

General Announcements



Organización de los
Estados Americanos

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Subject: Secretary General's message on the World Environment Day

The General Secretariat of the Organization of American States (OAS) is pleased to join in today's observance of World Environment Day. This important day coincides with the 37th anniversary of the 1972 Stockholm Conference on Human Environment, the first global manifestation of commitment by our Member States, and other countries of the world to protect human health and the health of the environment. Mexico will host this commemoration of World Environment Day under the slogan, "Your planet needs you United to Combat Climate Change", emphasizing the role of the hemisphere in the fight against climate change. This slogan represents a recognition of the challenge posed by climate change and underscores the urgent need to continue working within the framework of the OAS in supporting the development of climate change mitigation and adaptation strategies.

The scientific evidence on the effects of climate change in our hemisphere is overwhelming. With each passing day our people struggle to access water and food and suffer the impacts of increasing natural disasters. These are merely a few examples of the reasons that warrant firm action to ensure that human activity is more compatible with the environment, which after all is the source of goods and services that enable our survival on this planet.

Dialogue and cooperation, as expressed by our Heads of State and Government at the V Summit of the Americas, are essential if we wish to effectively stabilize and reduce the concentration of greenhouse gases in the atmosphere. In this regard, today I urge all OAS Member States to consolidate efforts to combat climate change with solidarity through actions within and outside the organization to safeguard natural resources for present and future generations. I also encourage the staff of the OAS to work assiduously towards the implementation of internal policies such as the Greening of the OAS and to continue working with and for our member states in their efforts to develop in a sustainable manner. We hope that our efforts in this area will contribute to concrete actions toward a new treaty at the crucial climate convention meeting in Copenhagen in December 2009.

José Miguel Insulza
Secretary General