. Claire Nelson wants, and that is to have more women involved in ministries as well as important locations in the corporate world. My current Minister of Foreign Affairs has served on many corporate boards in Barbados.

I thank you, Chair.

La PRESIDENTA: Thank you, Ambassador. I would now like to give the floor to the Ambassador of Saint Vincent and the Grenadines.

La REPRESENTANTE PERMANENTE DE SAN VICENTE Y LAS GRANADINAS: Thank you very much, Madam Chair.

I would like to start by thanking you for putting this item on the order of business and for inviting Dr. Nelson to address us today. Dr. Nelson, welcome! It was very interesting to listen to your presentation and to hear you highlight the issues of importance for the Caribbean as we strive to empower women.

I would like to share with delegations that women empowerment is precisely one of the issues that has been front and center of the current government administration in Saint Vincent and the Grenadines. We are very proud to boast females as Deputy Prime Minister, Deputy Governor General, and Attorney General. Women represent my country in the top diplomatic posts in the United States, Canada, and the United Nations, and most of our government ministries are headed by female permanent secretaries. We see this as very important in the development of our nation. Saint Vincent and the Grenadines also has many cottage industries that are principally led by women. They are a major economic driver in our country.

Ambassador Henry-Martin of Saint Kitts and Nevis raised the question of women being elected to positions in government. I'm very happy to say that Saint Vincent and the Grenadines attempted, through one of the elements of constitutional reform, to establish a constitutional stipulation so that each party would field a specific percentage of women among its slate of candidates. Unfortunately, many issues in that constitutional reform caused the entire referendum to fail, but increased female representation is one of the issues that are front and center for our government. Even though we have not been able to implement it via the Constitution, there are other government policies that are in train right now to ensure that women take up their rightful place in our society.

So, I am very happy to report that to the delegations. Thank you, Chair.

La PRESIDENTA: Thank you, Ambassador. I now give the floor to the Representative of Nicaragua.

El REPRESENTANTE INTERINO DE NICARAGUA: Muchas gracias, señora Presidente, muy buenos días a todos y a todas.

En primer lugar queremos felicitarla por haber introducido este tema en el orden del día de esta sesión del Consejo Permanente y agradecer a la doctora Claire Nelson por su presentación muy elocuente y que, sobre todo, nos ha dejado con muchas interrogantes y planteamientos que de alguna manera tenemos que considerar. Fundamentalmente lo que ella nos conversaba, relacionado con lo que el Consejo de Inteligencia Nacional de los Estados Unidos define como un equilibrio entre el este y el oeste que sería bueno, de alguna manera, ahondar y saber cuáles son los enfoques que se están manejando en ese ámbito.

Otro tema que también ha planteado la doctora Nelson y que nos llama la atención es, precisamente, el cuestionamiento de cómo podemos promover la estabilidad de las naciones, de los

países, cuando estos se ven enfrentados al cambio climático y cómo puede desarrollar y mantener una estabilidad socio-económica un país que afronta las consecuencias de los desastres naturales año con año y que, obviamente, impacta su economía y cualquier diseño de política pública que tenga para favorecer a su población. Son interrogantes, desafíos y temas de la agenda internacional que, de alguna manera, a nivel de la Organización de las Naciones Unidas (ONU) están siendo considerados durante esta semana y que, de alguna manera, también deberían ser discutidos por el Consejo Permanente.

Con el llamado que hacía ella con respecto a la importancia de que la mujer participe en cargos públicos, Nicaragua es un buen ejemplo de ello. Aproximadamente el 40% de los diputados en el Parlamento nicaragüense son mujeres, contamos con numerosas carteras ministeriales presididas por mujeres. Por ejemplo, la Directora de la Policía Nacional es una mujer; la Ministra de Defensa es una mujer; una Ministra de Gobernación, una mujer; tenemos dos viceministras de relaciones exteriores. Luego, en la reforma electoral que hicimos, se estableció que los partidos políticos deben inscribir en sus agendas partidarias y darle participación en las conformaciones electorales a por lo menos un 50% de mujeres.

Vemos que, de alguna manera, se ha venido fortaleciendo la participación de las mujeres, no digamos ya en lo que ha sido el diseño del Gobierno de Reconciliación y Unidad Nacional, de favorecer en el campo económico a la mujer. Los préstamos que se realizan, fundamentalmente están destinados a las mujeres porque, de alguna manera, ellas promueven el consumo y desarrollo en la agricultura a nivel nacional; promueven un programa de huertos y sobre todo que a partir del Plan Nacional de Desarrollo Humano –que es un instrumento que tenemos diseñado para sentar las bases de la constitución del nuevo modelo económico de desarrollo nacional– hemos orientado una serie de principios entre los cuales está el apoyo a las mujeres para su independencia económica y para una vida libre de violencia, que es otro tema que también debe figurar en la agenda interamericana.

No me queda más que agradecer a la doctora Nelson por su presentación y esperamos que su discurso sea distribuido a las delegaciones.

Gracias, señora Presidenta.

La PRESIDENTA: Thank you, Representative of Nicaragua. I now give the floor to the Representative of Costa Rica.

El REPRESENTANTE PERMANENTE DE COSTA RICA: Muchas gracias, señora Presidenta, por permitirme el uso de la palabra.

Igualmente, sea usted bienvenida doctora Nelson y muchas gracias por compartir esos consejos enriquecedores que nos permiten repasar un tema que para Costa Rica es muy importante, representa emblema de las políticas públicas en este momento.

Yo quiero compartirle la experiencia de que en Costa Rica, en este tema, se ha avanzado tanto y quiero compartirlo con la obligación que impone a esta Delegación el ostentar Costa Rica la presidencia en este momento de la Comisión Interamericana de Mujeres (CIM), como usted bien sabrá.

Ciertamente, Costa Rica ha dado pasos agigantados en esta materia, tanto así que la Presidenta de la Corte Suprema de Justicia es una mujer; la Defensora de los Habitantes es otra mujer; la Contraloría General de la República lo ostenta otra mujer; la Procuraduría General de la República lo ostenta otra mujer. Ciertamente tenemos una repartición bastante paritaria en el Congreso de la República entre ministros y ministras, esto a partir de una acción afirmativa que se incorporó en 1996 en el Código Electoral costarricense, que obligada a incorporar en todas las papeletas un 50% de mujeres y esto ha tenido el efecto reproductor en los dictados de la política pública de tener una sensibilidad femenina que, desde luego, enriquece muchísimo el panorama de la solución de los problemas nacionales.

Quiero decir, además, que en esa intención progresiva que acompaña las acciones afirmativas como una forma de reeducar, reculturizar a las sociedades a través de la legalidad, el año pasado se aprobó la reforma a nuestro Código Penal para darle un tratamiento diferente –y esto es importante decirlo pues venimos llegando de Guatemala, de un período de sesiones de la Asamblea General donde abordamos el problema de las drogas– a las mujeres que ingresan cargamento de drogas a las cárceles, y entonces se les permite a los jueces una disminución de la penalidad e incluso considerablemente subjetivos, tales como: si son cabezas de familias, es decir si mantienen familia y al ser encarceladas por haber ingresado drogas a la cárcel, el problema social que se provoca es mayor que el dejar, de alguna manera, ese delito relativamente impune.

Y digo relativamente impune porque, obviamente, el juzgamiento y el cumplimiento de la pena queda sujeto a prueba para que no haya reincidencia de estas mujeres que, muchas veces, se ven obligadas a ingresar drogas en pequeñas cantidades a la cárcel forzadas, amenazadas por sus compañeros que están cumpliendo pena de cárcel y, en otras ocasiones, también forzadas por las circunstancias que las obligan a mantener a sus familias cuando han quedado solas y en la calle después de que sus parejas o los padres de sus hijos terminan en la cárcel.

Ese tratamiento, que proviene de la teoría de las desigualdades compensatorias, en Costa Rica es parte ya de nuestra cultura legislativa y ha venido imbuyéndose progresivamente en el dictado de las políticas públicas para tratar a las mujeres con la consideración de una cultura que, históricamente, las ha excluido y les ha obligado además a sufrir esa exclusión, a veces, por partida triple: por una razón de género, por una razón etaria y por una razón social. En muchas ocasiones las mujeres no son marginadas solo por ser mujeres sino también porque, son jóvenes y porque además, son mujeres pobres.

Y esa confluencia de denominadores comunes que sufren muchas mujeres en nuestros países, pues las hacen pasar penas que se producen, además, en infantes cuyo futuro realmente queda rodeado por un enorme signo de interrogación.

Ciertamente hoy en Costa Rica –debo dar la buena noticia– y ya desde los últimos diez años, la tendencia ha sido que tenemos aproximadamente un 5% más de mujeres graduadas de universidades que hombres, lo que implica que el futuro de Costa Rica probablemente estará asignado, progresivamente, más por las mujeres que por los varones. Sin embargo, sigue habiendo, digamos, una perspectiva poco realista en donde las mujeres son desempoderadas, en ocasiones, de ciertos foros públicos y también, por ejemplo, de la colocación de los créditos estatales y los privados pese a que informaban a esta Delegación algunos delegados del Banco Interamericano de Desarrollo, que las mujeres suelen ser –y esto está bien ponderado por ellos en distintos estudios– mejores

deudoras que los hombres, lo que hace que en realidad esa promoción del desarrollo económico en nuestros países sea más seguro a través de las mujeres que de los hombres.

Porque además –como bien citaba alguno de los colegas que me antecedió en el uso de la palabra– ciertamente el efecto reproductor que tiene invertir en una mujer está fuera de toda duda, dado que normalmente ellas suelen invertir primero en su familia y por con ello priorizando más en el futuro en nuestros países que en otras dinámicas que no necesariamente serían las prioritarias para efectos de Estado.

Yo agradezco mucho que se haya brindado el espacio a la doctora Nelson para compartir su experiencia que nos hace confirmar el esfuerzo que ha venido haciendo Costa Rica en estas materias y recogemos, sin embargo, la originalidad de algunas de las propuestas que valientemente hacía, como es, ciertamente, balancear las grandes asimetrías que siguen existiendo no sólo entre hombres y mujeres, sino también entre países que dan tratamiento muy distinto a las mujeres dependiendo la latitud en la que nos ubiquemos o que pretendamos radiografiar.

En todo caso, muchas gracias, señora Presidenta.

La PRESIDENTA: Thank you, Ambassador. I now give the floor to the Representative of Chile.

El REPRESENTANTE ALTERNO DE CHILE: Gracias, señora Presidenta.

Agradecemos la presentación de la doctora Claire Nelson y reconocemos su liderazgo en la materia. El Gobierno de Chile, dirigido por la Presidenta Bachelet, promueve el empoderamiento, la generación de redes, la sociabilidad y el liderazgo de la mujer. De esto es lo que se está dando cuenta en el proyecto de ley que crearía el Ministerio de la Mujer y la Equidad de Género, a partir del fondo de iniciativa de la sociedad civil para las organizaciones de mujeres.

Recientemente en Nueva York, durante la Asamblea General de la Organización de las Naciones Unidas, nuestra Ministra del Servicio Nacional de la Mujer participó en la quinta reunión de los países miembros de *Equal Futures Partnership*, iniciativa a la que nuestro país se incorpora este año. El ingreso de Chile a esta instancia constituye una valiosa oportunidad para compartir buenas prácticas que permitan avanzar en el empoderamiento y autonomía de las mujeres.

La discriminación, la desigualdad e inequidad entre hombres y mujeres se expresa, tanto en el ámbito económico, político, social y cultural, en la falta de autonomía y en la violencia. La institucionalidad del Estado debe velar por la promoción y respeto de los derechos de las mujeres y avance en la erradicación de toda discriminación y forma de violencia contra las mismas.

Gracias, señora Presidenta.

La PRESIDENTA: Thank you, Representative. I now give the floor to the Representative of El Salvador.

La REPRESENTANTE ALTERNA DE EL SALVADOR: Gracias, señora Presidenta.

Mi Delegación no quería dejar pasar la oportunidad para agradecer a la doctora Nelson por su intervención tan interesante y a la vez recordar, como es de todos conocido, la prioridad que para El Salvador representa el tema del empoderamiento de la mujer para el respeto y promoción de sus derechos humanos; es una prioridad nacional. En los últimos cinco años ha habido una reforma al marco normativo y la creación de leyes actualizadas. Contamos ahora con un marco normativo fuerte, constituido no solo por la Ley Especial Integral para una Vida Libre de Violencia para las Mujeres sino también una Ley de Igualdad, Equidad y Erradicación de la Discriminación contra las Mujeres, fortalecido además por una política nacional para el acceso de las mujeres a una vida libre de violencia, como instrumentos estratégicos para avanzar en la protección de las mujeres y garantizar sus derechos.

En cuanto a políticas y programas, también desarrollados, de todos es conocido el Programa Ciudad Mujer, que es un proyecto insignia con el cual se pretende proporcionar servicios de salud, de atención legal, de protección contra la violencia y también para el desarrollo productivo de la mujer y para ello se pretende establecer una sede en los catorce departamentos de El Salvador. Este proyecto tiene sedes inauguradas en la capital y quiere implementarse también en cada uno de los departamentos del país para acercarlo a las mujeres.

En cuanto al sector de empoderamiento de la mujer, se desarrollan iniciativas dentro del marco del proyecto Ferias de Empleo. Así, hay líneas de crédito establecidas para la mujer; hay una escuela de formación para la igualdad sustantiva; y, recientemente –el día de ayer– el Instituto Salvadoreño para el Desarrollo de la Mujer inauguró el Programa Ciudad Mujer Joven con el objetivo de ampliar las oportunidades de desarrollo de las adolescentes y jóvenes, precisamente porque coincidimos en que esto debe realizarse desde etapas muy tempranas para que la mujer conozca sus derechos y sepa también cómo aprovechar las mejores oportunidades y contribuir al desarrollo de la nación.

En cuanto al tema de liderazgo político, teniendo en cuenta que ONU Mujeres ha determinado que las mujeres constituyen únicamente un 24% de los puestos de alta dirección a nivel mundial, es también una prioridad para El Salvador que la mujer forme parte de todas las áreas del desarrollo y también en el área política, por lo que también se desarrollan talleres sobre liderazgo político. Y en el área productiva –también dentro de Programa Ciudad Mujer– se ha logrado la inauguración de la primera planta pasteurizadora de leche, que es una empresa que está liderada por mujeres.

Creo que las iniciativas mencionadas son una señal de que los espacios se están abriendo para la mujer en El Salvador y esperamos que, con este tipo de discusiones, el tema se mantenga en la agenda de los países y se mantenga el apoyo a políticas que tengan el enfoque de género.

Muchas gracias.

La PRESIDENTA: Thank you, Representative. I now give the floor to the last speaker on my list, the Representative of Uruguay.

El REPRESENTANTE ALTERNO DEL URUGUAY: Muchas gracias, señora Presidenta.

En primer lugar deseo agradecer a la doctora Nelson por sus palabras, que el Uruguay aprecia y comparte. Ya nos hemos referido en sesiones anteriores realizadas en el año en curso a los temas

que tienen que ver con la gestión gubernamental en el Uruguay por los derechos de las mujeres; incluso la Directora del Instituto Nacional de las Mujeres del Ministerio de Desarrollo Social, Beatriz Ramírez, hizo una presentación en marzo de este año sobre los logros alcanzados recientemente en nuestro país, o sea que no voy a abundar en eso en este momento.

Sí quería hacer referencia y destacar la realización del Foro Hemisférico Belém do Pará + 20, recientemente en la Ciudad de Hidalgo, México, en el que se reconoció que el tema relativo a la prevención de la violencia contra la mujer es el tema en el que menos se ha avanzado en cuanto al logro de las metas planteadas. Una estrategia efectiva de prevención de la violencia va más allá de la promulgación de leyes, el incremento de sentencias y la capacitación de operadores de justicia; implica también un trabajo integral con los sectores de educación y comunicación para abordar y eliminar los prejuicios y estereotipo de género que subyacen en la desigualdad, la discriminación y la violencia.

Por ello creemos que la respuesta desde la prevención radica en la educación en igualdad de género y la no violencia con el fin último de identificar y generar posibles medidas de políticas y programas específicos a nivel regional hemisférico, que permitan guiar y fortalecer las instituciones nacionales.

Muchas gracias, señora Presidenta.

La PRESIDENTA: Thank you, Representative. I now give the floor for the last word to Dr. Claire Nelson.

La DOCTORA CLAIRE NELSON: Thank you very much for the kind accolades. I'd just like to reflect on a couple of things before I step out.

First of all, I want to assure all of you that we must all remember that at the end of the day, it takes both Father Time and Mother Earth to sustain humanity and life. So, as we look towards a new paradigm of how we share power, how we share resources, how we share the future in the confusion that might exist in the future as gender lines get blurred, and people now have the opportunity to choose their gender, at the end of the day, both the male and the female energies are required to carry humanity into the future. We will require, then, that we look to create balance and to identify, as the Representative of Uruguay said, those cultural norms that we mainly look to visit.

How do we tell a new story of humanity going forward? History, as we know, is written by the victors, and for the last, let's say, 7,000 years of recorded history since Egypt, the Incas, and the Aztecs, most of those victors were men. We know that the world has been talking a lot about the era of the feminine and this is the era of the twenty-first century, as time is changing. So, part of the work of the Organization of American States, as the holder of a common cultural meme of the Hemisphere, is to take the lead in having this conversation, not just on the legalese and the politics of what would it mean to be a man and a woman, and gender difference, in the future.

I am currently working on a journal for the World Future Society (WFS) on how we share the future. My Chinese contributor is writing the section on how we share decision-making at the global level, and she asked a very interesting question. She said to me: "I don't just want to talk about decisions. I want to start by asking: what will it mean to be human in the twenty-first century?" I was taken aback! I didn't even think that that was a question we could ask, but on further thought, I

realized that, as Asia looks to robots to act as caregivers and pets, we really have to start asking some serious questions about our existence as humans.

On the issue of politics and participation in elections, it's nice to have one woman here and one woman there, but at the end, the paradigm shift will require a larger conglomerate of voices. In a study by Rensselaer University, it was stated that 10 percent of a society is required to hold the same vision and the same ideas about a paradigm in order for a paradigm shift to occur. So, it will take more than one or two women for systemic changes to occur and for the rules and regulations to change.

That being said, I think it will require courage for somebody to step out—women in Saint Kitts, women in Jamaica, more women in Saint Vincent and the Grenadines, more women in Costa Rica, more women in Belize, in Argentina—and run for political office, knowing full well that she might lose. But, we must begin, one by one, to step out boldly and go where no one has dared to go before. I dare say, one of these days a woman like me might step out and decide to run for Secretary General of this august body! Wouldn't that be a dramatic shift in the paradigm of what it means to be the Secretary General of this organization?

I'll leave that as food for thought. Look out! Who knows? I am a Jamaican, and as the Ambassador would say—and we Jamaicans always say—"we little but we tallawah"! So, who knows? I may be sitting here in a different seat, 20 years into the future.

Thank you so much for the time and the opportunity.

La PRESIDENTA: Thank you very much, Dr. Nelson. True to form! Let me reiterate the gratitude and appreciation of the Council for your words. As indicated by the Ambassador of Mexico, we are looking implementing the Strategic Vision, and we will certainly take your words into consideration, and—who knows!—bring you back. I don't know about as Secretary General yet, but you're still young. We still have time, so we could always bring you back when the ad hoc working group is looking at implementing the Strategic Vision. Thanks once again.

[Pausa.]

PRESENTACIÓN INFORMATIVA TÉCNICA SOBRE EL BROTE
DEL VIRUS DEL ÉBOLA, A CARGO DE LA
ORGANIZACIÓN PANAMERICANA DE LA SALUD

La PRESIDENTA: It now gives me great pleasure to welcome the new Director of the Pan American Health Organization (PAHO), Dr. Carissa Etienne, who is accompanied by Dr. Marcos Espinal, the Director of Communicable Diseases and Health Analysis, as well as Dr. Sylvain Aldighieri, Chief of the International Health Regulations (IHR) and Epidemic Alert and Response Unit. They will be discussing the ebola virus, which we know causes an acute serious illness which, if left untreated, is often fatal. Throughout the world, this has become a subject of discussion at every level of society.

The current outbreak in West Africa, which was first brought to the world's attention in March 2014, is the largest and most complex ebola outbreak since the ebola virus was first discovered in 1976. There have been more cases and deaths in this outbreak than all others combined.

This virus, as opposed to previous ones, has also spread between countries, starting in Guinea, then spreading across land borders to Sierra Leone and Liberia; by air, via one traveler only, to Nigeria; and by land, via one traveler also to Senegal. It is this movement of the virus, as well as the more than 5,000 cases and more than 2,000 deaths, that has caused the Director-General of the World Health Organization (WHO) on August 8 to state that the ebola outbreak in West Africa is a Public Health Emergency of International Concern (PHEIC).

Just four days ago, the United Nation declared that the ebola outbreak has gone beyond a public health issue; it is "a complex emergency with significant social, economic, humanitarian, political, and security dimensions." This is why we have here today the Director of PAHO and her team to give us an Americas perspective of what is happening with respect to this virus.

Dr. Etienne, you have the floor, ma'am.

La DIRECTORA DE LA ORGANIZACION PANAMERICANA DE LA SALUD: Thank you, Madam Chair, and good morning!

Let me thank the Permanent Council for allowing us this opportunity, consistent with our own resolve to engage more strategically and functionally with the Organization of American States. We would like to engage with you around the issue of ebola. I know you also have lots of questions on chikungunya, and for this reason, I have brought the subject matter experts, Dr. Marcos Espinal and Dr. Aldighieri, who will respond to many of the questions that I'm sure that you will have.

The opening brief by Madam Chair summarized very well the geopolitical situation as it relates to ebola. The problem is that ebola is in six countries of Africa, five of them for the very first time, but it is spreading exponentially. To date, we have 5800 cases and 2800 deaths, but half of those cases have occurred in the last three weeks.

It is expected that this crisis will spread in terms of numbers and deaths and that, as was rightly said, it constitutes a threat to food security, national security, and global security, as well as to the economic prosperity of the countries of Africa that are affected, with implications also for the global economy. It is devastating health systems. Three hundred health care workers have been infected and 150 of them have died, particularly in countries that had previously weak health systems, so the ability to respond to this epidemic, to contain it, and to manage it has been weakened and compromised in many of these countries. As well, there are 22 million people living in areas where active ebola transmission has been reported; therefore, the risk for exponential growth of the virus is really high.

We've heard the declarations, Madam Chair, that have been made, both by the World Health Organization (WHO) and by the UN Security Council. The UN is assuming full responsibility for the coordination of all of the aspects related to ebola. As for chikungunya, a multisectoral response is going to help us confront these diseases successfully. I need to say that with ebola, even with our best efforts, it is projected that this epidemic will continue for six to nine months.

The Americas region has responded to the call for assistance through the U. S. Government and the Public Health Agency of Canada, and Cuba has agreed to send 165 health care workers to Sierra Leone to assist in the response. Also, the Pan American Health Organization (PAHO) has sent our staff into Sierra Leone and Liberia to assist with the epidemic. Of course, once you move staff, then there is always the risk of infection, but we make sure that we train them beforehand.

So the question here is: what has PAHO been doing to help member states prepare for the remote eventuality of the introduction of a case of ebola in the Americas? How are member states responding, and what is the status of the arrangements that member states have put in place? Remember that it is all based on the International Health Regulations (IHR); therefore, the implementation and assurance of the core capacities for response are part of the IHR.

Chikungunya is an epidemic that is spreading rapidly throughout the Americas. The first cases emerged in the Caribbean in December 2013, and since then, the epidemic has spread through the Caribbean, Central America, and South America. It was the first time that chikungunya was introduced into the Caribbean, a highly vulnerable population that had no immunity; hence, the large number of cases that have resulted from this epidemic.

As well, you will recall that dengue is endemic in the region of the Americas. Dengue and chikungunya are carried by the same vector, the *Aedes aegypti*, so the fact that dengue is endemic in our populations sets the stage for chikungunya. You have a virgin population for the virus, you have the presence of the *Aedes aegypti*, and so it spreads like wildfire.

This is what is happening. It is placing serious pressure on governments as the citizenry demands a response, and the response is tied to the ability of householders to ensure reduced breeding of the vector in their homes. There, too, a multisectoral response is going to be necessary if we are going to confront chikungunya. But we are afraid that chikungunya will have the same fate as dengue, that it will become endemic in our population because of the high population of the *Aedes aegypti* mosquito in all of our countries.

With those few remarks, and with your permission, Madam Chair, I would like to invite Dr. Marcos Espinal to make a short presentation on ebola and then to introduce some additional remarks on chikungunya.

Thank you.

[Pausa.]

EL GERENTE DEL ÁREA DE VIGILANCIA, CONTROL Y PREVENCIÓN DE ENFERMEDADES DE LA ORGANIZACIÓN PANAMERICANA DE LA SALUD: Thank you, Madam Director.

Excellencies, distinguished guests, I'd like to give you a brief overview of the ebola situation in West Africa and then go into the action that the Pan American Health Organization (PAHO) is taking to prepare member states to ensure that, if a case of ebola comes to our region, it is managed properly so as to prevent dissemination of the disease.

The basic definition is that ebola is a rare and deadly disease caused by infection by one of the ebola virus strains. It's a surprise to many people that ebola has been present in Africa since 1976 and that it is named ebola because it was discovered near the Ebola River in what is now the Democratic Republic of Congo (DRC), formerly Zaire.

As previously mentioned, in Resolution 2176, of September 18, 2014, the UN Security Council declared the ebola crisis in West Africa to be a threat to international peace and security, and, as Madam Director Dr. Etienne said, it has also had a huge economic impact in the affected nations.

As of September 22, 5800 cases and 2800 known deaths have been reported. For sure, there are more than 5800 cases and 2800 deaths, but it is important to understand that the health systems in the affected countries are weak and had been affected by war and internal problems. So, the expectation is that there are more cases than those officially reported.

The map on your screen shows the five countries affected. The three in red—Sierra Leone, Guinea, and Liberia—are the three most affected countries; Nigeria and Senegal have a few cases. The good news is that Nigeria and Senegal have not reported any more cases in the last two weeks. They have been able to control their cases; actually, the cases in these two countries were imported from Liberia and Guinea, respectively.

There is a simultaneous outbreak in the DRC, but it is not related to this one. It is a different strain of the virus, and since 1976, the Congo has had more than 20 outbreaks of ebola.

The key issue here is that it is an unprecedented situation because for the first time, multiple countries are affected, and the capacity of the international response has been exceeded. I don't need to go into that because we all see the news every day.

This is the epidemiological curve. The bars clearly show an exponential increase in four countries—Liberia in green, Sierra Leone in pink, and Guinea in orange—of which these are the three most important countries regarding ebola right now. We're not seeing any signs of decline of the virus, so it's still a huge emergency. The outbreak has been traced back to December 2013, which coincides with the entrance of chikungunya for the first time in the Americas.

This is an important map for you to see. It is scary, in a way, because the red circles reflect the districts or regions where most ebola cases are being reported in Sierra Leone, Guinea, and Liberia. The capitals are mainly affected. It is a very, very difficult and unprecedented situation, as was previously said.

Let me speak a little bit about the strategy to control ebola. I put national leadership in red in this slide because that applies to the countries of the Americas. We need strong national leadership. We're not only talking about ministries of health; as the Director said, we're talking about multisectoral approaches. Our countries need to exercise that leadership from the top in order to ensure that we prevent the entrance of ebola into the Americas. If a case is imported, then we need to make sure we manage it and contain transmission, like Nigeria and Senegal have done already.

I'm not going to go into the details of the strategy because it's mostly related to health issues—clinical management, infection prevention control, and so on—But the other important thing is the need for complementary, community-led approaches. Essentially, we need to engage civil society,

the community, and local leaders in order to apply social mobilization and good education for the public, which is critical here. This is important in relation to risk communication because epidemics bring out a lot of fear and panic, but if we apply proper risk communication and ensure dissemination of good information to the public, then the fear and the panic can be controlled.

As was mentioned before, the WHO convened the International Health Regulations Emergency Committee, and on August 8, the ebola epidemic was declared a Public Health Emergency of International Concern (PHEIC). Three types of recommendations were issued for:

- Countries affected by ebola transmission;
- Countries neighboring other countries that are affected; and
- All other states, which includes and applies to the Americas.

The WHO immediately prepared what is called the WHO ebola response roadmap, which is available to the public on the WHO Web site. In this roadmap, the actions that countries need to take are listed, as well as the cost. It is now estimated that the cost of containing this outbreak will be in the range of \$1 billion.

What needs to be done in the Americas? We need to strengthen preparedness in all our countries to rapidly detect and respond to ebola exposure via five key lines of action:

- Establish active surveillance for clusters of unexplained deaths or febrile illness;
- Provide the public with accurate and relevant information to reduce the risk of exposure—here again is the importance of risk communication;
- Establish a protocol for managing travelers who arrive at major land crossing points with unexplained febrile illness;
- Identify in each country isolation units where a potential ebola case can be properly investigated and managed; and
- Arrange a process for rapidly shipping diagnostic specimens to the only two WHO Level IV recognized laboratories in the Americas: in the United States and at the Public Health Agency of Canada. PAHO has made arrangements, and these two laboratories are ready to receive samples from all over the Americas. These samples need to be handled with the utmost security in Level IV laboratories.

Considerations and PAHO actions

Here's what we have been doing under the leadership of Dr. Etienne.

- The Director just recently created a Strategic High-Level Task Force on Ebola, composed of directors and PAHO country representatives, to advise on the outbreak;

- Under this task force is an operational technical working group, led by the Communicable Diseases Department, which the Director entrusted me to lead;
- We have an alert and response team 24/7 to address any requests from our member states;
- Every week we have virtual meetings with our ministry of health personnel and PAHO country offices;
- We have disseminated tons of technical guidelines for laboratory issues, clinical management, and handling of samples, among other topics;
- We have visited some countries that we considered were at most risk to determine whether the dialogue with the authorities is close enough to ensure that preparations are under way;
- PAHO has acquired some supplies and protective personal equipment that is in our warehouse in Panama to make sure that, if a case is detected, we can act immediately;
- Close interaction with sister agencies; and
- We are supporting pre-deployment training to affected countries. PAHO now has a full team training the Cubans who will be deployed in two weeks' time.

The main objective in the Americas is to contain and prevent the establishment of local transmission of ebola following the introduction of a case in a country previously free of the disease. We have prepared a document that we gave to all of the ministries of health a month ago and in which we list all the actions and activities they need to undertake in order to prepare.

These are the agencies with which we are collaborating. It's important to highlight the Inter-American Committee on Ports (CIP) of the Organization of American States, because the main risk areas for the Americas are airports and other ports of entry. There's still a low risk for the Americas because the good thing is that ebola is not transmitted if the person is not sick. A person in whom ebola is in incubation does not transmit the epidemic. We are working with the International Civil Aviation Organization (ICAO) and other agencies to ensure that authorities in the countries are given proper guidance on how to address the matter at airports and to provide education to the public.

It is critical that our countries strengthen their core capacities to meet the International Health Regulations. It is important that we do not send the message that we need a plan for ebola, a plan for chikungunya, a plan for dengue. No. The International Health Regulations, which is a legally binding treaty signed by all member states of the WHO, is the umbrella under which all these outbreaks could be addressed. There are temporary recommendations issued by the Emergency Committee of the IHR, but all of them must come under the umbrella of the IHR. Our countries already have preparedness plans for all of the outbreaks, so it is important to avoid duplication and to maximize resources.

PAHO would like to stress the importance of governmental support for implementation of the IHR. Such support should not only involve ministries of health but also intersectoral partners, such as airport and port authorities, as well as customs and transport departments.

We're working closely with our member states and national authorities on preparedness activities.

The countries must focus their activities—and it's important that you're your excellencies pass this information on to your governments—on strengthening capacity to manage ebola events at both points of entry and health care facilities.

It is important also to realize that preparedness is the most important issue. Why is that? If a case comes to the Americas, we know there is no treatment. There are now several vaccines and new experimental treatments on trial, but they are not yet authorized to be used, and capacity production of them is not yet authorized, so the most important thing is prevention.

A case in any of our countries could consist of someone who goes on holiday and could be healthy, and five days later that person could start developing signs and symptoms and could go to the hospital. Immediately, that person needs to be isolated. The key is to hydrate the person very well, because mortality was very high during previous outbreaks due to overhydration. We need to make sure that the hemorrhage that the ebola virus brings is controlled properly, and so, by isolating the person and the health care workers using protective equipment, the person has a chance to survive.

It is important that everyone who has been in contact with a potential case of ebola be observed for 21 days. After 21 days, the person can resume a normal routine, but observation is important. The incubation period is between two and 21 days; the person doesn't transmit ebola while in the incubation period but does transmit when he or she becomes sick.

How does the person manifest sickness? Hemorrhaging, high fever, vomiting, dehydration. This is why the risk for the Americas is still low because it would be very difficult for a sick person to board a plane in Nigeria or Liberia, for instance, and cross the Atlantic. The sickness would probably be detected at the exit point.

One example is the ebola case in Nigeria. He came from Liberia to Nigeria, and he collapsed at the airport in Nigeria after only a two-hour flight. But a healthy person who doesn't show yet signs and symptoms can go on holiday to one of our resorts in the Americas, land here, and five to seven days later start developing symptoms. And that person's sickness will be detected at the hospital.

It's also important to know that transmission occurs through contact with body fluids. It's somewhat a relief because ebola is not transmitted by air or by mosquito, like chikungunya, so, one would have to be in close contact with bodily fluids of the infected persons in order for ebola to be transmitted.

While we're talking about mosquitos, let me make just a few remarks about chikungunya. It's a disease that was introduced in our countries in December 2013. The reason that we have more than 700,000 cases today is because our population did not have immunity. We were never in contact with that disease; the disease came from Africa. There were several outbreaks, huge outbreaks in Réunion Island in the Pacific. Now the Caribbean is fully affected, and the disease is going to be

endemic. The good thing is that the mortality rate is very low; only about 115 people have been reported as having died from chikungunya. And those who die are those in very difficult stages of life, very senior, elderly, and people also with other morbidities, like heart disease, and cancer. But the disease only mostly manifests with pain throughout the body and in the joints, along with high fever; there is no hemorrhaging like with dengue. That is a key issue to differentiate between dengue and chikungunya, because dengue can have a very high mortality rate if it's severe. But chikungunya is usually a light disease.

The key issue with respect to chikungunya is that it overburdens health systems. They need to be prepared to ensure that affected persons are properly guided and informed that it's going to pass and that they can use pain killers for the pain and remain hydrated.. It is important.

PAHO is focusing on several areas:

- Surveillance of cases. Remember, it's the same mosquito that generates dengue in the Americas. That's why it's endemic; we have mosquitos everywhere.
- Vector control.
- Clinical care. We are training physicians and nurses in our member states because it's a new disease. It looks a little like dengue but it's not dengue.
- Information to the public and personnel.

I will pause now and thank you for your attention. Thank you, Madam Chair.

La PRESIDENTA: Thank you, Dr. Etienne and the team from the Pan American Health Organization (PAHO), for your presentations on these two health issues and on how PAHO is addressing them. We are very pleased that PAHO is actively fulfilling its mission to lead strategic collaborative efforts among the member states and other partners in order to promote equity in health, to combat diseases, and to improve the quality and length of life of the peoples of the Americas.

I know that quite a few people were aware of ebola but not chikungunya. The Caribbean representatives are very aware of chikungunya because almost every country in the Caribbean is affected by this virus. I would like to thank you for presenting us with this information on how you have worked with our medical personnel in the Caribbean to deal with these diseases.

I'd like to give the floor to the Representative of the United States.

La REPRESENTANTE PERMANENTE DE LOS ESTADOS UNIDOS: Thank you very much, Madam Chair.

Madam Chair, my delegation wishes to express our appreciation to Dr. Etienne and her team for this very enlightening briefing on ebola and chikungunya.

Madam Chair, as President Obama stated on September 16, the ebola epidemic in West Africa and the related humanitarian crisis there is a top national security priority for the United States. In order to contain and combat the ebola epidemic, the United States is working closely with the

World Health Organization (WHO), the United Nations, and other international partners to help the governments of Guinea, Liberia, Sierra Leone, and other affected countries. While this outbreak of ebola is unlike any other over the past 40 years, we are confident that it can and will be contained.

Our strategy is predicated on four key goals:

- Controlling the epidemic at its source in West Africa;
- Mitigating second-order impacts, including blunting the economic, social, and political tolls in the region;
- Engaging and coordinating with a broader global audience; and
- Fortifying global health security infrastructure in the region and beyond.

The United States has applied a whole-of-government response to this epidemic, which we launched after the first cases were reported in March. As part of this response, we have dedicated additional resources across the Federal Government to address this crisis, committing more than \$175 million to date. We continue to work with Congress to provide additional resources through appropriations and reprogramming efforts in order to be responsive to evolving resource needs on the ground. Just as this outbreak has worsened, our response will be commensurate with the challenge.

We are trying to ensure that international assistance meets the needs of the UN Mission for Ebola Emergency Response (UNMEER) by matching potential donors with the UN list of priority in-kind requirements distributed recently to Geneva missions. We commend Brazil, Canada, and Chile for their contributions to date. We also want to commend Nigeria, an OAS Permanent Observer, for being the first country to respond and donate \$20 million towards relief efforts. We encourage all OAS member and observer states to contribute to these requirements and to join the United States in spreading the message among other potential donors.

Even while we are responding to the immediate ebola epidemic, we must also act now to establish capacity around the world to prevent, detect, and rapidly respond to disease threats like ebola. We launched the Global Health Security Agenda (GHSA) in February to accelerate specific actions to protect against infectious disease threats on a national, regional, and global basis. On September 26, representatives of 44 countries and leading international organizations will assemble at the White House to highlight the importance of and the need for new commitments to implement the GHSA. Among the attendees will be the directors general of the World Health Organization (WHO); the Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO); and the World Organisation for Animal Health (OIE); as well as World Bank President Jim Yong Kim; Senior UN System Coordinator for Ebola Virus Disease, David Nabarro; and representatives of the International Criminal Police Organization (INTERPOL).

We thank you, Madam Chair.

La PRESIDENTA: Thank you, Ambassador. I now give the floor to the Representative of Canada.

EL REPRESENTANTE ALTERNO DEL CANADÁ: Thank you, Madam Chair, and thank you to the representatives of the Pan American Health Organization (PAHO) for these very informative presentations this morning to the Permanent Council.

Canada is gravely concerned by the rapidly expanding ebola outbreak in West Africa and the impact it is having on the families in the region, as well as on the health care workers assisting them.

The Government of Canada is committed to supporting international efforts to control this outbreak. To date, we have contributed close to CDN\$5.4 million in support of humanitarian and security interventions to address the spread of the ebola virus in West Africa. Canada is notably providing laboratory diagnostic support in Sierra Leone through the deployment of medical experts from the Public Health Agency of Canada. We are also supporting the deployment of experts serving with the Canadian Red Cross and the United Nations Children's Fund (UNICEF). The Government of Canada has also donated doses of an experimental vaccine to the World Health Organization (WHO) to support the response to the ongoing ebola outbreak, as well as CDN\$2.5 million in personal protective equipment (PPE).

Canada will continue to explore additional options to support the international response to the ebola crisis as it evolves.

Thank you, Madam Chair.

La PRESIDENTA: Thank you, Representative. I now give the floor to the Representative of Chile.

EL REPRESENTANTE ALTERNO DE CHILE: Gracias, Presidenta.

La Misión Permanente de Chile agradece la presentación de hoy considerando la relevancia internacional que ha adquirido la propagación del virus ébola en África y sus eventuales consecuencias para el resto del mundo.

Por otra parte, Chile apoya la idea de una respuesta global al ébola, dado el carácter multidimensional que tiene esta problemática, tal como lo señaló hoy la doctora Etienne. En el marco de la Asamblea General de la Organización de las Naciones Unidas (ONU), que en estos momentos se lleva a cabo en Nueva York, la Presidenta de Chile, Michelle Bachelet, en un encuentro con el Secretario General de la ONU, señor Ban Ki-moon, comprometió el apoyo financiero de Chile para el combate a esta enfermedad. Por otra parte, quisiéramos destacar la decisión de la doctora Etienne por haber constituido un grupo de trabajo encargado para, precisamente, orientar y coordinar todos los esfuerzos para responder a esta epidemia.

En un diario de circulación norteamericana, se publicó hoy precisamente que, según un estudio de un centro epidemiológico de los Estados Unidos, se calcula que para el mes de enero podría haber un millón cuatrocientos mil personas infectadas; esta noticia fue publicada hoy, esto demuestra la relevancia del tema.

Muchas gracias, Presidenta.

La PRESIDENTA: Thank you, Representative. I now give the floor to the Representative of Venezuela.

La REPRESENTANTE ALTERNA DE VENEZUELA: Gracias, Presidenta, y buenos días a todos y todas.

Presidenta, primero permítame agradecerle por la iniciativa de incluir este tema en el orden del día de esta sesión. Nuestra Delegación también quiere agradecer a la doctora Etienne y al doctor Espinal por la información que nos trajeron. Nos parece que es bien interesante que traten de realizar campañas de información para todas las poblaciones de nuestros países. En Venezuela, por ejemplo, a consecuencia de esta situación se ha tratado de politizar el tema de la salud y hay una respuesta del Gobierno para evitar que esta situación suceda ya hemos tenido casos de chikungunya y ante ello, algunos sectores han hecho correr la voz de que en Venezuela había ébola.

Por ello, nos alegra bastante la información que nos da el doctor Espinal respecto a las pocas probabilidades de que este brote llegue a nuestros países. Así que sería muy importante la contribución de la Organización Panamericana de la Salud (OPS) para calmar a la población mediante la provisión de información sobre cada una de las enfermedades, qué significa la epidemia de ambas enfermedades o ambos brotes. Yo creo que eso ayudaría para la tranquilidad de nuestros ciudadanos e inclusive podría servir como medida de prevención.

Así que este es un comentario con una solicitud. Insisto en la necesidad de que la OPS –como ha hecho en otras oportunidades– prepare campañas de información –dentro de sus posibilidades y con los recursos que disponga– para que la población de nuestros países conozca exactamente que es el ébola y que es el chikungunya, el vínculo con el dengue y toda otra información básica sobre estos brotes.

Gracias.

La PRESIDENTA: Thank you, Ambassador, for your suggestions. I now wish to give the floor to the Ambassador of Mexico.

El REPRESENTANTE PERMANENTE DE MÉXICO: *Thank you very much, Madam Chair.*

He solicitado la palabra para agradecer brevemente, de parte de la Delegación de México, la presencia de la doctora Carissa Etienne en esta sala, así como la información que nos acaba de presentar y el reporte compartido que estimamos es sumamente valioso. Deseo pedirle, señora Presidenta, que solicite a la Secretaría del Consejo la distribución a las delegaciones, hoy mismo, de la copia de este reporte a efecto de transmitirlo de inmediato a nuestras cancillerías.

Estoy seguro que la doctora Etienne ya tiene contacto con las oficinas de salud de nuestros respectivos países, pero creo que es importante que pudiéramos hacer llegar de inmediato, hoy mismo, a nuestras cancillerías el reporte que se presentó aquí.

Muchas gracias, señora Presidenta.

La PRESIDENTA: Thank you, Ambassador of Mexico. A copy of the presentation will be distributed to all member states immediately. I now give the floor to the Representative of Nicaragua.

El REPRESENTANTE INTERINO DE NICARAGUA: *Thank you, Madam Chair.*

Mi Delegación desea reconocer la presencia de la doctora Carissa Etienne, Directora de la Organización Panamericana de la Salud (OPS) e igualmente agradecer la presentación que nos ha hecho el doctor Marcos Espinal sobre el tema del ébola.

La epidemia del ébola puede convertirse en una catástrofe humanitaria y ante tal situación, el Gobierno de Reconciliación y Unidad Nacional, que preside el compañero Presidente de la República, Comandante Daniel Ortega Saavedra, no ha dudado en sumarse a los esfuerzos que a nivel internacional ya están realizando los Estados a fin de movilizar y ofrecer con urgencia los recursos técnicos y la capacidad médica para responder de manera inmediata ante la expansión de este letal virus.

En estos momentos en que nuestros hermanos y hermanas africanas enfrentan este virus agresivo que amenaza con diezmar a pueblos enteros, debemos redoblar nuestros esfuerzos y acciones y actuar rápidamente con el fin de salvar la mayor cantidad de personas.

Nuestra Representación Permanente ante la Organización de las Naciones Unidas (ONU), en sesión de emergencia del Consejo de Seguridad, respaldó la iniciativa internacional en la que se establecieron las siguientes prioridades: frenar el brote; darle tratamiento a los infectados; garantizar la prestación de servicios básicos; mantener la estabilidad y la prevención de brotes epidemiológicos ulteriores bajo la dirección del Representante Especial del Secretario General, todo ello con el objetivo de enfrentar esta grave epidemia del ébola que amenaza con convertirse en catástrofe humanitaria, tal como lo ha señalado la Organización Mundial de la Salud (OMS).

Como Estados Miembros de la Organización de los Estados Americanos, debemos solidarizarnos y tomar en consideración que la actual epidemia, a la que se encuentran sometidos estos países, está comprometiendo su futuro como naciones, ya que no solo ocasiona la pérdida de vidas humanas sino que está impactando directamente en la economía y la infraestructura de los mismos. Si no actuamos rápidamente, pueden colapsar los sistemas de salud, los servicios de saneamiento y comprometer la seguridad alimentaria, tal como los representantes de la OPS nos han manifestado esta mañana y, sobre todo, impactar la calidad de vida de estos pueblos en años posteriores haciendo más difícil que puedan retornar al camino de la prosperidad y el desarrollo que ya habían emprendido.

Expresamos nuestra solidaridad con los Gobiernos de los países afectados y con las familias que han sufrido las pérdidas de alrededor de más de 2,800 –nos ha manifestado la OPS– personas que han fallecido. Queremos enviarles unas palabras de aliento, de ánimo, pues no están solos, muchos países hermanos del mundo, entre ellos el nuestro, ya han empezado a responder.

Nicaragua, a pesar de no contar con grandes recursos económicos, cuenta con el recurso más preciado que es el recurso humano, el que estamos en la disposición de aportar y sumarnos a otras brigadas que contribuirán en la asistencia de esta emergencia humanitaria internacional. Exhortamos a otros pueblos hermanos a que aporten su granito de arena a esta noble causa, con los recursos que

tengan disponibles, para que los hermanos africanos sepan que estamos allí para apoyarles y ayudarles a levantarse.

Nicaragua cuenta con un plan preventivo para enfrentar el ébola si se llegase a producir. La mayor atención se centra en la frontera en donde se han organizado varias instituciones para observar de cerca la situación sanitaria, animal y humana. Hemos adoptado medidas preventivas incluso en los aeropuertos, para identificar cualquier sintomatología en cualquiera de los viajeros que ingresen al país.

Contamos con más de cinco mil equipos médicos de protección para atender a las personas que se sospecha tengan ébola y más de cien médicos disponibles para atender cualquier emergencia. Y contamos con lugares definidos para alojar a las personas por cuanto que estas deben ser aisladas, sobre todo por el período de incubación que tiene el virus o peor aun si ya viene con la enfermedad, con la potencialidad de que pueda ser transmitida. Esto ha hecho que la Representante de la OPS en nuestro país, la doctora Socorro Gross, haya reconocido que Nicaragua es el país mejor preparado de Centroamérica para captar las muestras del mortal virus.

No podemos soslayar el reconocimiento a la OMS, a la Oficina de la ONU para la Coordinación de Asuntos Humanitarios (OCHA) y la iniciativa del señor Ban Ki-moon de desplegar la Misión de las Naciones Unidas para la Respuesta de Emergencia al Ébola (UNMEER). Y queremos reconocer igualmente el papel complementario que a nivel hemisférico está realizando la OPS sobre este flagelo. En este sentido, valoramos como importante la capacitación del personal médico que está partiendo hacia los países africanos afectados. Creemos que es importante la continuidad de esta capacitación por parte de la OPS, sobre todo de aquellos médicos que vayan a partir de nuestros países.

Finalmente, con respecto al tema del virus del chikungunya, el Ministerio de Salud en nuestro país ha decretado una alerta nacional por este virus que es transmitido por el mosquito *Aedes aegypti* y contamos con un programa de prevención y ejecución de medidas sanitarias en el que estamos haciendo incluso participar a la población, a fin de que contribuyan en las jornadas de limpieza, a la erradicación de focos de reproducción de mosquitos y, en esta medida pues, hemos estado trabajando efectivamente en esta dirección.

No me queda más que agradecer a la OPS por esta importante información y creemos importante, como lo solicitó el Embajador de México, poder contar con copia de la presentación lo más pronto posible.

Gracias, señora Presidenta.

La PRESIDENTA: Thank you, Representative. I now give the floor to the Ambassador of Antigua and Barbuda.

La REPRESENTANTE PERMANENTE DE ANTIGUA Y BARBUDA: Thank you so very much, Madam Chair. I would like to read some excerpts from the Caribbean Community (CARICOM) response to both chikungunya and ebola. The press release that came out of the CARICOM Secretariat states, Madam Chair, as follows:

The Caribbean Community (CARICOM) is formalizing recommendations to deal with any possible incidence of the Ebola virus and is ramping up efforts to respond to the Chikungunya epidemic.

On Friday, 12 September, Chief Medical Officers and other technical health experts from CARICOM Member States met via video conference to rationalise the region's response to the two diseases. This meeting was convened by the CARICOM Secretariat in collaboration with the Caribbean Public Health Agency (CARPHA).

Among draft proposals that were fleshed out at the meeting was the achievement of the core competencies cited in WHO's International Health Regulations. Discussions additionally focused on the need to urge a calm but prudent response when applying the World Health Organization's (WHO) recommendation with regards to the Ebola virus — no restriction on travel and trade in areas where the Ebola transmission has occurred. The urgent need to put in place isolation facilities and resources to permit barrier management of suspected or affected cases of Ebola was also ventilated at the meeting.

Madam Chair, I am pleased to say that many of the points of discussion raised here today were also highlighted at this video conference held on Friday, September 12, and I would like to reiterate the points raised by Dr. Carissa Etienne, who was also present at this teleconference.

The press release goes on to say:

Meanwhile, Director of the Pan American Health Organization, Dr. Carissa Etienne on Thursday, 12 September, assured that there was a very low death rate from Chikungunya, despite the significant illness and disability it causes. Dr. Etienne visited the CARICOM Secretariat for a courtesy call on the CARICOM Secretary-General, Ambassador Irwin LaRocque, and met with officials of the Directorate of Human and Social Development to discuss the Region's response to the current disease alerts.

So, Madam Chair, our having this discussion today is in keeping with the work being carried out at the CARICOM Secretariat, and for that, we wish to thank you and the panel for bringing us the latest reports on these two diseases.

Thank you very much, Madam Chair.

La PRESIDENTA: Thank you, Ambassador of Antigua and Barbuda. I now wish to give the floor to the Representative of Colombia.

La REPRESENTANTE ALTERNA DE COLOMBIA: Buenos días, señora Presidenta.

La Delegación de Colombia también agradece que se haya traído este tema hoy al Consejo Permanente. Agradecemos por supuesto las presentaciones de la doctora Etienne y del doctor Espinal que nos parecen de la mayor importancia.

Colombia, como saben, ha sido uno de los países más afectados por el chikungunya. Nuestra costa Caribe ha recibido por vía aérea algunos casos que llegaron y se han dispersado y expandido muy rápidamente. Así que estamos siguiendo de manera permanente, con los consejos de nuestras

autoridades sanitarias y todas las reglas y normas que nos ha dictado la Organización Panamericana de la Salud (OPS) sobre esta enfermedad.

Igualmente, nuestro Ministerio de Salud ha participado en el Comité de Emergencia que declaró el estado de emergencia de salud pública internacional en el caso del ébola, y ha tomado oportunamente las medidas contempladas en el Reglamento Sanitario Internacional para la prevención de la propagación del brote. Igualmente estamos haciendo gestiones para contribuir financieramente o en especie para derivar los esfuerzos de la comunidad internacional para atender la emergencia del ébola.

Gracias, señora Presidenta.

La PRESIDENTA: Thank you, Representative. I now give the floor to the Representative of the Dominican Republic.

La REPRESENTANTE ALTERNA DE LA REPÚBLICA DOMINICANA: Gracias, señora Presidenta.

En línea con las delegaciones que me han precedido, queremos agradecer a la doctora Carissa Etienne y al doctor Marcos Espinal por las informaciones y recomendaciones que han compartido con nosotros en relación con esas dos enfermedades infecciosas, que como bien dijo la doctora Etienne, representa una gran amenaza para la paz y la seguridad internacionales.

Desafortunadamente, la República Dominicana ha sido una de los países afectados por el virus de la chikungunya, por lo cual el Gobierno de la República Dominicana ha tomado medidas a nivel nacional para prevenir y contener la expansión del virus a nivel nacional, para lo cual ha contado con la asesoría e invaluable apoyo de la Organización Panamericana de la Salud (OPS) y la Organización Mundial de la Salud (OMS).

En este sentido, quisiéramos destacar una de las acciones que el Gobierno de la República Dominicana ha llevado a cabo para hacer frente a la brecha de conocimiento en la comunidad médica sobre esta enfermedad. El Ministerio de Salud Pública de la República Dominicana, con el apoyo de la OPS y de la OMS, lanzó el 19 de mayo del pasado año una guía para el manejo clínico de los pacientes, la cual fue distribuida a todos los hospitales públicos y privados del país. Esta guía establece recomendaciones específicas para el personal de salud de manera que pueda realizar el diagnóstico clínico oportuno y el tratamiento adecuado para la enfermedad.

La Representante de la OPS en la República Dominicana, Lilian Reneau-Vernon, aseguró que esta guía ha sido de gran utilidad para hacer frente a una enfermedad desconocida hasta entonces en nuestro país. Asimismo, la OPS ha impartido capacitaciones presenciales y virtuales para preparar a nuestro país y a los profesionales de la salud en la respuesta al virus de la chinkunkuya y ha compartido la experiencia de la República Dominicana con otros países.

Una vez más reiteramos nuestro agradecimiento a la OPS y esperamos seguir trabajando con ellos en esta materia.

Gracias.

La PRESIDENTA: Thank you, Representative. I now give the floor to the Representative of Peru.

El REPRESENTANTE ALTERNO DEL PERÚ: Muchas gracias, señora Presidenta.

Mi delegación no quiere dejar pasar esta oportunidad para agradecerle a usted por incluir este tema en el orden del día de esta sesión, así como la presentación que ha hecho la Directora, doctora Carissa Etienne y el doctor Marcos Espinal. Esto demuestra la fluidez de trabajo que existe entre las dos organizaciones y eso es bueno para el sistema interamericano. Agradecemos por la claridad del informe presentado que muestra las verdaderas dimensiones de un problema que está afectando a muchos países y que tiene proporciones que podrían afectar a todo el planeta; quizás nos precisa con mayor claridad sus verdaderas dimensiones –no menos dramáticas– pero también el estado real de la situación.

Quisiéramos señalar que al afectar a la humanidad, las grandes epidemias ingresan por las zonas más frágiles y menos asistidas por los sistemas de salud. Esta es una lección que quizás debemos tratar de sacar de este problema y que con el trabajo de organizaciones como la Organización Panamericana de la Salud (OPS) en lo regional y la Organización Mundial de la Salud (OMS) en lo global, lo habremos contenido en algún momento. Pero es importante el trabajo preventivo para que no haya regiones que no estén protegidas con todos los alcances de un sistema de salud, y eso también se aplica para países como el nuestro donde hay zonas y bolsones cuyas poblaciones no tienen la protección de salud deseada.

Muchas gracias, señora Presidenta, y muchas gracias, doctora Etienne.

La PRESIDENTA: Thank you, Representative. I now give the floor to the Representative of Trinidad and Tobago.

El REPRESENTANTE ALTERNO DE TRINIDAD Y TOBAGO: Thank you, Madam Chair, and good afternoon!

I had to seize the opportunity to congratulate the Chair for including this item on the order of business. The information that we just received from the representatives of the Pan American Health Organization (PAHO) is very important and instructive, because I don't believe that many of us realize how challenging it could be in countries in Africa when incidents such as this strike, as well as the impact on the community, despite the very best efforts of the African doctors and the medical fraternity. These communities are very fragile and very challenged, and incidents like this could wreak havoc, as we've seen and as we have heard.

I believe that there is a lesson for us here in the region. We were not aware of chikungunya, for example, yet, it struck, and we have to deal with the consequences. Thankfully, it's not as impactful as ebola, but I don't think we should be content and think that something like ebola could never happen to us. If we begin to think like that, or believe that we're too far away, then we will have some serious problems.

PAHO and all of our health institutions in the region have a serious responsibility in preparing for something like this. I have read reports on the Internet in which there were suggestions that people didn't know what appeared on their borders, and the response from persons who would

have been trained to deal with these kinds of incidents was not what was required. So, the onus is on us to revisit the training protocols, and those protocols must be observed by persons who come in direct contact with anything resembling this kind of disease. We should try to minimize any resultant panic, to the extent possible. This is where education will help, through some kind of sensitization program.

So, thank you again, Madam Chair, for including this item on the order of business, and thank you again to PAHO for bringing this matter to our attention.

La PRESIDENTA: Thank you, Representative. I now give the floor to the Ambassador of France.

El OBSERVADOR PERMANENTE DE FRANCIA: Merci Madame la Présidente, Merci Madame la Directrice.

Un tout petit mot. Nul naturellement n'est à l'abri mais il faut bien reconnaître qu'après l'Afrique la zone la plus concernée, la plus menacée c'est l'Europe et je pense notamment à la France, ou à l'Espagne, qui a déjà payé un tribut à cette maladie.

C'est la raison pour laquelle nous sommes particulièrement sensibles à la mobilisation internationale qui s'est fait jour très rapidement et qui s'est manifestée ici aussi dans cette région. Nous sommes particulièrement sensibles et nous en sommes très reconnaissants.

Je voudrais en particulier qu'on salue les efforts et le courage des agents de santé qui sont sur place, ou qui se sont rendus sur place. Je pense au millier de volontaires qui ont choisi d'aller en Afrique pour lutter contre l'Ébola et je crois que c'est une preuve d'humanité et de courage insignes et je crois qu'il ne faut pas l'oublier.

Je ne dirai rien sur le Chikungunya parce que je crois que cela n'a aucun rapport avec l'Ébola. La seule chose que je peux dire c'est que nous avons une grande expérience en la matière puisqu'on a eu à traiter cette épidémie qui n'est pas finie à la Réunion et que nous mettons et nous avons mis à la disposition de l'OPS, à laquelle nous appartenons, notre expérience médicale pour travailler sur ce secteur-là.

Merci beaucoup.

La PRESIDENTA: Thank you, Ambassador. Since there are no more speakers on the list, let me first thank Dr. Etienne, Dr. Espinal, and Dr. Aldighieri for the presentation today, which was very well received. We hope that the suggestions made by member states will be taken into consideration and that this will not just be one briefing; rather, we hope that you will continue to keep us informed of what is being done regarding ebola and chikungunya.

Let me also take this opportunity to thank the Assistant Secretary General and his staff, who were the first to raise this issue and thought that it would be a wonderful idea to include it on the Council's agenda.

I would like to propose that the Council take note of the presentations made by the team from the Pan American Health Organization (PAHO), as well as the comments made by the delegations. If there are no objections to the proposal, it is so agreed.

[Pausa. Los representantes de la Organización Panamericana de la Salud abandonan la sala.]

**CONSIDERACIÓN DEL PROYECTO DE DECLARACIÓN
“AÑO INTERNACIONAL DE LOS PEQUEÑOS ESTADOS INSULARES EN DESARROLLO”**

La PRESIDENTA: The next item on the order of business is consideration of the draft declaration titled “International Year of Small Island Developing States,” contained in document CP/doc.5073/14 and included on today’s order of business at the request of the Permanent Mission of Belize.

In December 2012, the United Nations General Assembly, through resolution A/RES/67/206, declared 2014 as the International Year of Small Island Developing States (SIDS). For those who not aware of the background, SIDS are low-lying coastal countries that tend to share similar sustainable development challenges, including small but growing populations, limited resources, remoteness, susceptibility to natural disasters, vulnerability to external shocks, and fragile environments.

The SIDS were first recognized as a distinct group of developing countries at the United Nations Conference on Environment and Development in June 1992. Two years later, the Barbados Programme of Action was produced to assist the SIDS in their sustainable development efforts, complemented in 2005 by the Mauritius Strategy for the Further Implementation of the Programme of Action for the Sustainable Development of Small Island Developing States.

The Outcome Document of the High-level Review Meeting on the Implementation of the Mauritius Strategy for the Further Implementation of the Programme of Action for the Sustainable Development of Small Island Developing States recognized that although SIDS are afflicted by economic difficulties and confronted by development imperatives similar to those of developing countries, they generally have their own peculiar vulnerabilities and characteristics, so that the difficulties they face in the pursuit of sustainable development are particularly severe and complex.

The draft resolution in front of us is the response to the request of the United Nations to take advantage of opportunities to promote actions aimed at the achievement of sustainable development by SIDS, as was stated in the UN resolution.

I now give the floor to Ambassador John Beale, in the absence of Ambassador Nestor Mendez, for the presentation of this draft declaration. Ambassador, you have the floor, sir.

El REPRESENTANTE PERMANENTE DE BARBADOS: Thank you, Madam Chair. The Delegation of Barbados is pleased to take the floor on behalf of the member states of the Caribbean Community (CARICOM) to present the draft declaration titled “International Year of Small Island Developing States.” This draft declaration was born out of the United Nations designation of 2014 as the International Year of Small Island Developing States. The Year was officially launched on February 24, 2014, and its objective is to highlight the particular vulnerabilities facing this group of countries, as well as the opportunities inherent in their geographic peculiarities.

There are several countries in this august body that have been categorized as small island developing states (SIDS), most of them from the Caribbean region. They are low-lying coastal countries that share similar sustainable development challenges, such as small populations and land mass, limited resources, remoteness, susceptibility to natural disasters, vulnerability to external shocks, and excessive dependence on international trade.

But while the SIDS categorization forms an internationally recognized grouping of countries, this does not exclude the fact that many other countries of our hemisphere face similar challenges; particularly, the effects of climate change. As such, given that we are all guided by the principles and actions of the United Nations, and given the immense importance of climate change to all of our countries, the member states of CARICOM felt that it was most important that the Organization of American States also recognize this designation.

The international recognition of the inherent external vulnerabilities of SIDS first emerged in 1995 when Barbados hosted the First Global Conference on the Sustainable Development of Small Island Developing States. The outcome of that conference, the Barbados Programme of Action, along with the Mauritius Strategy for the Further Implementation of the Programme of Action for the Sustainable Development of Small Island Developing States, adopted in 2005, continue to guide the sustainable development of SIDS today.

The Third International Conference on Small Island Developing States was held from September 1 to 4, 2014, in Apia, Samoa. Hundreds of government officials, nongovernmental organizations (NGOs), and other environmental agencies descended upon this small island to seek a renewed political commitment to address the special needs and vulnerabilities of SIDS by focusing on practical actions in five main thematic areas:

- Climate change and sustainable, renewable energy;
- Oceans and seas;
- Waste management;
- Sustainable tourism; and
- Natural disaster resilience.

The conference also served to identify and address new and emerging challenges to and opportunities for the sustainable development of SIDS; particularly, through the strengthening of partnerships between these islands and the international community.

It is against this backdrop that the member states of CARICOM present this draft declaration today which, among other things, declares:

That member states, organs of the Organization of American States, the institutions of the inter-American system, and all other related stakeholders should seize the opportunity of the International Year of SIDS to promote and take specific measures towards the implementation of related commitments at all levels, including through international,

regional, and subregional cooperation, as appropriate, aimed at the achievement of sustainable development of small island developing states.

Madam Chair, the effects of climate change on our societies are real and have become more evident and ravaging. Each year, we see the increased intensity and frequency of hurricanes, the erosion of our pristine beaches, the bleaching of our coral reefs, the devastation of floods and other tropical systems on our communities, all of which have a deleterious impact on our tourism industry and our overall socioeconomic development. Only through a concerted recognition of these challenges and vulnerabilities can we respond effectively and mitigate their impact.

Consistent action, especially follow-up on decisions taken, will be required, and in this regard, the member states of CARICOM are keen and ready to engage. We look forward in particular to further exploring this and related topics through the upcoming meeting of the Inter-American Committee on Sustainable Development (CIDS), scheduled to take place in Honduras in October 2015, with preparations starting here in the OAS next month. This will be an important process for all member states.

But, Madam Chair, the reality is this: the development and survival of SIDS remain a special and urgent case on which we can no longer delay.

We have circulated the draft declaration for consideration of all member states, but we would like to make two minor changes to the declarative section.

In the first operative paragraph, it was an oversight to not include the complete name of the Mauritius Strategy, which is the Mauritius Strategy of Implementation.

We would also insert, immediately after the Mauritius Strategy of Implementation, the outcome document from the Samoa Conference, which is the Samoa Pathway.

Finally, in operative paragraph 3, we simply wish to spell out the acronym SIDS, which is Small Island Developing States.

With that, Madam Chair, we present this draft declaration for the consideration of all member states of the OAS. I thank you.

La PRESIDENTA: Thank you, Ambassador Beale, for the presentation of this draft declaration. I see that we have a long list of speakers, so, given constraints of time, I would like to encourage member states to be brief in their comments.

I now wish to give the floor to the Ambassador of Saint Vincent and the Grenadines.

La REPRESENTANTE PERMANENTE DE SAN VICENTE Y LAS GRANADINAS: Thank you very much, Madam Chair.

Assistant Secretary General; distinguished representatives; permanent observers: the Delegation of Saint Vincent and the Grenadines, as a member of the Caribbean Community (CARICOM), is pleased to speak in favor of this draft declaration on the International Year of Small Island Developing States (SIDS). We wish to thank the Delegation of Belize for presenting this draft

declaration and fully associate ourselves with the intervention made by the Ambassador of Barbados on behalf of the delegations of the Caribbean Community in support of the draft declaration.

That the United Nations should think it right and appropriate to dedicate 2014 as the International Year of Small Island Developing States is a matter that our delegation thinks bears reinforcing here at the Organization of American States. Nearly half of our membership—15 countries, to be precise—are also members of the SIDS network, and as the Ambassador of Barbados has said, several other member states of this Organization are forced to confront very similar challenges to those that SIDS confront.

Madam Chair, our delegation, while of course supporting the draft declaration in its entirety, is particularly compelled to emphasize operative paragraph 2 of same, which states:

That issues such as climate change adaptation and mitigation, disaster risk reduction, including early warning systems of impending storms and tsunamis, education for sustainable development, and the promotion of strategic industries like tourism are of particular relevance to small island states and require focused attention in the context of the ongoing work of the OAS.

While Caribbean SIDS have, by and large, been experiencing anemic post-crisis growth, our gross domestic product (GDP) has been battered with regularity and ferocity by the impact of climate change. Over the last four years, Saint Vincent and the Grenadines experienced four distinct climate anomalies, from flood to drought to hurricane, each of which produced double-digit hits to our GDP. Last December, three hours of unseasonable rains caused flooding and damage amounting to 17 percent of the GDP.

We are, frankly, tired of telling major emitters of climate change that this is an urgent problem, an existential problem, the defining challenge of our time. We are tired because the responses to our alarms have been hollow promises and studied indifference to the root causes of our distress. To date, the response of major emitters amounts to a reckless disregard of the consequences and obligations of their actions. Their continuing refusal to meaningfully mitigate their emissions constitutes an act of aggression and climate warfare against small island states and our populations.

This year, SIDS have been calling for real and substantial commitments for curbing emissions, as well as for climate financing for mitigation and adaptation. We acknowledge the positive calls for urgent action that were made at yesterday's United Nations Climate Summit in New York, but we are undoubtedly disappointed that, once again, there was a conspicuous absence of firm commitments being made.

Many of the challenges facing SIDS find their genesis in places beyond our borders, and the solutions to these challenges require transnational and multistakeholder cooperation. Our challenges are many but they are not insurmountable. They require only a willingness to understand our unique characteristics, our vulnerabilities, and our limitless possibilities, while maintaining a strong commitment to implement joint actions in accordance with those understandings.

Madam Chair, there are those who believe that more time is the answer to climate change crises. Our delegation believes that now is the time for urgent action, for solidarity, genuine cooperation, and full understanding of the needs, peculiarities, and contributions of each member of

our global family. It is the way of honoring the sovereignty and legitimacy of small island developing states as equals on the international stage and as irreplaceable manifestations of distinct and authentic civilizations.

The Delegation of Saint Vincent and the Grenadines believes that the involvement of the private sector, as well as civil society, is an integral and indispensable component of the developmental progress of SIDS. Our developmental path is people-centered. It is creative. It has much to teach the world about respect for the environment, racial and ethnic harmony, and unstinting faith in the limitless potential of our populations. We are optimistic that continued north-south and south-south cooperation, along with robust participation by civil society, specialized agencies, and mutually beneficial partnerships with the private sector, hold immense promise for real and rapid progress in areas as diverse as marine conservation, affordable renewable energy, and the rollout of revolutionary innovations in information and communications technology (ICT).

Together, in a mutually respectful partnership, SIDS are a fertile frontier and proving ground for profitable and transformable initiatives. Rest assured, SIDS like Saint Vincent and the Grenadines are open to ideas and open for business.

As we reflect upon development cooperation in the still evolving geopolitical and economic order, the unique needs and vulnerabilities of SIDS must occupy a special place in the hearts and minds of our international partners, not as an act of charity or as a result of moral suasion, but as a matter of justice, of logic, and of our inalienable right to develop and to exist.

Thank you, Madam Chair.

La PRESIDENTA: Thank you, Ambassador. I now give the floor to the Ambassador of Antigua and Barbuda.

La REPRESENTANTE PERMANENTE DE ANTIGUA Y BARBUDA: Thank you very much, Madam Chair.

Madam Chair, we have heard your cry to be brief, and we will certainly adhere to the instruction given by the Chair, but it would be remiss of my delegation if we did not acknowledge the historic leadership role played by Barbados, which was the location where the international community accepted small island developing states (SIDS) as a special case in the global pursuit of sustainable development.

It also would be remiss of this delegation if we did not recognize and applaud the sterling work carried out by the Permanent Mission of Belize on this question of SIDS and express our deep appreciation to that delegation for having requested the inclusion of this item on our order of business this morning.

Madam Chair, it is fitting that we are having this discussion today, on the heels of the recently concluded Third International Conference on Small Island Developing States, held in Apia, Samoa, during this year, designated by the United Nations as the International Year of Small Island Developing States. The theme of the Conference was "Sustainable Development of Small Island Developing States through Genuine and Durable Partnerships."

One aspect of this partnership, Madam Chair, could be expressed by our friends in the international community, especially our friends sitting around this table, in their willingness to work together to ensure that the classification of small, vulnerable, highly-indebted countries as middle-income or high-income countries be corrected. Madam Chair, this delegation believes that the special peculiarities of the SIDS states ought to be taken into account. Many of the leaders who spoke in Samoa emphasized the need to revise the criteria of this classification, and they urged the adoption of broader measures of development that would take into account the vulnerability and fragility of SIDS. This, Madam Chair, would be a tangible example of partnership, and it would certainly give life to the theme of the SIDS conference.

Madam Chair, having said this, I wish to commend the draft declaration before us today for the consideration and support of all delegations.

Thank you very much, Madam Chair.

La PRESIDENTA: Thank you, Ambassador of Antigua and Barbuda. I now give the floor to the Representative of Belize.

La REPRESENTANTE ALTERNA DE BELIZE: Thank you very much, Madam Chair.

The Delegation of Belize takes the floor in full support of this draft declaration on the International Year of Small Island Developing States (SIDS) to highlight the significance of this designation and the special opportunities and peculiar vulnerabilities facing this diverse group of countries. Belize, with its low-lying coastal areas, high vulnerability to natural disasters, and rising sea levels caused by climate change, forms part of this group, and we fully endorse the statement made by the Ambassador of Barbados on behalf of the Caribbean Community (CARICOM) member states.

An important achievement of the Third International Conference on Small Island Developing States, held in Samoa, was the opening for signature of the Statute establishing the SIDS DOCK, which was signed by member countries of the Alliance of Small Island States (AOSIS). This initiative will provide the small island developing states with a collective institutional mechanism to assist them to transform their national energy sectors into a catalyst for sustainable economic development and help generate financial resources to address adaptation to climate change.

The Statute was signed by 19 small island developing states, including the following OAS member states: Barbados, Belize, the Commonwealth of The Bahamas, the Commonwealth of Dominica, the Dominican Republic, Grenada, Saint Kitts and Nevis, and Saint Vincent and the Grenadines. Belize has the distinct honor to serve as the country host of SIDS DOCK, and we are very pleased at the potential impact for SIDS and SIDS partners in revolutionizing the energy sectors in all our countries.

Belize is also working towards the completion of a sustainable development framework through which we will realize our ambitions of a green economy. The Government is exploring ways in which to incentivize investment in our development priorities, develop our human capacity, and practice responsible stewardship of our natural resources. In this way, we reinforce the vital connections between development and education, culture, gender, health, and the environment.

Madam Chair, it is in this regard that Belize calls for the support of all member states of this Organization for this draft declaration, which is important to all small island developing states in this hemisphere. Thank you.

La PRESIDENTA: Thank you, Representative of Belize. I now give the floor to the Representative of the United States.

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

The United States would like to thank the Delegation of Belize for bringing this matter to our attention, and we support the draft declaration. The United States deeply values its longstanding relationship with the small island developing states (SIDS) and is committed to working in partnership with all stakeholders to achieve the sustainable development of SIDS, from the Pacific to the Caribbean and the Atlantic and Indian Ocean regions.

The theme of the Third International Conference on Small Island Developing States, "Sustainable Development of Small Island Developing States through Genuine and Durable Partnerships," chosen by the SIDS themselves, is a recognition of the importance of collaboration among the entire global community, including governments, international organizations, the business community, nongovernmental organizations (NGOs), and other stakeholders to address the development challenges of SIDS.

The United States fully supports this approach to development and will continue to create and engage in multistakeholder partnerships to chart a better future for small island states.

Thank you.

La PRESIDENTA: Thank you, Representative. I now give the floor to the Ambassador of Colombia.

EI REPRESENTANTE PERMANENTE DE COLOMBIA: Gracias, señora Presidenta.

Agradecemos igualmente la presentación de este proyecto de declaración por parte de la Delegación de Belize e a la Presidencia por su iniciativa en este tema y en los que nos ha presentado en la mañana de hoy, temas todos sustantivos, con consecuencias trascendentes en nuestras políticas y en nuestros programas.

Sin duda alguna, este proyecto de declaración pone en evidencia la importancia de un tema que nos merece especial reconocimiento a esa región, a ese sector de nuestro hemisferio constituido por los pequeños Estados insulares. Y es en este orden de ideas en el cual se requiere una aptitud de la mayor importancia por parte de la Organización de los Estados Americanos, que no es otra que la cooperación internacional, la solidaridad, el cambio de esfuerzos para que estos países puedan abordar, como lo señala el proyecto de declaración, tanto sus desafíos como también sus oportunidades.

Cabe igualmente resaltar que el trabajo de la OEA en este tema es sustancial y nuestro país le dará todo el apoyo que se requiera. De una parte al ya mencionado tema del fortalecimiento de la

institucionalidad y de los esfuerzos para enfrentar el cambio climático, los desafíos y desastres naturales que golpean de manera tan contundente y fuerte a estos Estados y a esa parte de nuestro continente. Y, en ese orden de ideas, promoveremos, de parte de las distintas comisiones y acciones – incluso desde la Oficina del Secretario General Adjunto, Embajador Albert Ramdín, se han promovido la atención de desastres– revisar y puntualizar cómo podemos unir esfuerzos todos nuestros países para realmente dar una respuesta efectiva, tangible, en esta materia.

Igualmente en el tema de desarrollo donde, con respeto de toda la identidad cultural tan importante que expresan los países del Caribe, podamos fortalecer los lazos de cooperación y de solidaridad que han sido mencionados.

De manera tal que reiteramos nuestro apoyo, nuestro respaldo, con convicción, con entusiasmo, con devoción, a este importante proyecto de declaración.

La PRESIDENTA: Thank you, Ambassador. I now give the floor to the Representative of Peru.

El REPRESENTANTE ALTERNO DEL PERÚ: Muchas gracias, señora Presidenta.

Mi Delegación también desea agradecer a la Delegación de Belize por la presentación de este proyecto de declaración al cual nos asociamos. Apoyamos este proyecto que conmemora el año internacional de los países isleños en desarrollo y expresa las vulnerabilidades que tienen en aspectos económicos, pero particularmente resalta su vulnerabilidad y exposición a los desastres naturales asociados a la distorsión de los patrones climáticos en el planeta.

En este punto, mi Delegación quiere expresar que comparte esta preocupación. Los diversos Estados de Centroamérica y América Latina tienen diferentes exposiciones a los efectos adversos del cambio climático. En el caso de mi país, un país andino, la pérdida de glaciares, la distorsión del ciclo del agua, la pérdida de biodiversidad, son formas tan dramáticas como lo son los efectos que tiene sobre los Estados isleños en la elevación de los niveles de agua y, sobre todo, en esta mayor frecuencia e intensidad de desastres naturales asociados a los patrones climáticos del planeta.

En ese sentido, quisiera resaltar que mi país está organizando la Vigésima Conferencia de las Partes de la Convención Marco de las Naciones Unidas sobre el Cambio Climático (COP 20), que se realizará en diciembre, y uno de los grandes temas que se considerará es la vulnerabilidad de los países en desarrollo al cambio climático. Se busca la creación del fondo de adaptación y el cambio climático. Hay algunas corrientes que niegan la existencia del cambio climático y hablan de una pausa porque el clima no ha cambiado en la proporción que se estaba imaginando o previendo. A lo que no han puesto atención es que los mares son el gran sumidero que está recibiendo el embate del cambio climático y con ello las pérdidas en pesquerías que también afectarán los centros insulares y la pérdida de corales.

Señora Presidenta, agradezco que se haya abierto este tema y quiero expresar que ojalá que en Lima, en diciembre próximo, se logre un borrador que permita que en París, en el año 2015, se apruebe la renovación del Protocolo de Kioto, uno de los únicos esquemas que pueden frenar y abordar tanto la mitigación como la adaptación de nuestros países al cambio climático.

Muchas gracias, señora Presidenta.

La PRESIDENTA: Thank you, Representative of Peru. I now give the floor to the Representative of Brazil.

El REPRESENTANTE INTERINO DEL BRASIL: Obrigado, Senhora Presidente.

A Delegação do Brasil gostaria de discutir aqui uma questão de princípio.

A Delegação do Brasil não vê com bons olhos declarações feitas por este Conselho Permanente. E isso temos dito desde que se iniciou esse processo de declarações. Tivemos a primeira a partir de uma declaração solicitada por El Salvador, depois tivemos outra pelo Haiti, em seguida, uma segunda declaração pelo Haiti, e agora temos uma declaração proposta por Belize.

Esse não é o melhor caminho para que este Conselho atue. Declarações são, em geral, autolaudatórias e nos deixam a todos numa situação muito incômoda para qualquer comentário ou crítica que se pretenda fazer.

Senhora Presidente, o Brasil está em pleno processo eleitoral e imagine a Senhora se, na semana que vem, a Delegação do Brasil apresentar uma declaração dizendo que o Governo do Brasil é maravilhoso, que tem feito trabalhos fantásticos, e que tem atuado muito bem nesta Organização. Eu tenho certeza, Senhora Presidente, que essa declaração seria aprovada, apesar de todo o desconforto que ela viria causar a todos os membros desta Organização, exatamente porque nenhum país – e nós temos ouvido aqui várias declarações muito positivas com relação à declaração proposta hoje –, por mais contrário que seja, teria condições de se manifestar com toda a legitimidade neste Conselho para se opor a uma declaração.

Então, este é um processo que nos deixa numa situação muito difícil. Declarações criam um precedente perigoso para esta Organização, porque estamos todos amarrados num texto que nem sequer foi discutido. Diferentemente dos projetos de resolução, quando temos debates e discutimos e propomos acréscimos ou retiradas de texto, declarações, em geral, por mais que estejamos abertos a isso neste momento, dificilmente são alteradas, dificilmente são recusadas. Então, esse não me parece o caminho mais adequado para que esta Organização atue.

Dito isso, quero deixar claro também, como todos os países aqui o fizeram, que o Brasil não tem absolutamente nada contra esse texto proposto por Belize. Não temos, em nenhum momento, a pretensão de negar a importância desse tema para os pequenos países em desenvolvimento, os países insulares. Reconhecemos a importância do tema e, por isso mesmo, acho que esse tema mereceria uma discussão nesta Organização, neste Conselho, com mais profundidade, com mais seriedade, e que, de fato, desse peso às nossas decisões, mesmo porque uma declaração não traz nenhum mandato atrelado a ela. Declarações, em geral, só fazem reconhecimento de situações e não nos levam a obrigações, propriamente ditas, em termos de mandatos. E esse tema, de fato, requereria mandatos que nos impusessem ações que favorecessem o desenvolvimento dos pequenos Estados insulares e que garantissem a devida proteção a eles.

Por isso mesmo, repito, a Delegação do Brasil não tem nenhum problema com o texto apresentado por Belize, e está pronta a aprová-lo, se essa for a decisão deste Conselho. Apenas gostaríamos de propor que esta seja a última declaração aprovada por este Conselho, porque este, sem dúvida, não é o melhor caminho a ser trilhado por esta Organização.

Muito obrigado.

La PRESIDENTA: Thank you, Representative of Brazil.

In my experience, I have seen a number of declarations debated and discussed and the text of the declarations changed. Case in point: we have had a number of Summit of the Americas and General Assembly declarations that have been debated and changed.

Clearly, based on what has happened this morning, the member states do not appear to have any problems with the text, and you, Brazil, have also indicated that you have no problems with it. However, I assume that you're saying that you have a difficulty accepting the word "declaration."

The process for looking at declarations and resolutions in the Organization of American States, based on my experience, has always been the same, and so, I find it a little difficult to accept the pronouncement made by Brazil that we shouldn't have a declaration and that this should be the last declaration. However, I will accept it this time because most of the member states that have spoken seem to have accepted the fact that it is a declaration. So, we would move forward with the declaration at this time.

Thank you Brazil, for indicating that you have no difficulty with the text; it's just with the word "declaration."

Point of order, Brazil. You have the floor, sir.

El REPRESENTANTE INTERINO DEL BRASIL: Obrigado, Senhora Presidente.

Uma vez que a Presidência comentou a minha declaração, eu gostaria apenas de esclarecer algumas coisas.

O problema da Delegação do Brasil não é com a palavra "declaração", é com um caminho ou um instrumento que se pretenda utilizar por esta Organização, e que tem sido recorrente. E isso, desde a primeira declaração emitida por este Conselho – uma declaração no caso de El Salvador –, nós discutimos esse ponto. E eu me lembro de que a Embaixadora de São Vicente e Granadinas foi muito vocal na época em se opor àquela declaração, e eu acho que ela está coberta de razão, ela tem toda a razão ao dizer que não é a função deste Conselho emitir declarações do jeito das declarações que vimos emitindo ultimamente.

Evidentemente, há declarações da Assembleia Geral, há declarações da presidência, mas não é isso que está em discussão aqui. Quero deixar bem claro que o problema não é com a palavra "declaração", nem com a instituição da declaração, que já existe há anos e vem sendo adotada regularmente. Ao que me refiro é o tipo de declaração que este Conselho tem aprovado nos últimos meses, e que se está transformando numa rotina. Por esse motivo, entendo que não deveríamos utilizar esse processo.

Como mencionei aqui, esse tipo de atuação nos deixa bastante desconfortáveis. Devo confessar, Senhora Presidente, que ouvi de vários colegas comentários e críticas ao texto apresentado por Belize. Mas tenho certeza que nenhum desses países, que evidentemente não tenho a intenção de

revelar, vai se pronunciar contrário a qualquer palavra que esteja nesse texto, e eu entendo a posição deles, porque isso nos deixa, de fato, numa situação muito desconfortável.

Então, se esta Organização pretende ser cada vez mais aberta, mais honesta nas suas discussões, mais transparente, não se pode se criar uma armadilha como essa no sentido de não permitir um debate aberto e franco entre seus membros. Nós não podemos ficar reféns de um documento a que evidentemente ninguém se oporá porque, obviamente, não ficará numa situação confortável.

Mais uma vez eu digo, posso aprovar o texto proposto por Belize neste exato momento com cem por cento dos termos que ali estão escritos. A questão não é a declaração de Belize em si. A questão é a declaração como vem sendo feita por este Conselho ultimamente. Acho que estamos desvirtuando o uso das declarações de maneira a deixar um texto sem debate, sem a necessária discussão e sem a necessária transparência, como devem ser todos os debates nesta casa.

Desculpe mais uma vez por ter me alongado.

La PRESIDENTA: Thank you, Representative of Brazil. Your position is noted. I now give the floor to the Ambassador of Saint Vincent and the Grenadines on a point of order.

[Pausa.]

La REPRESENTANTE PERMANENTE DE SAN VICENTE Y LAS GRANADINAS: Thank you very much, Madam Chair.

Our delegation does not wish to unnecessarily protract the discussions on this subject. We have already opined on the draft declaration and lent our support to it. However, I take the floor to respond to the very specific intervention that was made by the Delegation of Brazil in which he referenced Saint Vincent and the Grenadines and the declaration that was presented by El Salvador.

Yes, indeed, at that time, Saint Vincent and the Grenadines did proceed with caution on that draft declaration. I myself expressed my concerns to the then Permanent Representative, Ambassador Maza Martelli, but our caution was not in the use of the declaration but rather the use of the declaration's content; that is, the elections that took place in El Salvador.

So we wish for the record to identify what our caution was in that particular case and have that noted by this Council.

Thank you, Madam Chair.

La PRESIDENTA: Thank you, Ambassador, for that clarification. It is indeed noted. I now give the floor to the Representative of Uruguay.

El REPRESENTANTE ALTERNO DEL URUGUAY: Muchas gracias, señora Presidenta.

En primer término, el Uruguay comprende la preocupación del Brasil, y creo que podrá ser discutida y debatida en un futuro cercano.

Ahora, con respecto al proyecto de declaración que nos ocupa, nuestra Delegación agradece a la de Belize por haberlo presentado y a su vez lo apoya. Y para sustentar ese apoyo, compartiré en sala cuál es la posición del Uruguay en esta materia; posición que algunos países ya conocen dado que fue esgrimida en la Tercera Conferencia Internacional de los Pequeños Estados Insulares en Desarrollo (SIDS por sus siglas en inglés) que tuvo lugar este mismo mes en Samoa.

La posición del Uruguay en resumidos términos dice lo siguiente: desde la Conferencia de las Naciones Unidas sobre el Medio Ambiente y el Desarrollo, celebrado en Río de Janeiro en 1992, la comunidad internacional ha reconocido las vulnerabilidades únicas y particulares de los SIDS en virtud de su pequeño tamaño, recursos limitados, dispersión geográfica, su aislamiento de los mercados y su dependencia del comercio internacional. Esas vulnerabilidades limitan el proceso de estos Estados hacia el desarrollo sostenible, que integra las dimensiones sociales, ambientales y económicas, en particular, debido al impacto significativo de los desastres naturales y los efectos negativos del cambio climático por un lado, así como por la necesidad de avances en el territorio social y en materia de su desarrollo económico, por otro.

Es por eso que alcanzar el desarrollo sostenible, superando sus vulnerabilidades intrínsecas, representa un enorme desafío para los países que pertenecen a este grupo o clasificación. Los efectos del cambio climático han significado una carga adicional en los presupuestos nacionales de los pequeños Estados insulares en desarrollo, comprometiendo el alcance y los objetivos de desarrollo del milenio en esos países.

Pero el cambio climático, además de un obstáculo para su desarrollo sostenible, constituye también una amenaza existencial por ser quienes se encuentran más expuestos a sufrir sus consecuencias directas, por ejemplo, en función del riesgo de pérdida de territorio debido al aumento del nivel del mar.

Por lo tanto, resulta fundamental el compromiso, a nuestro entender, de la comunidad internacional y, en este caso, de la comunidad hemisférica, para abordar las necesidades de adaptación de estos países al cambio climático, para ayudar a construir la resistencia a través de la transferencia de tecnología, como también para la construcción de capacidades y desarrollo de recursos humanos.

Igualmente, en materia de reducción del riesgo de desastres, el acceso a la asistencia técnica y a la financiación son cruciales, como también para su alerta temprana, la respuesta y la recuperación post desastre, siendo necesaria una eficiente transversalización de políticas y programas relativos al cambio climático, al desarrollo y a la reducción del riesgo de desastres en virtud de su íntima vinculación.

Es claro para todos que la cooperación internacional, ya sea norte-sur, sur-sur o triangular, es imprescindible para el desarrollo sostenible de los SIDS, como también para poder enfrentar de la mejor forma las amenazas a su propia existencia. Por lo cual, debemos comprometernos a realizar el mayor esfuerzo posible.

No podemos olvidar que también el impacto de las crisis económicas internacionales afectan a estos Estados en su lucha contra la pobreza y el hambre, la exclusión social y la degradación ambiental, habiéndose registrado una caída de la inversión extranjera directa, mayor desbalance comercial, endeudamiento, carencia de transporte adecuado y problemas energéticos.

Por este motivo, es necesario el apoyo de toda la comunidad internacional para que estos países puedan desarrollar las herramientas necesarias que les permitan superar los efectos de las crisis económicas y financieras y de sus propias condiciones estructurales.

En tal sentido, las cuestiones relativas al transporte sostenible de personas y mercaderías, a la seguridad alimentaria, a la producción y consumo sostenible, al endeudamiento, al financiamiento para el desarrollo y el acceso a mercados, resultan ser de la mayor importancia.

Señora Presidenta, el desarrollo social es una de las tres dimensiones del desarrollo sostenible y merece una atención muy especial. El Uruguay considera fundamental el apoyo a los grupos sociales vulnerables a través de medidas y políticas vinculadas a la igualdad de género y al empoderamiento de la mujer, a la juventud, a las personas mayores, a las personas con discapacidades y a los pueblos indígenas.

Asimismo, no puede existir desarrollo sostenible sin salud, vivienda, trabajo y educación para todos. En tal sentido, mi país aboga por la cobertura universal de los servicios de salud y entiende que el combate contra las enfermedades, ya sean transmisibles o no transmisibles, debe ser considerado también como un eje central del desarrollo sostenible. Además, el Gobierno del Uruguay se encuentra comprometido en la promoción y protección de la salud sexual y reproductiva y de los derechos reproductivos de las mujeres, como una cuestión central de sus políticas de salud.

Finalizando, quiero hacer referencia a la declaración especial de los Jefes de Estado y de Gobierno de la Comunidad de Estados Latinoamericanos y Caribeños (CELAC), sobre pequeños Estados insulares en desarrollo que reafirma la validez continua del Programa de Acción de Barbados para el desarrollo sostenible de estos países como el plan que provee el marco fundamental para su desarrollo sostenible, así como la importancia de la Estrategia de Mauricio y el Plan de Aplicación.

Señora Presidenta, es por estas razones que el Uruguay sustenta su posición de apoyo a la propuesta de Belize y da su compromiso con el desarrollo sostenible de los pequeños Estados insulares en desarrollo.

Muchas gracias, señora Presidenta.

La PRESIDENTA: Thank you, Representative of Uruguay. I now give the floor to the Ambassador of the Bahamas.

El REPRESENTANTE ALTERNO DE LAS BAHAMAS: Thank you, Madam Chair, and I thank all the representatives who have spoken so far for these very clear statements. My delegation thanks Belize in particular for this presentation.

Madam Chair, the word “declaration” means “to make clear,” so it is therefore impossible to overemphasize the significance of this issue to world security and to the effective, equitable advance of globalization.

Robert Kaplan, an American author and analyst, perhaps most known for his hypothesis concerning geographic determinism, made famous the notion that geography is destiny. In his analysis of the complex ethnic, religious, economic, and social challenges facing South Asia, he

concluded that geography is the backbone to history itself. A state's position on a map is the first thing that defines it, even more so than its governing philosophy.

Now, there may be some evidence for this theory in the complexity inherent in Bahamian geography, being the third border of the United States. Even as an archipelago that stretches across roughly 100,000 square miles of pristine, aquamarine ocean, the features that make us most beautiful also cloak many of the challenges that face small island developing states (SIDS) across the globe.

We do not prescribe wholly to Kaplan's thesis that geography is the most significant determining factor. We think that our realities compel us to accept that our necessities drive our inventiveness in solving many of our problems. We accept our realities, with the understanding that we should innovate in thought and action, reinforced by our regional cooperation.

Generally, for small island developing states, our small geographic size results in limited natural resource endowments, which leads to high import content and relative food and energy insecurity, small island domestic markets and dependence on exports, limited ability to influence domestic prices, and limited ability to exploit economies of scale. In many instances, our insularity and remoteness result in high per unit transport costs that hinder trade. Environmental fragility and proneness to natural disasters are our everyday policy challenges for SIDS.

Few states globally can claim to face the prospect of destruction of a scale equal to or greater than their gross domestic product (GDP) on an annual basis. Further still, all of these factors converge to contribute to the ongoing phenomenon of brain drain, particularly of the tertiary educated, which most significantly plagues SIDS and further exacerbates developmental challenges.

Madam Chair, The Bahamas wishes to commend Ambassador Mendez of Belize for his leadership regarding this draft declaration on SIDS, an issue that has been outstanding in the Organization of American States since 1992, and we join in solidarity with the sentiments expressed by Ambassador Beale of Barbados on behalf of the Caribbean Community (CARICOM) member states. We reiterate the call for consideration and approval of this draft declaration by this body. We further highlight the need for a reconceptualization, within our traditional development framework, of the concept of SIDS. In this reconceptualization, we must emphasize the necessity that SIDS matters go well beyond climate change and the environment. They must include cooperation and trade; economic, human, and sustainable development; and social inclusion.

The Bahamas, itself a constellation of developing islands, faces additional challenges with the need to duplicate governance and administration beyond traditional constraints. Whereas some small island states require one international airport, we need more than 20. We have more than 20 already. The Government's responsibility to provide equal access to public services demands a continual upgrade, an expansion of infrastructure in our rural and far-flung communities, and the maintenance and operation of over 100 care facilities throughout the islands.

Despite these governance demands and ever-shrinking fiscal space, The Bahamas meets its international and national financial obligations—but not without travail. This ongoing task is contextualized by the openness of our economy and by its susceptibility to external shocks, which we all have most recently faced in the Great Recession. We coexist in a world, however, where assistance is predicated on the basis of per capita income as the sole indicator of need. This crude and nonevolutionary metric does not properly reflect the economic realities of our citizens and,

particularly, our distant island communities, where poverty and underdevelopment are still far too common.

Yesterday, the leaders of our respective nations met in New York to convene a Climate Change Summit at which my Prime Minister signaled, by way of his presence and speech, the importance of this issue for The Bahamas. Among the concerns heralded yesterday were reports that confirmed that 80 percent of The Bahamas might be lost if the sea level rises 1.5 meters, and if temperatures continue to rise as predicted, by the year 2030, The Bahamas we know may be no more!

Despite the repeated call for action, it is SIDS that are on the front lines to suffer the immediate collateral damage of climate change, while the larger states that are most to blame continue to shirk their responsibilities to the environment and their fellow man. Efforts ought to be taken with respect to these eventualities, and since charity begins at home and necessity is the mother of invention, in addition to understanding the above-cited efforts, the adoption of adaptation approaches similar to those employed by some other low-lying countries, such as Holland and Nigeria, is immediately necessary to mitigate some of these ends, such as land elevation and floating habitations, hotels, and residences by landfills.

Madam Chair, the OAS Charter underscores the collective responsibility of member states to cooperate on hemispheric integral development and to continue moving towards the goal in which the promise to our citizens of a land of liberty and a favorable environment for the development of one's personality and the realization of just aspirations can be equitably met anywhere in the Americas. The Organization thus needs to enhance the focus of its development agenda in areas that are pivotal to the economies of SIDS— human development, tourism, agriculture and fisheries—and priority areas for SIDS should be integrated into the work program of the Inter-American Council for Integral Development (CIDI). In particular, a focus on partnership to allow the green and blue economies throughout the Hemisphere to be both maximized and safeguarded must be at the core of the development agenda going forward. Hemispheric security priorities must be broadened to consider the impact of energy insecurity and the threat of climate change.

Madam Chair, we are not seeking handouts but partnerships, with an emphasis on building resilience to meet our unique challenges. These partnerships are, in fact, in our practical mutual interest. I have coined the term “carilateralism” which speaks to a methodology for such partnerships, starting with individual financial involvement by even the simplest citizen as investors, instead of waiting for the handouts that I mentioned. Such approaches call for the development, then, of trade and financial mutual assistance, cooperation, partnerships, and linkages, starting at home, then with one's geographic neighbors, and expanding to the wider Hemisphere, fundamentally on the basis of mutual benefit and respect. Here, the focal need for enhanced hemispheric physical connectivity and the enabling of administrative structures offers avenues for the OAS to provide added value.

We reinforce further the charge laid out in the operative paragraph of the declaration that the OAS, as the chief political and preeminent development organ of the inter-American system, seek to mobilize all relevant hemispheric stakeholders to seize the opportunity of this International Year of Small Island Developing States to bolster the achievement of sustainable development of small island states.

We exhort the phrase *carpe diem*, seize the day. Specifically, the Organization can commence with immediacy to leverage its affiliation with sister organizations, such as the Inter-American Development Bank (IDB), as the financing arm to maximize reach and impact of all our projects. The OAS can also seek to collaborate with the CARICOM Secretariat and the Caribbean Development Bank (CDB) and other regional bodies to attend to the challenges of SIDS and to craft innovative approaches.

Beyond policy, the OAS can further make a difference for its SIDS member states by becoming an advocate amidst the global chorus of discussions on issues of development for a more coherent international development agenda that recognizes the unique needs of SIDS and recalibrates outdated criterion for assessing real need through adopting a common but differentiated approach.

Madam Chair, in conclusion, as a response to criticism of Mr. Kaplan's geographical determinism, he affirmed there is such a thing as human agency: the decisions of men and women, our responsibility before history, vast and personal forces can be overcome, but first by realizing how formidable they are. Alongside the assets of human agency and the true realization of challenges faced, we would add the countervailing power of cooperation and fraternity between countries and institutions to overcome shared challenges.

Today marks another capstone in the Organization's pursuit in this most worthy goal of fraternity with a view to equitable hemispheric development. My delegation will continue to engage and invite other member states to ensure that, even beyond today and this year, SIDS issues remain a priority and a focus for the work of this Organization, and to insist that other multilaterals take up the mantle in a more tangible and meaningful manner. We underscore to this body that while SIDS physically may be small, we are not insignificant.

The Permanent Mission of The Bahamas supports the draft declaration. Thank you.

La PRESIDENTA: Thank you, Ambassador. I now give the floor to the Representative of Guyana.

El REPRESENTANTE ALTERNO DE GUYANA: Thank you, Madam Chair. In keeping with your request for brevity, my delegation wishes to endorse the sentiments expressed earlier by several delegations here today in support of this draft declaration. The goal of the draft declaration is to galvanize support for key and necessary courses of action, some of which have been outlined here this morning, in order to mitigate the negative impact of climate change and other development challenges faced by small island and low-lying developing and coastal states. I thank you.

La PRESIDENTA: Thank you, Representative of Guyana. I now give the floor to the Ambassador of Mexico.

El REPRESENTANTE PERMANENTE DE MÉXICO: *Thank you, Madam Chair.*

Señora Presidenta, en los últimos años nuestro planeta ha sufrido las consecuencias del cambio climático, un problema que, como muchos otros, únicamente puede encontrar soluciones con el trabajo decidido y coordinado de todos los Estados.

Apenas ayer, en el marco del sexagésimo noveno período de sesiones de la Asamblea General de la Organización de las Naciones Unidas, más de cien líderes mundiales se reunieron con miras a impulsar una nueva ronda de negociaciones hacia un acuerdo global medioambiental que se firmará en París el próximo año. Incluso, mi país, congruente con este reclamo global sobre acciones sobre el cambio climático, llevó a cabo en la ciudad de Mérida hace unos meses una Cumbre de Jefes de Estado de la Comunidad del Caribe (CARICOM) y otros países del área en donde, entre otras cosas, se suscribieron instrumentos internacionales para apoyar medidas de prevención de desastres naturales.

Por ese motivo, señora Presidenta, México agradece a la Delegación de Belize la presentación de este proyecto de declaración – así como la exposición que hizo Barbados– y apoya su aprobación por parte de este Consejo Permanente que no es más que un reflejo de las prioridades de nuestras poblaciones y de nuestros Gobiernos.

Como señala el propio proyecto de declaración, este marco genera una oportunidad única para que la Organización de los Estados Americanos se concentre en los desafíos y oportunidades inherentes a esta situación que afecta a todos y preocupa especialmente a nuestros hermanos de Estados insulares en desarrollo.

Este proyecto de declaración es también, señora Presidenta, consistente con el enfoque de orientar el pilar de desarrollo de la OEA en el fomento y respaldo de estrategias para la consecución de objetivos prioritarios para los Estados, atendiendo a su especificidad y a sus particulares necesidades y preocupaciones y generando sinergias, complementariedades, operación y colaboración con otras entidades del sistema interamericano.

Dicho lo anterior, señora Presidenta, mi Delegación es también sensible a lo que ha señalado la Representación del Brasil, en cuanto se refiere a la parte procedimental que creo que debemos tenerla en cuenta. Por ejemplo, si se hubiera conocido anticipadamente el proyecto de declaración, a mí me hubiera gustado agregar mucho de lo que se obtuvo en la reunión de Mérida para enriquecer su texto, no para objetarlo. Que quede claro, México está totalmente de acuerdo con apoyar el contenido de este proyecto de declaración, le parece que es importante y desde luego que votaremos a favor y lo apoyaremos, pero sí creo que debemos generar espacios previos a la aprobación de este tipo de instrumentos para debatir los temas y poder enriquecer los documentos. Y, en ese sentido, me parece que sí es atendible lo señalado por la Representación del Brasil.

Nuevamente, muchas gracias a Belize y hacemos votos porque este sea solo un paso más para alcanzar resultados palpables en temas como adaptación y mitigación del cambio climático y la reducción de riesgo de desastres.

Muchas gracias, señora Presidenta.

La PRESIDENTA: Thank you, Ambassador. Your comments are noted. I now give the floor to the Representative of Ecuador.

La REPRESENTANTE ALTERNA DEL ECUADOR: Gracias, señora Presidenta.

El Ecuador apoya en su totalidad el proyecto de declaración que Belize nos trae para nuestra consideración en esta sesión sobre los pequeños Estados insulares en desarrollo. Las vulnerabilidades

que los colocan en una situación particular hacen preciso que, además de que este Consejo adopte este tipo de decisiones, también se emprenda acciones de respuesta ante las mismas y la Organización de los Estados Americanos, estima el Ecuador, es uno de los espacios adecuados para ello, a través de las diferentes modalidades de cooperación.

Eso es todo, señora Presidenta. Muchas gracias.

La PRESIDENTA: Thank you, Representative. I now give the floor to the Representative of Panama.

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

Durante el transcurso del actual período de sesiones de la Asamblea General de la Organización de las Naciones Unidas, la Vicepresidenta y Canciller de Panamá ha hecho un llamado para activar la agenda pendiente de desarrollo. En este sentido, por razones de proximidad geográfica y por considerar que es un tema de suma importancia, nuestra Delegación endosa este proyecto de declaración presentado por la Delegación de Belize.

Muchas gracias.

La PRESIDENTA: Thank you, Ambassador. I now give the floor to the Representative of Nicaragua.

El REPRESENTANTE INTERINO DE NICARAGUA: Muchas gracias, señora Presidenta.

Mi Delegación considera que este es un proyecto de declaración importante, sobre todo por la naturaleza y la envergadura de la temática que toca, especialmente lo relacionado con los efectos a los que son sometidos los pequeños Estados insulares del Caribe ante los efectos que produzcan los desastres naturales y, obviamente, las consecuencias que se originan a partir del cambio climático.

Nuestro país que también tiene costa en el Caribe, conoce en carne propia lo que es este tipo de incidencias. Creemos importante que se mantenga este tema en la agenda interamericana y que, de alguna manera, podamos ahondar en todo este esfuerzo. En este sentido, mi Delegación apoya el proyecto de declaración presentado por los países de la Comunidad del Caribe (CARICOM) a través del Embajador de Barbados y lo apoyo.

No obstante, sobre el tema de procedimiento creemos pertinente lo planteado por el Brasil en el sentido de que si se hubiese logrado una mayor negociación sobre el texto, probablemente hubiera sido más enriquecido y muchas otras delegaciones sentirían también reflejadas sus preocupaciones por los efectos en esos países.

Muchas gracias, señora Presidenta.

La PRESIDENTA: Thank you, Representative of Nicaragua. I now give the floor to the Representative of El Salvador.

El REPRESENTANTE INTERINO DE EL SALVADOR: Gracias, señora Presidenta.

Nuestra Delegación expresa su apoyo al proyecto en consideración y agradece a la Delegación de Belize por la presentación del mismo, sobre un tema que se inserta en la agenda hemisférica, razón por la cual inclusive ha sido objeto de mandato en la figura de una Relator, con el que contó en la OEA.

Señora Presidenta, los pronunciamientos del Consejo Permanente son concertaciones, expresiones de solidaridad que, en el caso de nuestro país, se han referido, por ejemplo, a la infancia migrante no acompañada o al desarrollo democrático. Esa Declaración se condice con expresión similar que fuera adoptada por la Asamblea General durante el período ordinario de sesiones celebrado en Quito.

Señora Presidenta, delegaciones estimadas, nuestro país expresa su complacencia por la inminente adopción del texto en consideración.

Gracias.

La PRESIDENTA: Thank you, Representative. The Chair wishes to take note of the comments of all delegations on the draft declaration titled "International Year of Small Island Developing States," which was presented by the Ambassador of Barbados on behalf of the Caribbean representatives. There being no objections to the approval of the draft declaration, it is now approved.^{1/}

INFORME DEL
TERCER SEMINARIO INTERNACIONAL CONSUMO SEGURO Y SALUD
Y DE LA PRIMERA REUNIÓN ORDINARIA DE LA RED CONSUMO SEGURO Y SALUD,
CELEBRADOS EN BRASÍLIA, BRASIL, DEL 3 AL 5 DE SEPTIEMBRE DE 2014

La PRESIDENTA: The next item on the order of business is the report on the Third International Seminar on Consumer Safety and Health and on the First Regular Meeting of the Consumer Safety and Health Network (CSHN), which were held in Brasilia, Brazil, from September 3 to 5, 2014. This item was included on the order of business at the request of the Representative of Brazil.

I now give the floor to the Representative of Brazil for presentation of the report. You have the floor, sir.

[Pausa.]

The Representative of Brazil has the floor.

El REPRESENTANTE INTERINO DEL BRASIL: Obrigado, Senhora Presidente.

Senhora Presidente, dado o adiantado da hora, não sei se seria mais recomendável que interrompêssemos esta sessão e pudéssemos continuá-la em outro momento, seja hoje à tarde ou algum outro dia. Não creio que estejamos em condições de ouvir nem mais uma palavra sem que

1. Declaración CP/DEC. 56 (1988/14), anexa.

tenhamos antes comido alguma coisa. Se a presidência estiver de acordo com esta proposta, agradeceria muito se pudesse considerá-la.

Obrigado.

La PRESIDENTA: Thank you, Representative of Brazil, for this proposal. The Chair wishes to put to the floor the rescheduling of the consideration of this item for a future meeting of the Permanent Council. There are no dates set as yet, but we will inform the Representative of Brazil, of course. Are there any objections to rescheduling the consideration of this item? If there are no objections, it is so agreed.

Representative of Argentina, you have the floor, madam.

La REPRESENTANTE PERMANENTE DE LA ARGENTINA: Señora Presidenta, era para aclarar que bajo el tema de “Otros asuntos” yo iba a pedir la palabra para hacer una muy breve referencia al tema que afecta a la Argentina con relación a la situación que nos genera los “fondos buitres”. De manera que pediría que por la importancia y la actualidad que tiene el tema, ya que en este momento la Organización de las Naciones Unidas se encuentra tratándolo, se permitiera ingresar este tema en el día de hoy. De todas formas no van a ser más de cinco minutos.

La PRESIDENTA: We are not yet at “Other business,” so you will be able to make your brief presentation on the situation in Argentina under “Other business.”

APROBACIÓN DE ACTAS

La PRESIDENTA: I will go back to item 6, approval of the following minutes of meetings of the Permanent Council. I will read them quickly:

- CP/ACTA 1923/13, minutes of the regular meeting held on May 28, 2013;
- CP/ACTA 1931/13, minutes of the regular meeting, held on July 26, 2013;
- CP/ACTA 1932/13, minutes of the regular meeting held on August 7, 2013;
- CP/ACTA 1944/13, minutes of the regular meeting, held on October 29, 2013;
- CP/ACTA 1947/13, minutes of the special meeting held on November 20, 2013; and
- CP/ACTA 1951/13, minutes of the regular meeting held on December 18, 2013.

These minutes are being presented for your comments or objections. There being no comments or objections, the minutes are approved.

RESOLUCIÓN DE LA ONU “HACIA EL ESTABLECIMIENTO DE UN MARCO JURÍDICO MULTILATERAL PARA LOS PROCESOS DE REESTRUCTURACIÓN DE LA DEUDA SOBERANA”

La PRESIDENTA: We have now concluded the items of on the order of business. I give the floor to the Ambassador of Argentina to present her issue under “Other business.” Ambassador, you have the floor.

La REPRESENTANTE PERMANENTE DE LA ARGENTINA: Gracias, señora Presidenta.

La Delegación de la Argentina desea traer a la atención de este Consejo Permanente, con relación a la situación que enfrentamos ante la campaña que los “fondos buitres” llevan adelante en contra de mi país y mi pueblo, la resolución “Hacia el establecimiento de un marco jurídico multilateral para los procesos de reestructuración de la deuda soberana” que la Asamblea General de la Organización de las Naciones Unidas (ONU) aprobó, el 28 de agosto, por amplia mayoría y cuya génesis se vincula con la situación que mi país enfrenta ante la campaña que los fondos buitres llevan adelante en su contra.

Como ustedes recuerdan dicha cuestión fue considerada en la Organización de los Estados Americanos, en el marco de la Vigésima Octavo Reunión de Consulta de Ministros de Relaciones Exteriores, celebrada el 3 de julio de este año y se aprobó la “Declaración en respaldo a la posición de la República Argentina en la reestructuración de su deuda soberana”, presentada por Brasil y Bolivia.

Esta Declaración expresa el respaldo a la República Argentina para alcanzar un acuerdo justo, equitativo y legal, con el 100% de sus acreedores y entiende que para ello y para la estabilidad del sistema financiero, es necesario respetar los acuerdos alcanzados entre deudores y acreedores, en el marco de los procesos de reestructuración de las deudas soberanas.

En aquella oportunidad, el Canciller Héctor Timerman recalcó, con relación a la convocatoria a la Reunión de Consulta de Ministros de Relaciones Exteriores, que la Argentina pedía esa Reunión con el propósito de solicitar el apoyo de los Miembros de la Organización de los Estados Americanos para pagar su deuda y expresó una vez más que la Argentina quiere pagar su deuda, como lo viene haciendo desde hace diez años, teniendo siempre en cuenta que los que pagan esa deuda son los hombres y mujeres de nuestro pueblo, los de los países de la OEA, los ciudadanos y ciudadanas de todos los países en desarrollo.

Este efecto sistémico también fue señalado por el Secretario General de la OEA, José Miguel Insulza, quien manifestó que la situación se arrastra por más de una década –bastante más de una década– que afecta a uno de los países miembros de nuestra Organización, pero que reviste una indudable importancia e interés para todo el Hemisferio. Agregó que la situación provocada por la acción de los fondos especulativos en contra de la economía argentina, no solo amenaza la estabilidad financiera de este país, sino que además daña gravemente los mecanismo de reestructuración de deuda soberana que se han venido desarrollando con el acuerdo de los organismos internacionales de crédito, para permitir a numerosos países superar sus crisis de deuda y ponerse nuevamente en la perspectiva del crecimiento.

Como lo hiciera ante la OEA, la Argentina acudió también a la ONU con este tema de enorme importancia para la comunidad internacional toda y los representantes de una enorme mayoría de pueblos del mundo decidieron que es hora de comenzar a trazar juntos un camino ético, político y jurídico, capaz de ponerle freno a la especulación desenfrenada, a la actividad usuraria, a la acción de los bien llamados “buitres”, que solo buscan un lucro desmedido.

La resolución adoptada por la Asamblea General de la ONU fue presentada por Bolivia e impulsada por el Grupo de los 77 (G-77) más China y contó con un amplio apoyo de ciento veinticuatro votos a favor. Como señalara el Canciller Timerman tras la aprobación de la resolución, ese contundente apoyo es reflejo de la relevancia y de la urgencia que las naciones del mundo le

asignan a una realidad que encuentra a nuestros países desprotegidos ante el abuso que hacen los especuladores; abuso que aprovechan de la laguna normativa que existe en el actual sistema financiero internacional en materia de reestructuración de deuda soberana.

Mediante la resolución, la Asamblea General de la ONU ha decidido elaborar y aprobar con carácter prioritario en su sexagésimo noveno período de sesiones que se inicia en el día de la fecha, un marco jurídico multilateral para los procesos de reestructuración de la deuda soberana, con miras a aumentar la eficiencia, la estabilidad y la previsibilidad del sistema financiero internacional, sin perjuicio de lograr también un crecimiento económico sostenido, inclusivo y equitativo, de conformidad con las circunstancias y las prioridades de cada país. Con este instrumento se pretende regular el sistema financiero en las reestructuraciones de deudas soberanas, respetando a la mayoría de los acreedores y permitiendo a los países salir de las crisis en forma sustentable.

En palabras de la señora Presidenta de la Nación, Cristina Fernández de Kirchner, el respaldo al proyecto de resolución de parte de ciento veinticuatro naciones se explica porque Argentina es un espejo en el cual se vieron reflejados muchos países del mundo, que muestran niveles de endeudamiento muy superiores al producto bruto interno y que tienen el 40% de su juventud desocupada, y agregó que el aplastante apoyo que obtuvo en la Asamblea General de la ONU la resolución para crear un marco legal e internacional que regule la reestructuración de las deudas soberanas, no es una casualidad.

También el Secretario General de la ONU, Ban Ki-moon, reconoció el extraordinario resultado que obtuvo la resolución.

Además de los apoyos recibidos en la OEA y en la ONU, la Argentina también tiene la solidaridad de la mayoría de los organismos internacionales tales como la Unión de Naciones Suramericanas (UNASUR), la Comunidad de Estados Latinoamericanos y Caribeños (CELAC), el Grupo de los 77 (G-77), el Mercado Común del Sur (MERCOSUR), la Asociación Latinoamericana de Integración (ALADI), la Internacional Socialista, el Sistema Económico Latinoamericano y del Caribe (SELA), la Comisión Económica para América Latina y el Caribe (CEPAL) y la Conferencia de las Naciones Unidas sobre Comercio y Desarrollo (UNCTAD).

También el Consejo de Derechos Humanos de las Naciones Unidas considerará en la presente semana, un proyecto de resolución presentado por la Argentina, denominado “Consecuencias de la deuda externa y las obligaciones financieras internacionales conexas de los Estados para el pleno goce de todos los derechos humanos, sobre todo los derechos económicos, sociales y culturales: las actividades de los fondos buitres”. En este proyecto, entre otras cosas, se condenan las actividades de los “fondos buitres” que en condiciones depredadoras producen un efecto negativo directo y salvaje en la capacidad de los países, para cumplir con sus obligaciones insoslayables de respetar los derechos humanos de sus ciudadanos y ciudadanas, especialmente en lo referido a los derechos económicos, sociales y culturales y los irrenunciables derechos al desarrollo y a la inclusión, a la vez que alienta a los Estados a participar en las negociaciones para establecer un marco normativo multilateral para los procesos de reestructuración de la deuda soberana, de acuerdo con la decisión de la Asamblea General de la ONU.

Todas estas expresiones de los organismos internacionales señalan la justa y merecida demanda de nuestros pueblos, que es ser libres y soberanos para garantizarse una vida digna con posibilidad de progreso, con acceso a la salud, a la educación y al empleo. Como señalara la señora

Presidenta de la Argentina ante la Asamblea General de la ONU, el mundo necesita una normativa global para una gobernanza global. Pedimos una normativa y el respeto a la soberanía de los países, fundamentalmente de aquellos que quieren cumplir sus obligaciones.

Finalmente, queremos agradecer muy especialmente el permanente y solidario apoyo de varios de los países que forman parte de este Consejo Permanente, expresado en cada uno de los foros en los que la Argentina ha planteado esta cuestión. Confiamos en seguir trabajando juntos en la construcción de un mundo libre y justo, en el que se respete la soberanía de nuestros países y los derechos de nuestros pueblos.

Muchas gracias, señora Presidenta.

La PRESIDENTA: Thank you, Ambassador, for the update on the vulture funds situation in Argentina.

BOMBARDEOS EN TERRITORIO SIRIO

La PRESIDENTA: I now give the floor to the Representative of Ecuador.

La REPRESENTANTE ALTERNA DEL ECUADOR: Gracias, señora Presidenta. Seré breve.

Daré lectura a un comunicado oficial del Ecuador:

El Gobierno del Ecuador rechaza el bombardeo registrado por los Estados Unidos de América y otros países en territorio sirio, como inicio de una ofensiva concebida para combatir a la organización yihadista denominada Estado Islámico. Las acciones llevadas a cabo contravienen el derecho internacional, pues no han sido conocidas por la Asamblea General de las Naciones Unidas, ni han sido autorizadas por el Consejo de Seguridad.

Por otra parte, la referida ofensiva ha sido desarrollada sin el consentimiento del Gobierno de Siria, el cual ha hecho reiteradas ofertas para cooperar con la comunidad internacional ante la amenaza que supone el avance del Estado Islámico, por lo que las acciones militares desplegadas constituyen una violación a la soberanía del Estado sirio y una amenaza a su integridad territorial.

Es imperativo que toda acción militar cuente con la debida aprobación de la comunidad internacional. La historia reciente nos enseña que las medidas unilaterales además de ilegítimas, tienden a exacerbar la inestabilidad en dichos territorio, con consecuencias deplorables para la población civil.

Finalmente, el Ecuador hace un llamado a la comunidad internacional a buscar una solución que pase por los mecanismos previstos en el derecho internacional a través de la Organización de las Naciones Unidas y a que toda acción se desarrolle con respeto irrestricto a los derechos humanos y al derecho internacional humanitario.

Gracias.

La PRESIDENTA: Thank you, Representative of Ecuador.

APOYO A LA ARGENTINA PARA LA SOLUCIÓN
DEL PROBLEMA DE LA DEUDA EXTERNA

La PRESIDENTA: Ambassador of Mexico, you have the floor.

El REPRESENTANTE PERMANENTE DE MÉXICO: Gracias, señora Presidenta.

Muy brevemente primero para reiterar y reafirmar de manera contundente el apoyo a la Argentina en este trance tan difícil que está pasando por el problema de los “fondos buitres”. Reiteramos lo asentado aquí el 3 de julio en la declaración que suscribieron varios de nuestros Cancilleres, ciertamente el Canciller de México, José Antonio Meade Kuribreña y le reiteramos nuestro total apoyo solidario a la Argentina en este trance que está ahora pasando para la solución del problema de la deuda.

RECONOCIMIENTO A LA LABOR DE LA PRESIDENTA
DEL CONSEJO PERMANENTE

El REPRESENTANTE PERMANENTE DE MÉXICO: Y por último, señora Presidenta, como no tenemos certeza de que el Consejo vaya a celebrar otra sesión antes del próximo miércoles y siendo miércoles próximo día 1 de octubre, cuando usted estará terminando el período como Presidenta de este Consejo, mi Delegación quiere dejar asentado su más amplio reconocimiento al excelente trabajo que ha hecho usted al guiarnos durante estos tres meses. Tampoco puede dejar pasar por alto el eficaz liderazgo que usted demostró durante las sesiones del Consejo y la presentación de los proyectos de resolución que el Consejo transmitió a la Asamblea General en sus dos últimos períodos extraordinarios de sesiones; el celebrado aquí sobre la visión estratégica de la OEA y el celebrado en Guatemala.

Muchas gracias y la felicito por la eficaz labor al frente del Consejo, señora Presidenta.

La PRESIDENTA: Thank you, Ambassador of Mexico, for your very kind words.

BOMBARDEOS EN TERRITORIO SIRIO
(CONTINUACIÓN)

La PRESIDENTA: At this time, I will give the floor to the United States, and I will respond later.

El REPRESENTANTE ALTERNO DE LOS ESTADOS UNIDOS: Thank you very much, Madam Chair, and I am conscious of the hour. It is late, and we are under “Other business.”

I will confess to be caught by surprise by the statements made by the Delegation of Ecuador. We were given no notice that they intended to raise this matter here at the Permanent Council, which is generally a common courtesy that most delegations would appreciate and expect.

My delegation does have an official statement to make for the record, and we intend to submit that to the Secretariat in due course. Nevertheless, Madam Chair, it's also surprising to my delegation that the sentiments of the Delegation of Ecuador seem to contradict the overwhelming sentiment of rejection, horror, and repudiation of what the Islamic State is attempting to do and has done already in these Arab states.

We note, Madam Chair, that international law recognizes the right to self-defense. We note, Madam Chair that these actions were carried out in concert with five other Arab nations that understand firsthand the threat and the savagery of this group. We also, Madam Chair, wish to clarify that one of the attacks undertaken in Syria was against a splinter group of Al Qaeda that posed an imminent threat to my country and other western interests, and we do recognize that we acted under the right of self-defense. We also note, Madam Chair, that 40 nations around the world are members of the coalition and have joined the United States to fight this threat that poses a danger not only to my country but to the entire world.

The UN Security Council will be discussing a resolution later on that will address these matters, and we intend to make sure that that resolution is well known to all the member states here around the table, as it is a matter of law that these resolutions are binding upon all the member states.

With that, Madam Chair, I will close, but I will request the right of rebuttal in that we will submit a formal statement to the Secretariat later on this afternoon for inclusion in the records of this meeting. Thank you, Madam Chair.

La PRESIDENTA: Thank you, Representative of the United States. Your comments have been noted.

RECONOCIMIENTO A LA LABOR DE LA PRESIDENTA DEL CONSEJO PERMANENTE (CONTINUACIÓN)

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

La REPRESENTANTE PERMANENTE DE LA ARGENTINA: Señora Presidenta, en homenaje a la brevedad, simplemente permítame adherirme con mucho sinceridad y entusiasmo a las palabras del Embajador de México con relación a su brillante desempeño al frente de este Consejo y las demás circunstancias que le tocaron protagonizar, por si esta es la última sesión en que usted preside los trabajos de esta órgano.

Muchas gracias.

La PRESIDENTA: Thank you, Ambassador of Argentina. Actually, we were thinking of having a last meeting on September 29, just for one issue. This was proposed and is being considered, but thank you very much, Ambassador of Argentina.

I now give the floor to the Representative of Nicaragua.

APOYO A LA ARGENTINA PARA SOLUCIÓN
DEL PROBLEMA DE LA DEUDA EXTERNA
(CONTINUACIÓN)

El REPRESENTANTE INTERINO DE NICARAGUA: Gracias, señora Presidenta.

Precisamente pensaba yo la posibilidad de que hubiese una última sesión del Consejo Permanente en este mes. Mi intervención es muy breve, solamente para reiterar la solidaridad del Gobierno de Nicaragua con la Argentina en sus planteamientos con respecto a los “fondos buitres”, tanto en el ámbito de la Organización de los Estados Americanos como en la Organización de las Naciones Unidas; mantenemos nuestra posición de completo apoyo.

Gracias.

La PRESIDENTA: Thank you, Representatives. There being no further requests for the floor, this meeting is adjourned. Thanks again.

ANEXOS

DECLARACIÓN APROBADA

OEA/Ser.G
CP/DEC. 56 (1988/14)
24 septiembre 2014
Original: inglés

CP/DEC. 56 (1988/14)

AÑO INTERNACIONAL DE LOS PEQUEÑOS ESTADOS INSULARES EN DESARROLLO

(Aprobada por el Consejo Permanente en la sesión celebrada el 24 de septiembre de 2014)

EL CONSEJO PERMANENTE DE LA ORGANIZACION DE LOS ESTADOS AMERICANOS,

RECONOCIENDO que el hecho de que las Naciones Unidas haya designado el año 2014 como Año Internacional de los Pequeños Estados Insulares en Desarrollo y recordando el hecho de que se reconoció la importancia de ese año en la declaración AG/DEC. 74 (XLIV-O/14), “Declaración de Asunción: Desarrollo con inclusión social”, aprobada por la Asamblea General en su cuadragésimo cuarto período ordinario de sesiones, son importantes para todos los Estados Miembros de la Organización de los Estados Americanos (OEA) y especialmente para los Estados de la región del Caribe;

RECORDANDO la Declaración de Barbados y el Programa de Acción para el Desarrollo Sostenible de los Pequeños Estados Insulares en Desarrollo, la Declaración de Mauricio y la Estrategia de Mauricio para la Ejecución Ulterior del Programa de Acción para el Desarrollo Sostenible de los Pequeños Estados Insulares en Desarrollo, el capítulo 17 del Programa 21 y el Plan de Aplicación de las Decisiones de la Cumbre Mundial sobre el Desarrollo Sostenible (Plan de Aplicación de las Decisiones de Johannesburgo), incluido el capítulo VII, relativo al desarrollo sostenible de los pequeños Estados insulares en desarrollo;

RECORDANDO TAMBIÉN el documento final de la reunión de examen de alto nivel sobre la aplicación de la Estrategia de Mauricio para la Ejecución Ulterior del Programa de Acción para el Desarrollo Sostenible de los Pequeños Estados Insulares en Desarrollo, [1] las resoluciones de la Asamblea General 65/156, del 20 de diciembre de 2010, 66/198, del 22 de diciembre de 2011, 67/207, del 21 del diciembre de 2012, y todas sus resoluciones anteriores sobre la cuestión;

TOMANDO NOTA de los resultados de la Tercera Conferencia Internacional sobre Pequeños Estados Insulares en Desarrollo, que se celebró en Apia, Samoa, del 1 al 4 de septiembre de 2014;

DESTACANDO la Declaración de Río+20, “El futuro que queremos”, la cual hace hincapié en que los “pequeños Estados insulares en desarrollo siguen constituyendo un caso especial para el desarrollo sostenible debido a sus vulnerabilidades únicas y particulares, entre ellas su pequeño tamaño, el alejamiento, la limitada base de recursos y exportaciones y la susceptibilidad a los problemas ambientales mundiales y las conmociones económicas externas, incluyendo una amplia gama de efectos del cambio climático y desastres naturales potencialmente más frecuentes e intensos”;

RECORDANDO que la Carta de la Organización de los Estados Americanos establece que la “cooperación interamericana para el desarrollo integral es responsabilidad común y solidaria de los Estados Miembros en el marco de los principios democráticos y de las instituciones del sistema interamericano”;

TENIENDO PRESENTE la importancia de la labor del Consejo Interamericano para el Desarrollo Integral, que fomenta el desarrollo sostenible e inclusivo de todos los Estados Miembros; y

CONSCIENTE de que un número importante de Estados Miembros de la OEA son pequeños Estados insulares en desarrollo y que las vulnerabilidades que ellos enfrentan conciernen a todos los Estados Miembros y requieren especial atención (CP/CSH-1305/11 rev. 4 corr. 1),

DECLARA:

1. Que la designación de 2014 como Año Internacional de los Pequeños Estados Insulares en Desarrollo presenta una oportunidad única para que la Organización de los Estados Americanos (OEA) se concentre en los desafíos y oportunidades inherentes a los pequeños Estados insulares en desarrollo, y que debe prestarse especial atención a la labor de los Estados Miembros en la implementación del Programa de Acción de Barbados, la Estrategia de Mauricio y la Trayectoria de Samoa.

2. Que temas tales como la adaptación y mitigación del cambio climático, la reducción del riesgo de desastres, incluidos los sistemas de alerta temprana para tormentas y maremotos inminentes, la educación para el desarrollo sostenible y la promoción de industrias estratégicas, tales como el turismo, son especialmente importantes para los pequeños Estados insulares en desarrollo y requieren una atención enfocada, en el ámbito del trabajo de la OEA.

3. Que los Estados Miembros, los órganos de la OEA, las instituciones del sistema interamericano y todas las demás partes interesadas deben aprovechar la oportunidad del Año Internacional de los Pequeños Estados Insulares en Desarrollo para promover y tomar medidas concretas para implementar los correspondientes compromisos, en todos los ámbitos, incluso por medio de la cooperación internacional, regional y subregional, según corresponda, dirigida al logro del desarrollo sostenible de los pequeños Estados insulares en desarrollo.

STATEMENT SUBMITTED BY THE DELEGATION OF THE UNITED STATES ON
MILITARY OPERATIONS UNDERTAKEN BY THE UNITED STATES IN SYRIA

U.S. military forces and partner nations – including Saudi Arabia, the United Arab Emirates, Jordan, Bahrain, and Qatar – undertook military action against ISIL targets in the vicinity of Ar Raqqa, Dayr az Zawr, Al Hasakah, and Abu Kamal. The targets for the strikes included ISIL fighters, training compounds, headquarters and command and control facilities, storage facilities, a finance center, supply trucks, and armed vehicles.

Before conducting strikes in Syria, we informed the Syrian regime directly of our intent to take action through our Ambassador to the United Nations to the Syrian Permanent Representative to the United Nations.

The military operations taken by the United States in Syria were consistent with international and U.S. domestic law.

As a matter of international law, the United States is using force against ISIL in Syria in the collective self-defense of Iraq and in U.S. national self-defense. We took this action because the Syrian regime has shown that it cannot and will not confront these terrorists groups effectively itself.

The Government of Iraq has asked that the United States lead international efforts to strike ISIL sites and military strongholds in Syria in order to end continuing attacks on Iraq, to protect Iraqi citizens, and ultimately to enable and equip Iraqi forces to perform their task of regaining control of the Iraqi borders.

In Iraq's letter to the United Nations Security Council of September 20, 2014, and other statements made by Iraq, including its letter to the United Nations Security Council of June 25, 2014, Iraq has made clear that it is facing a serious threat of continuing attacks from ISIL coming out of safe havens in Syria.

As President Obama has made clear, ISIL poses a threat to the people of Iraq, Syria and the broader Middle East, as well as to U.S. citizens, personnel, and facilities. If left unchecked, we believe ISIL could pose a growing threat beyond the region, including to the United States.

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