

Remarks by Ambassador Zhang at the Ceremony
November 16 2010

Secretary General Jose Miguel Insulza,
Chair of the Permanent Council, Ambassador Joaquin Maza,
Assistant Secretary General Albert Ramchand Ramdin,
Ladies and Gentlemen,

In order to demonstrate the sincerity of China to further strengthen the cooperative relations with the OAS, and to support the OAS in fulfilling its important missions entrusted by its member states, today, I would like to present, behalf of the Chinese government, a total of 300,000 yuans (approximately \$45,000 USD) of assistance, as an additional assistance provided by China to the OAS in 2010. It will be used to support the upgrading of the General Secretariat's communication equipment and the *Inter-American Program for the Prevention and Eradication of Commercial Sexual Exploitation, and Smuggling of and Trafficking in Minors*.

After China became the permanent observer of the OAS in 2004, the two sides jointly established a 5-year 1

million USD Cooperation Fund. Last year, we renewed the cooperation fund and signed a new MOU on the scholarship program. Moreover, the two sides are also working closely to explore ways to further expand exchanges and cooperation. Today's ceremony is a testament to our joint efforts. I hope that such assistance will contribute to the capacity building of the OAS and help it play a bigger role in promoting regional stability and development.

I wish to take this opportunity to reaffirm that China is committed to further consolidating the friendship and expanding cooperation with the countries and people in the Western Hemisphere. As China's permanent observer to the OAS, I stand ready to do all I can in this endeavor.