CLOSING REMARKS

To conclude, I would like to share with the Member States some final thoughts.

I begin by saying that many of you know me personally and, throughout my career, I have had the opportunity to work together in all kinds of situations. I believe that I can assert, without fear of contradiction, that my performance demonstrates my conviction that all States are equally important, and that therefore I have and will maintain a constant policy of listening and considering their views if I have the honor of be elected as Secretary General. They will always find in me someone who will do their best to understand their points of view, who will take their problems and challenges as their own and who will seek, without rest, to achieve consensual and institutional solutions, based on our fundamental instruments, which will be the permanent guide for my job performance.

I strongly believe that the main function of the Secretary General is to be at the service of the Member States, without any other personal agenda other than the mission, function and powers granted by the member countries in the OAS Charter.

As I have already said in my presentation, the role of the Secretary General is to ensure that the actions, policies, programs and projects that the Member States adopt are executed effectively and generate tangible, measurable and verifiable results, ensuring for this, with full transparency, the necessary resources. The contact with the press is an essential part of this work specially to inform what the member countries of the Organization have decided and to communicate how it will be achieved, and not to convey personal opinions or less to cause only a mediatic effect.

Consequently, day-to-day coordination with the Member States is essential to achieve effective results as their commitment is essential for the possibility of success.

The essential contribution that the Secretary General can offer to the organization is to be permanently a factor that generate consensus, to be a facilitator and mediator in conflict situations through the instruments of diplomacy, that is, dialogue and negotiation, using to this end, the capacities
and resources of the different specialized areas of the OAS as well as the power to convene and engage other regional organizations.

That is why from the beginning I would focus on establishing communication and coordination mechanisms with my counterparts of the IDB, CAF, PAHO, the EU and other organizations and entities. I will also seek to restore efficient coordination and work mechanisms with the Secretary General and relevant agencies of the UN system, as has traditionally been done.

Front onto the challenges facing the Organization today, I consider myself with the capacity and leadership necessary to strengthen the institutional and credibility of the OAS.

My main objective will be precisely to recover the historical and irreplaceable role of the OAS as a political forum for debate, deliberation and search for consensus and collective actions to achieve together the solution to problems that arise in order to live in peace and democracy, promoting development and human rights and our security, through mutual understanding and respect for each other's sovereignty, on equal terms and in the law framework, as we have agreed in our Charter.