



Organización de los Estados Americanos
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Organization of American States

September 9, 2008

Excellency:

As you are doubtless aware, over the past decade, there has been a marked increase in global concern, especially over our unsustainable modes of development and the resulting deterioration in our quality of life and the presence of pernicious threats to livelihoods, especially of the poor and vulnerable.

This global concern has given rise to concerted action on several fronts by a large and diverse group of actors across the globe, who have proven successfully that it is possible to achieve a form of development that is sustainable and that "...meets the needs of present generations without compromising the ability of future generations to meet their own needs." (Brundtland Report "Our Common Future", 1987)

For many decades, the OAS has been at the forefront of this global, sustainable development partnership, which includes the implementation of its strategic programs in water, land, energy, and disaster risk management, in our hemisphere. But we are now seized of the importance of supplementing our actions at the national level with sustained "in-house" activities aimed at reducing the negative environmental impact of the day-to-day operations of the General Secretariat of the OAS.

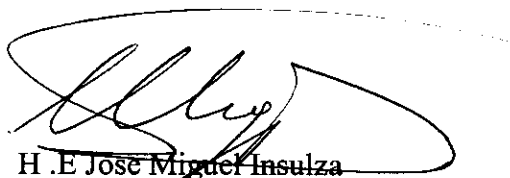
Against this background, the General Secretariat, acting on the initiative of the Chairman of the Permanent Council of the OAS, will observe the week of September 15-19, 2008 as "Green Week". The intention is to use this period to raise sensitivity on issues of climate change and to present Member States with the opportunity to share best practices on environmental and sustainable development initiatives/projects.

Also, we hope to build the awareness of staff of the General Secretariat regarding the negative environmental impacts of current corporate and household practices and to engender solid commitment among them to adopt and maintain environmentally-sound practices and measures at work and at home.

We, the undersigned, take much pleasure in inviting you to join us for the official launch of Green Week scheduled for Monday 15 September 2008 at 10.00a.m in the Hall of the Americas at the Headquarters Building of the OAS on 17th Street and Constitution Avenue.

An agenda for this event is attached for your information and guidance.

We look forward to welcoming you to this historic event and avail ourselves of this opportunity to renew to you assurances of our highest consideration at all times.



H .E Jose Miguel Insulza
Secretary-General
Organization of American States



H.E Ambassador Nestor Mendez
Chairman
Permanent Council
Organization of American States