

Speech by Ambassador Zhang Yesui at the Dialogue Meeting
between OAS Member States and Observer States
San Salvador, June 5, 2011

Minister Martinez,
Secretary General Insulza,
Distinguished Heads of Delegations and Colleagues,

I want to start by extending our sincere appreciation to the host government and the OAS General Secretariat for the hospitality accorded to the Chinese delegation.

Currently, the relations between China and American countries are growing both in breadth and depth. China's cooperation with the OAS, which is the largest regional organization in the Western Hemisphere, serves as an important component to the China's relations with regional countries and provides an important platform for promoting exchanges and cooperation.

China's commitment to building stronger relations with the OAS has been guided by three priorities:

First, to support the OAS efforts in maintaining regional stability and promoting prosperity. China understands the urgent need of regional countries for political stability, social order, and sustainable development. We want to work together with all American countries to achieve common progress.

Second, to take the concerns of the regional countries as the basis for China-OAS cooperation. We value the important missions that the OAS shoulders and stand ready to support the OAS through such joint efforts as the "China-OAS Cooperation Fund", the human resources training and other initiatives.

Third, to ensure that the China-OAS exchange and cooperation programs are open and transparent. Such programs should cover all OAS member states, including those yet to establish diplomatic ties with China. At the same time, it is important to make sure that more resources be channeled to the more needed countries in the region.

We are happy to note that through joint efforts, China-OAS exchanges and collaboration have been further strengthened. Last year, China contributed more than 400,000 US dollars in cash and in-kind to the OAS through the "Cooperation Fund", scholarships and other programs. To demonstrate our support to OAS efforts in promoting regional peace, stability and development, we have funded the "OAS/CARICOM Electoral Observation in Haiti", "Model OAS General Assembly in the Caribbean", "Disaster Reduction in Central America" and other programs.

In the meantime, we will expand our human resources cooperation through providing 20 scholarships for recipients to study in China, and increasing the number of participants for short-term training. We will also, for the first time, send on trainee to the Inter-American Defense College.

We will continue to mobilize resources to further facilitate bilateral exchanges and cooperation to better address the concerns of regional countries. It is expected that the level of contributions this year will exceed that of last year.

Before closing, I want to emphasize that China values its friendly relations and cooperation with countries in the Western Hemisphere. We will continue to work together with all of you for a better relationship between China and the OAS and between China and all the Western Hemisphere countries.

Thank you!