



Organización de los Estados Americanos
Organização dos Estados Americanos
Organisation des États américains
Organization of American States

DSD/D

July 18, 2008

Dear Ms. Arbour,

Secretary-General Jose Miguel Insulza has transmitted to us your letter of June 16th regarding Resolution 7/23 on the issue of Human Rights and Climate Change adopted on March 28, 2008, by the United Nations Human Rights Council.

Human rights and Climate Change have been long standing priorities of the Organization of American States (OAS). Indeed, the concern of OAS member States on climate change has been reflected in the Summit of the Americas process; in various Inter-American meetings; as well as in the work of its Committee on Hemispheric Security and its Department of Sustainable Development. In this regard, you would be pleased to know that earlier this year the OAS signed a Cooperative Agreement with the Caribbean Community Center on Climate Change based in Belize, committing to the design and implementation of a joint work program on Climate Change. In addition, the Inter-American Commission on Human Rights, through its system of individual petitions and thematic hearings, is receiving an increased amount of information regarding the impact of environmental and climate change issues on the enjoyment of human rights in the American hemisphere.

For these reasons, the OAS is delighted to collaborate with you in promoting compliance with Resolution 7/23, including by providing information for the preparation of the analytical study of the relationship between Climate Change and Human Rights to be presented to the United Nations Human Rights Council prior to its 10th Session.

Enclosed you will find, an inventory of documents that fall within the categories indicated in your letter, as well as a list of links to presentations and testimonies (power points and videos) related to Climate Change and its effects.

We trust that the information provided is useful.

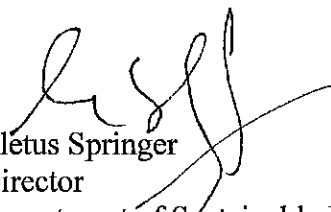
Should you need any further assistance or contributions from us on this matter, please do not hesitate to contact us.

Ms. Louise Arbour
High Commissioner for Human Rights
United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights
Palais des Nations
Geneva

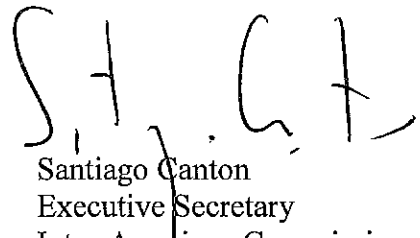
We take this opportunity to wish you success as you prepare for the next Council session.

Please accept our assurances of our highest consideration at all times.

Sincerely,



Cletus Springer
Director
Department of Sustainable Development



Santiago Canton
Executive Secretary
Inter-American Commission on Human Rights

cc: Dr. Jose Miguel Insulza, Secretary General
Antonia Urrejola, Office of the Secretary General
Ambassador Alfonso Quiñónez, Executive Secretary, SEDI
Claudia S. de Windt, Chief, Environmental Law, Policy and Good Governance, DSD

Enclosures

Inventory of enclosed documents

- Santa Cruz +10 Declaration on Sustainable Development (AG/RES. 2312 XXX VII-O/07).
- Inter-American Program for Sustainable Development 2006-2009 (AG/RES. 2312 XXX VII-O/07)
- October 2005: Organization of American States, Water Project Series No.6 La Plata River basin, a framework for sustainable management of its water resources with respect to the hydrological effects of climate variability and change.
- April 2007: Organization of American States, Department of Sustainable Development. Law of Disasters: Towards a Normative Framework in the Americas, prepared for the Americas Regional Forum on International Disaster Response Laws, Rules and Principles (IDRL)
- March 2006: Organization of American States, Department of Sustainable Development. Policy Series No.9: Water Management and Climate Change: Lessons from Regional Cooperation.
- May 2007: Organization of American States, Department of Sustainable Development. Policy Series No.11 New Opportunities for Sustainable Energy in Response to Climate Change.
- November 2007: Organization of American States, Department of Sustainable Development. Policy Series No.12 - Adapting to Climate Change: Challenges to Freshwater Management.

List of links to presentations and testimonies related to climate change and its effects (power points and videos) prepared for the Organization.

- Presentation by Dr. Ulrich Trotz, Science Director of the Caribbean Community Climate Change Center, on Trends and Challenges for the Americas in addressing Climate Change - the Caribbean case for the Special Session of the Permanent Council of the Organization of American States held on February 23rd, 2007:
<http://www.oas.org/dsd/SpecialMeetings/NEVILLE%20TROTZ.pdf>
Video: <http://www.oas.org/dsd/SpecialMeetings/Specialsessionpc.htm>)
- Presentation by Carlos Fuller, Deputy Director, Caribbean Community Climate Change Center on the Climate Change Impacts in the Caribbean for the OAS Caribbean Seminar Series on

the response of the Caribbean region to climate variability and climate change (January 2008):
http://www.oas.org/dsd/seminars/caribbean/1seminar/carlos_dfidc_climate_change_impacts_caribbean.pdf

- Presentation by Dr. Kenrick R. Leslie, Executive Director Caribbean Community Climate Change Center on Addressing Climate Change and Climate Variability in the Caribbean, for the OAS Caribbean Seminar Series on the response of the Caribbean region to climate variability and climate change (January 2008):
http://www.oas.org/dsd/seminars/caribbean/1seminar/ken_oas_presentation.pdf
- Presentation by Mark Lambrides, Chief Energy and Climate Change Division, OAS Department of Sustainable Development on Linking Renewable Energy and Energy Efficiency to Security and Climate Change in the Caribbean, for the OAS Caribbean Seminar Series on the response of the Caribbean region to climate variability and climate change (January 2008):
http://www.oas.org/dsd/seminars/caribbean/1seminar/mark_ree_caribbean.pdf
- Presentation by Walter Vergara of the World Bank, Environment and Socially Sustainable Development, Latin America and Caribbean Division, on the consequences of climate change in the Americas: Activities, lessons learned and recommendations for further work in Latin America, for the OAS Caribbean Seminar Series on the response of the Caribbean region to climate variability and climate change (January 2008):
http://www.oas.org/dsd/seminars/caribbean/1seminar/walter_consequences_of_climate_change_americas_jan_18_07.pdf