

**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 XLII Regular Session of the
General Assembly, "Food Security with Sovereignty"**

June 3, 2012

Cochabamba, Bolivia

Permanent Observer Mission of Germany

Remarks delivered by:

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Secretary General, Excellencies, Ladies and Gentlemen,

It is a great honor for me to attend this 42nd General Assembly of the Organization of American States, representing Germany as an Observer.

Germany has been following the process of regional integration in the Americas closely and has been a partner of the OAS for many years now. Just recently the Federal Foreign Office decided to support a project for the "Promotion of a Culture of Peace in the Belize-Guatemala Adjacency Zone". The project aims to support Belize and Guatemala in their efforts to reduce tensions in the adjacency zone and facilitate a climate of trust, interaction, dialogue and collaboration among the communities living in the area. We hope this project will help pave the way for peaceful national referenda in October 2013 on the decision whether to take Guatemala's territorial claim to International Court of Justice.

I should like to make use of this opportunity to commend the Governments of Belize and Guatemala on this decision taken on the recommendation of the OAS Secretary general. This is another powerful example of the region's extraordinary capacity to resolve potential disputes with peaceful means.

Among the ongoing projects supported by the German Government, I would like to mention the following:

- Germany has committed 1.5 million euros to support the peace process in Colombia since 2008. We are currently supporting the OAS Mission's activities aiming to safeguard victim groups.

- Germany is cooperating with the OAS on strengthening the participation of indigenous peoples in the Inter0American System. Our contribution to the promotion of indigenous rights totals one million euros.

- Germany is supporting the Law and Identity Project PUICA (“Programa de Universalización de la Identidad Civil en las Américas”) with 500.000 euros since 2010.
- Since 202, the German Government has been financing a program of cooperation between the German Physical and Technical Institute (PTB) and the Regional Institute for Metrology SIM with 1.75 million euros. This highly technical project will end in 2012 and focuses particularly on the “Application of Quality Criteria in the Environmental and Food Sector”.

Ladies and Gentlemen,

You have given this 42st General Assembly the title “Food Security with Sovereignty in the Americas”. As this last project example clearly indicates, food security has long been a concern for my Government and certainly some aspects of food security have been addressed in the framework of our cooperation under the auspices of the OAS over the last number of years.

The German Government wants to contribute to regional and global food security by cooperating with all relevant international organizations such as the UN food and Agriculture Organization (FAO), the Committee on World Food Security (CFS), the World Food Programme (WFP) and the International Fund for Agricultural Development (IFAD). In this regard, we welcome the adoption of the voluntary guidelines on land tenure by the CFS on 11 may 2012 as a milestone in the combat against land grabbing.

Within the framework of the G20, Germany actively supports the implementation of the “Action Plan on food price volatility and agriculture”, drawn up by the Ministers of Agriculture in June 2011. Alongside the measures aimed at increasing agricultural production, Germany has a particular interest in enhancing market transparency by providing accurate market information. For this, Germany is working to help establish the Agricultural Market Information System. (AMIS).

“Food Sovereignty” is a concept difficult to define at international level. What we all agreed upon is our obligation to implement the “right to adequate food”. Germany supports all efforts to guarantee the availability of food in quantity and quality to satisfy needs of everyone. This implies inter alia the need to further increase production in a sustainable way and secure access especially of small holder farmers to markets at all levels – local, national and international.

Germany greatly appreciates the growing awareness that further efforts must be made to improve food security, in the Americas and world-wide. We value the regional and multinational approach that has been proposed and is certainly needed given the global threats we face. I wish you fruitful discussions.