

Dialogue between Heads of Delegation, the Secretary General, and Heads of Delegation of the Permanent Observer Countries to the OAS on the theme of the XLI Regular Session of the General Assembly, "Citizen Security in the Americas"

June 5, 2011

San Salvador, El Salvador

Permanent Observer Mission of Azerbaijan

Remarks delivered by:

Tofiq Musayev

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Excellency Foreign Minister Hugo Martínez,
Secretary General Jose Moguel Insulza,
Excellencies, Ladies and Gentlemen,

I am honored to address the 41th Regular Session of the General Assembly of the Organization of American States (OAS) as the Permanent Observer of the Republic of Azerbaijan, and extend my sincere appreciation to the Government of El Salvador for hospitality.

Azerbaijan has been a permanent observer since 2001 and remains committed to developing and advancing cooperation with the Organization and its Member States. We share many common values, goals and objectives, including in particular those pertaining to sustainable development, rule of law, democracy, human rights, peace and security.

The central theme of this Assembly's session on citizen security is gaining wide support at the international level and is equally important to countries situated in other regions, including Azerbaijan. We take note of the relevant initiatives undertaken on the topic by Governments, international organizations and non-governmental institutions.

The concept of citizen security underscores in the first place the universality and primacy of a set of freedoms that are fundamental to human life and provide an equal opportunity for all individuals to enjoy their rights and fully develop their human potential.

This concept is expected to serve to enhancing the sovereignty of States, reinforcing their integrity, unity and stability in an effective and sustainable manner, as well as to focus on long-term prevention and people-centered responses. It is also inseparably linked with socio-economic development, eradication of poverty and addressing the effects of climate change, natural and man-made disasters.

My Government has consistently supported international and national efforts aimed at promoting sustained economic growth, sustainable development and global prosperity for all. Particular attention has been given to addressing the special needs and vulnerabilities of the developing and least developed countries. Over the last years, Azerbaijan has provided substantial humanitarian and technical assistance to support development strategies, educational and cultural projects in a number of countries from different regions.

Azerbaijan has put forward its candidature for a non-permanent membership of the United Nations Security Council for the term 2012-2013, at the elections to be held this October during the 66th session of the United Nations General Assembly. Contribution to the promotion and strengthening of the rule of law and culture of peace, with special focus on matters relating to security and protection of vulnerable groups such as children, women, elderly, refugees and internally displaced persons, will remain among the priorities of Azerbaijan as non-permanent member of the United Nations Security Council.

Expressing our support to the OAS in promoting peace, justice, and prosperity, as well as proceeding from the importance of the main topic of this General Assembly, we would like to make our contribution and pledge \$10,000 into the Inter-American Children's Institute, \$5,000 into the OAS Peace Fund, and \$5,000 into the Inter-American Commission on Human Rights.

I am confident that our relations with the OAS and its Member States will be further strengthened, and that we will continue our mutually beneficial cooperation.

In conclusion, I would like to convey to this august Body our best wishes and successful deliberations.

Thank you.