



Organization of
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**FORTY-FIRST REGULAR SESSION OF THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE
ORGANIZATION OF AMERICAN STATES**

**DIALOGUE OF THE HEADS OF DELEGATION AND THE SECRETARY GENERAL WITH THE HEADS
OF DELEGATION OF THE PERMANENT OBSERVER COUNTRIES ON THE THEME OF THE
GENERAL ASSEMBLY**

“CITIZEN SECURITY IN THE AMERICAS”

San Salvador, El Salvador - June 5, 2011

Hugo Martínez, Minister of Foreign Affairs of El Salvador moderated the Dialogue of the Heads of Delegation of Member States and the Secretary General with the Heads of Delegation of the Permanent Observer Countries. He welcomed the participants to this Dialogue which takes place in the context of the XLI Regular Session of the OAS General Assembly and referred to the time nearly 40 years ago when the Permanent Status was created and when Spain became the first Permanent Observer to the Organization. Since then the role of Permanent Observer has evolved as other nations have expressed interest in the Americas and in the Organization by requesting and receiving the unique status of Observer.

He added that many Permanent Observer countries have deep historical and cultural ties to the Americas and others seek the status in order to access information on the Americas in response to globalization and in recognition of the importance of interconnectedness to confront the world challenges such as insecurity, energy sufficiency, trade and investments, migration and others. Expressing his sincerest gratitude for the continued and constant support of Permanent Observers on behalf of the Government of El Salvador and of the Member States of the OAS, Minister Martínez called attention to the active participation of the Observers as an expression of the strong commitment of the international community to multilateralism.

The issue of citizen security, he added, has become more important across all regions in that manifestations of violence and crime have a deep impact on the integral development of nations. These consequences justify the use of all available means to combat those forces which disrupt peace and stability. With this in mind, the cooperation of the international community is fundamental. Among which, south-south cooperation is important to facilitate the exchange of information and best practices while addressing the complex, individual issues facing each nation in the Americas., He referred to north-south cooperation as equally important as it benefits the region by allowing for the development of a unified agenda on cooperation that adequately addresses larger-scale issues.

With this spirit, the nations of the hemisphere are ready to take their national and sub-regional plans in search of greater mechanisms for international cooperation on citizen security. Indeed the theme of “Citizen Security in the Americas” is one that is multidimensional in character, and takes on various forms that require deep multilateral support for their resolution. In this regard, confronting security issues in the Americas should only serve to strengthen the relations between the Member States of the OAS and its Permanent Observer countries.

Thanking again the participation of the Permanent Observers in the activities of the OAS, the General Assembly and this Dialogue, Minister Martínez turned the floor to Secretary General Insulza.

In his opening remarks, **OAS Secretary General José Miguel Insulza**, underscored the importance of Permanent Observer countries in building cooperative relationships in the search for shared solutions to challenges both regional and global in scope. Permanent Observer countries do not simply actively participate in the Organization’s political bodies, Secretary General Insulza emphasized, but demonstrate their solidarity with the region through support for priority program areas, whether it be strengthening democratic institutions and governance, promoting and protecting human rights, advancing a vision of multilateral security, or contributing to integral development. In 2010, Permanent Observer countries supported the OAS with US\$15,791,980 in cash contributions, and US\$825,787 in-kind

Secretary General Insulza further highlighted the importance of the theme of this year’s General Assembly: “Citizen Security in the Americas”, by expressing his concern with insecurity trends in the region, noting that a Latin American youth is thirty times more likely to die of homicide than a European youth; violent crime reduces GDP across the region by 12%; and, close to US\$7 billion is spent on private security. These concerns demand multilateral efforts to better shape a continent in which citizens may realize their right to democracy, economic stability, secure employment, a decent standard of living, and quality education and healthcare.

The OAS has taken a proactive role on the issue of citizen security through the exercise of the Inter-American Police Training Program (PICAP) within the newly-created Inter-American Observatory of Public Safety. PICAP aims to consolidate police institutions to control and prevent crime through the exchange of information and best practices. In addition, the OAS has initiated a program to strengthen legislation regulating the legal framework for private security, and is focusing resources on the creation of a program to prevent violence and criminality against the most vulnerable populations, including women, children, and young adults.

Secretary General Insulza closed his welcoming comments by highlighting that 2011 marks the tenth anniversary of the Inter-American Democratic Charter and noted that, at this critical juncture, organized crime is posing a grave threat to the stability of democratic institutions of the region. As a result, the alliance between the OAS and Permanent Observer countries is essential to the continuing peace, prosperity, and democracy of the region.

Mr. Juan Antonio Yañez-Barnuevo, State Secretary for Iberoamerica and Head of Delegation of the Permanent Observer Mission of Spain underscored the objective Spain shares with the Americas: quality democratic governance tied to a public security that protects its citizens, facilitates integral development, and promotes social inclusion. Spain supports the Organization in its view of citizen security as a human rights issue with multidimensional aspects. Spain believes that coordinated and multilateral efforts are prerequisites for significant improvements in citizen security.

Mr. Yañez-Barnuevo stated that Spain remains the number one contributor to the OAS among Permanent Observer countries. One-third of Spain's contributions to the OAS General Secretariat are allocated to reinforce aspects of multidimensional security. Since 2007, Spain has contributed to the creation of the Inter-American Observatory on Public Security, with the firm conviction that the OAS plays an important role in finding multilateral solutions to violent crime, and has contributed to the program "Crime, Insecurity, and Violence in the Americas". Spain plans to actively participate in the International Conference in Support of the Central American Security Strategy to be held June 22-23, 2011 in Guatemala City, Guatemala. Mr. Yañez-Barnuevo extended his gratitude to the Government of Guatemala, OAS, and SICA for organizing such an important event.

Mr. Yañez-Barnuevo expressed that Spain considers itself a fundamental part of the Ibero-American agenda and as such, any issue affecting the Americas becomes a priority issue for the nation. Spain aspires to be considered an important partner in the Americas and considers itself a permanent collaborator of the OAS.

In his remarks, the **Head of Delegation of the Permanent Observer Mission of France, Ambassador Pierre-Henri Guignard**, emphasized the importance France gives to the subject of multidimensional security and thanked OAS Secretary General José Miguel Insulza for his participation in a conference held in Paris on May 10, 2011 on the subject of transatlantic drug trafficking. The Action Plan agreed upon during this conference and at the General Assembly serves as a testimony to the engagement of France with the Western Hemisphere, addressing the issue of citizen security not only in the Americas but at the global level.

France, in light of the tenth anniversary of the Inter-American Democratic Charter, supports democratic processes in the region. This is demonstrated by its cooperation with the joint OAS/CARICOM Electoral Observation Mission in Haiti and continuous efforts to strengthen democratic governance. Due to the positive results of this mission, France has committed to contributing to the OAS Department of Electoral Cooperation and Observation's Fund for Electoral Observation Missions over a period of five years. Ambassador Guignard expressed that France has multiplied its support to the inter-American System by six times during the last year, and has announced its financial contribution to the recently-approved Strategic Plan 2011-2015 of the Inter-American Commission on Human Rights (IACHR).

Arthur Dowers, Minister of Justice and Education of Aruba in representation of the Kingdom of the Netherlands, reinforcing the connection between the Kingdom of the Netherlands and the Western Hemisphere, highlighted the close collaboration between the Netherlands and the

Americas in responding to transnational organized crime, promoting human rights, building stronger democratic and legal institutions, and fostering shared economic growth, including initiatives such as combating trafficking in persons and a renewed Caribbean strategy to focus on the aforementioned priorities.

The Head of Delegation of the Kingdom of the Netherlands also voiced the country's support of OAS initiatives, particularly of the Inter-American Commission on Human Rights (IACHR), to which the Netherlands has decided to contribute €500,000 for the period 2011-2012. Further demonstrating his country's commitment to the Organization is a \$2.7 million contribution in 2010, establishing the Netherlands as the second largest Permanent Observer donor to the OAS, signaling a clear commitment to multilateral cooperation in the Hemisphere.

Minister of Foreign Affairs of the Republic of Serbia, Vuk Jeremić, expressed Serbia's interest in deepening relations with Latin American and Caribbean states both bilaterally and through the OAS. In celebration of a long history of friendly ties, Minister Jeremić extended an invitation to participate in the 50th anniversary of the First Non-Aligned Movement Summit, to be held in Belgrade on September 5-6, 2011. He added that the signing in 2010 of the Memorandum of Understanding between Serbia and the OAS is resulting in increased cooperation on a number of issues, including democracy, outreach, trade, culture, and education- exemplified by hundreds of new scholarships for students from many Member States to attend the University of Belgrade.

Minister Jeremić reaffirmed the obligation to respect the sovereignty and territorial integrity of UN Member States, expressing gratitude to those OAS Member States that have not recognized the sovereignty of Kosovo. Serbia remains committed to peaceful negotiations in the process of settlement and reconciliation. He noted that Serbia further demonstrated its commitment to the democratic process with its participation in the 2009 OAS Electoral Observation Mission to Saint Vincent and the Grenadines and the deployment of the special police to aid in Haiti's reconstruction efforts.

Minister of Development Cooperation and Humanitarian Action and Head of Delegation of Luxembourg, Marie-Josée Jacobs, stated that in an interdependent and globalized world, it is necessary to foster partnerships and solidarity to protect citizen security. Luxembourg has long considered equitable socioeconomic development as indispensable for the safety of citizens. As such, it has continued its development assistance to underdeveloped nations despite the global economic recession. Ms. Jacobs pushed for international action and solidarity against climate change, especially for cooperation on the part of developed nations to protect particularly vulnerable nations. Despite Luxembourg's size, it ranks as the 21st donor in absolute terms to the United Nations Development Programme, and extended its support to thirteen Caribbean countries as part of the "Small Tourism Enterprises Network" of the OAS Department of Economic Development, Trade, and Tourism with an initial amount of US\$50,000.

The **Head of Delegation of Sweden, Ambassador Michael Frühling**, noted that security is a fundamental human right, a precursor to integral development, and a requirement for democratic stability. A 2007 study of youth crime in Central America, financed by Sweden,

revealed poverty and lack of educational and work opportunities as central factors in explaining the reasons why youth join criminal gangs.

Sweden supports a collaborative strategy to combat transnational, organized crime. Ambassador Frühling conveyed the importance of compromise and strong political leadership in developing regional strategies which emphasize the sharing of timely information. The Ambassador noted that the International Conference in Support of the Central American Security Strategy to be held on June 22-23, 2011 in Guatemala City, Guatemala should be viewed as the first step in a process of dialogue and coordination of efforts against transgression. Ambassador Frühling closed by expressing support for the OAS in its role as a stabilizing factor in the region, particularly with regard to the protection and promotion of human rights.

The Head of the Delegation of the European Union, Minister Counselor Luc Verón, offered the EU's support in creating a comprehensive, collaborative strategy to confront organized crime, drugs, and arms trafficking in the Americas, particularly in the framework of the European Union's Memorandum of Understanding signed with the OAS in 2009. Mr. Verón highlighted recent events fostering international cooperation in dealing with these issues, such as the ministerial meeting of the G-8 concerning drugs and the Transatlantic Symposium on the Decommissioning of Illicit Networks.

Mr. Verón highlighted the areas of cooperation with the OAS in promoting peace and justice, encouraging solidarity, and advancing collaboration between Member States. Demonstrative of the EU's commitment to the democratic process was its participation in the joint OAS-CARICOM Electoral Observation Mission in Haiti, in which the European Union made a positive contribution to that country's electoral process and to democracy.

The Head of Delegation of Germany, Ambassador Bernard Graf von Walderssee, Director General for Latin America and the Caribbean for the Federal Foreign Office, commended the Organization and its Member States for an impressive tradition of overcoming disagreement by taking recourse to international law and diplomatic means. In this context, Germany welcomes the full readmittance of Honduras to the OAS and expects a renewed focus on regional integration efforts in Central America. Recognizing the Organization as a successful forum for crisis prevention and resolution, Ambassador von Walderssee recounted an overall 50% increase in contribution to OAS projects in 2010, placing Germany among the six largest Permanent Observer donors.

Ambassador Von Walderssee testified to Germany's support of the OAS Mission to Support the Peace Process in Colombia (MAPP/OEA) with the announcement of €500,000 to aid victims' groups. The integration of indigenous peoples in the democratic and political processes of the Inter-American System remains a priority for Germany, with total contributions to indigenous rights totaling approximately €1,000,000.

On the theme of the General Assembly, Ambassador Von Walderssee noted that citizen security is the most basic right to be protected by the State and that it is vital to the sustainable

political, social, and economic development of all countries. Germany announced its contribution of €500,000 to the Inter-American Program for a Universal Civil Registry and “the Right to Identity” (PUICA) (“Programa de Universalización de la Identidad Civil en las Américas”) to protect the right to identity, build citizen awareness, and strengthen public institutions. Bilateral and regional cooperation projects focus on the prevention of youth violence and violence against women as well as peaceful conflict resolution. Germany continues its dedication to educational efforts aimed at prevention working with the Central American Integration System (SICA) and the Governments of El Salvador, Honduras, and Guatemala on its “Prevenir” program.

Ambassador von Walderssee expressed the positive outlook of Germany in the area of citizen security in the Americas, welcoming the establishment of the International Conference in Support of the Central American Security Strategy as a starting point for a fresh approach to an effective and lasting cooperation.

The Head of Delegation of Israel, Deputy Foreign Minister Daniel Ayalon, welcomed the decision of the General Assembly to return Honduras as a full Member State. As one of the first Permanent Observers to the OAS, Israel is proud to support the tenth anniversary of the Inter-American Democratic Charter and believes the values held within serve as an inspiration to the peoples of the Middle East in their fight for democracy. On the subject of Palestine, Israel supports respectful, multilateral dialogue in the context of the United Nations General Assembly to be held next September in New York.

The Head of Delegation of Israel referred to the Memorandum of Understanding with the OAS in order to strengthen his country’s cooperation with the Organization on the subjects of emergency preparedness and sustainable development primarily through the use of education. Mr. Ayalon mentioned Israel’s assistance in hosting five emergency preparedness seminars in both 2009 and 2010 for the Inter-American Committee against Terrorism (CICTE). Keeping with its focus on emergency relief, Israel established a field hospital less than eighty hours after the devastating earthquake in Haiti, helping to save countless lives. In addition, Israel’s decade of support for the Young Americas Business Trust (YABT) has allowed 22,000 people from 29 OAS Member States to participate in joint seminars and business labs with an aim towards fostering sustainable development. Israel announced its renewed pledge to the YABT with US\$1,000,000 over the next three years as a sign of its commitment to the region’s development and prosperity. Mr. Ayalon underscored the hope that Israel’s contributions and activities in the region will be successful and expanded upon in the future.

The Head of Delegation and Special Representative for the Minister of Foreign Affairs of the Republic of Finland, Ambassador Pasi Patokallio, underscored Finland’s role as a Permanent Observer since 1988 and its funding of a broad range of OAS activities, in particular of initiatives related to poverty reduction, sustainable development, gender equity, and human rights. Working in collaboration with the Inter-American Commission on Human Rights, Finland engages in a best practices program for human rights defenders in the Andean/Amazon region. Finland’s intention, subject to parliamentary approval, is to continue annual support of

€300,000 to such programs. Finland commended the Organization's role in the OAS Electoral Observation Mission in Haiti, to which it contributed €211,000 in 2010, and congratulated the Haitian people for the vitally important progress that the election represented.

Ambassador Pasi Patokallio considers the work of the International Commission against Impunity in Guatemala (CICIG) an important one meriting sustained financial support, and commented that his government views security as essential to development priorities and he informed his peers that Finland planned to participate in the International Conference in Support of the Central American Security Strategy at the ambassadorial level.

In an effort to reinvigorate relations with Latin America, the **Head of Delegation of the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland and Ambassador to Guatemala, Julie Chappell**, stressed her country's concerted efforts which include the reopening of the British Embassy in El Salvador. Ambassador Chappell views the full integration of Honduras into OAS activities as a significant step towards national reconciliation and congratulated the work of the Governments of Colombia, Venezuela, the Dominican Republic, and several Central American states in facilitating its readmittance.

With regard to the Organization, Ambassador Chappell extended her appreciation for its work in facilitating the peaceful resolution of the territorial dispute between Belize and Guatemala. The United Kingdom will continue to financially support the OAS in its conflict resolution and democracy-building measures. Ambassador Chappell noted that the Organization played a crucial role in legitimizing Haiti's democratic elections through the OAS Electoral Observation Mission. The Head of Delegation of the United Kingdom expressed that her country supports the right of the people of the Falkland Islands to determine their own democratic future and does not wish to increase tensions with Argentina over potential disagreements.

Ambassador Zhang Yesui, Permanent Observer of the People's Republic of China, underlined a growing relationship in both breadth and depth between China and the Western Hemisphere, with the Organization serving as an important platform for China's relations with Member States. China seeks to build stronger relations with the OAS by working toward common progress for political stability, social order, and sustainable development. To that end, in 2010 China offered US\$400,000 in cash and in-kind contributions as part of the China-OAS Cooperation Fund to support joint projects, including the OAS Electoral Observation Mission in Haiti, Model OAS General Assembly in the Caribbean, Disaster Reduction in Central America, scholarships, and other programs.

The Head of Delegation of the People's Republic of China announced the creation of twenty new scholarships for students of Member States to study in China, regardless of the status of diplomatic ties to the country. For the first time, China will send a trainee to the Inter-American Defense College. Overall, Ambassador Yesui expects the level of contributions in 2011 will exceed that of the previous year.

Underscoring the priority Italy gives to relations with the OAS and its Member States, due to the extraordinary historical, cultural, and human linkages that this country enjoys with the

Americas, **The Head of Delegation of Italy, First Counselor and Alternate Observer of the Permanent Observer Mission of Italy to the OAS, Antonella Uneddu**, conveyed Italy's vision of a peaceful and prosperous world built upon the universal values of freedom, democracy, and equality of human rights.

The Head of the Italian Delegation commended the OAS for serving as a fundamental forum for addressing hemispheric matters in a balanced and effective way. The Organization's support in the reconstruction of Haiti and national reconciliation in Honduras has been indispensable to the peaceful development of the region. Italy welcomes the return of Honduras as a Member State in the context of democratic consolidation and regional solidarity. As a testament to Italy's close relations with the Western Hemisphere, Italy will host in October the biannual Italy-Latin America and the Caribbean Conference, which will address such subjects as democracy, security, environment, renewable energy, cross-border cooperation, regional integration, and support to small and medium-sized enterprises.

The Head of Delegation expressed Italy's interest in contributing to democratic security in the region, building upon its collaboration with Mexico, the Central American States, and SICA, for which its Secretary of State for Foreign Affairs will participate in the International Conference in Support of the Central American Security Strategy. While Italy awaits final budget approval, it is expected that contributions to OAS programs will - at a minimum - remain at the same level as 2010. A significant portion of Italy's contributions will continue to support demining programs, with a pledge of €70,000 to the "Humanitarian Demining and Mine Risk Reduction" program in the Northern Andean region and to fund efforts against transnational organized crime.

Following the remarks by Counselor Uneddu, the Minister of Foreign Affairs of El Salvador opened the dialogue to comments by the representatives of the OAS Member States.

The Head of Delegation and Minister of Foreign Affairs and Foreign Trade of Belize, Wilfred P. Elrington, on behalf of CARICOM, commented on the importance of the General Assembly in arranging the opportunity to interface and exchange views with the Permanent Observer countries on important themes of the inter-American agenda. Member States of the OAS view Permanent Observers as important partners of the Organization. In difficult financial times, the value of financial contributions on behalf of Permanent Observers to benefit specific funds cannot be overstated.

There are two issues of particular importance to the Caribbean countries: (1) the theme of the General Assembly, citizen security; and (2), the development agenda within the OAS. In this respect, the Caribbean Basin Security Initiative (CBSI) launched bilaterally by the United States of America represents a significant step in overcoming the security challenges of the Caribbean community, although the allocated resources are insufficient for the task. Permanent Observer support to the CBSI will surely aid in contributing to regional security. With regard to the issue of development, there is disappointment in the level of resources given to aid the OAS development agenda. Permanent Observers may consider channeling a greater amount of funds to development-related initiatives under the administration of the OAS, such as trade-

related initiatives, capacity building, resources for the tourism unit, resources for sustainable development activities, and matters related to climate change.

Speaking on behalf of Belize, Minister Elrington expressed his most profound gratitude for the OAS office in the Belize-Guatemala Adjacency Zone, which has played a crucial role in lessening tensions and maintaining the peace.

The Head of Delegation and Permanent Representative of St. Vincent and the Grenadines to the OAS, La Celia A. Prince, fully endorsed the statements of the representative of Belize. In addition, St. Vincent and the Grenadines thanked those Permanent Observers who have directly contributed to efforts in the Caribbean nation, including Serbia for their support to the OAS Electoral Observation Mission in St. Vincent and the Grenadines. Ambassador Prince reinforced the assertion that Permanent Observers could direct more funds to development initiatives undertaken by the Organization, and called attention to Luxembourg for its contribution of US\$50,000 to the OAS Tourism Unit – tourism, of course, being a vital sector of St. Vincent and the Grenadine’s economy.

The Head of Delegation and Political Adviser to the President of the Republic of Haiti, Daniel Suplice, thanked the OAS, on behalf of President Martelly and the Haitian people, for its support in the recent elections in his country, which he stated represented the first pacific government transition in Haiti’s history. Mr. Suplice underscored the importance of the OAS electoral observation mission that permitted not only the election of President Martelly by popular support, but also the formation of a democratically-elected government that will be able to perform the tasks that await it, and announced that the Prime Minister will soon present the nominations of the new Ministers and Cabinet members to the Haitian Parliament for its ratification. He also thanked the international community for its exemplary role, solidarity and friendship following the earthquake that struck Haiti in January 2010—support which will not be forgotten by the Haitian people.

The Head of Delegation and Permanent Representative of Antigua and Barbuda to the OAS, Ambassador Deborah-Mae Lovell, added that her nation views development as a prerequisite to citizen security, with education playing a particularly important role in development. Ambassador Lovell thanked Luxembourg for its contributions to educational initiatives which will allow underrepresented, underprivileged students of Member States to pursue tertiary education and also showed appreciation to Spain for its efforts to teach Spanish to members of CARICOM.

Following the interventions of the OAS Member States, the **Head of Delegation of Korea, Ambassador Dal-young Maeng**, extended his full support for the fundamental principles outlined in the Declaration of San Salvador on Citizen Security in the Americas. The issue of citizen security in the Americas is an urgent one requiring an immediate response, not only from the region but from the international community as a whole. In this regard, Korea is awaiting the results of a US\$2,000,000 contribution to improve San Salvador’s security surveillance systems.

Ambassador Dal-young described the deteriorating effect of security issues to prosperity and democracy in the region, creating a range of social problems such as risks to women's health, children's nutrition, public education, and infrastructure. Korea has contributed to the peace and development of the region through the Korea-OAS Cooperation Fund, promoting children's education, professional training for youth, and technical assistance in the agriculture and health sectors. Korea plans to continue its funding of the Korea-OAS Cooperation Fund, actively collaborating with the Organization to plan projects so as to ensure effective use.

The Head of Delegation of the Permanent Observer Mission of Switzerland and Assistant State Secretary for the Americas, Ambassador Dora Rapold, commented on the shared values between Switzerland and the Americas, including those given to democratic institutions and human rights as a means to improve citizen security, presented the view that respect for social, economic, and political rights of each human being is essential to the development and security of the region. In this spirit, Switzerland welcomes the "Draft Declaration and Action Plan of El Salvador".

Ms. Rapold reminded the Heads of Delegation and the Secretary General of the Geneva Declaration on Armed Violence signed in 2006. The Declaration is endorsed by over 100 states, including many OAS Member States, and supports the work of states and civil society actors in achieving measurable reductions of armed violence. Ambassador Rapold called upon all Member States to sign the Declaration and participate in the second review conference scheduled for late 2011.

Freedom of expression is a priority of Swiss foreign policy and in this context Switzerland is pleased to sign a multi-year agreement to support the Office of the Special Rapporteur for Freedom of Expression of the Inter-American Commission on Human Rights. In addition, Switzerland supported free and transparent democratic elections with the contribution of ten observers to the OAS Electoral Observation Missions in Colombia and Haiti. Ambassador Rapold encouraged the international community to join Switzerland in helping to strengthen democratic institutions in the hemisphere to enhance development and ensure citizen security.

The Head of Delegation and Special Envoy of the Minister of Foreign Affairs of Slovenia, Ambassador Matjaž Šinkovec, declared the OAS as an essential partner as Slovenia shifts its foreign policy focus from a regional one to more global in scope. Adding to its presence in the Western Hemisphere, Slovenia opened its fourth embassy in the region in 2010. It has recently applied for observer status in the Association of Caribbean States (ACS) and has initiated the process of an ambassador appointment in CARICOM.

On the theme of the General Assembly, Ambassador Šinkovec, remarked that the issue of citizen security demonstrates that all nations must act not only on the local and regional levels, but also on the international level to achieve the protection of which citizens are entitled. With regard to promotion of democratic governance, Slovenia contributed to the OAS/CARICOM Electoral Observation Mission in Haiti and looks forward to increasing cooperation with the Organization.

The Head of Delegation of the Permanent Observer Mission of Turkey and Latin America Coordinator, Osman Ulukan, congratulated the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia in becoming the 66th Permanent Observer to the OAS, and expressed that 2011 marks a particularly significant year in terms of relations with Turkey and the OAS, with the signing of the “Framework Agreement on Cooperation between the Republic of Turkey and the General Secretariat of the OAS”. This agreement, ratified by Turkey on January 17, 2011, sets the legal foundation for further cooperation. In this context, Mr. Ulukan underscored his hope that Secretary General José Miguel Insulza will be able to carry out his postponed visit to Turkey.

The Head of Delegation of Turkey stressed that the commitment of his country to the OAS main pillars of integral development, multidimensional security, the protection of human rights, and good governance. It has doubled contributions to the Organization to US\$80,000 in 2010 and 2011 and, in light of the tenth anniversary of the Inter-American Democratic Charter, plans to contribute US\$50,000 to the General Fund for commemoration activities. As a strong supporter of peaceful settlements of territorial disputes, Turkey will also contribute US\$25,000 to the Peace Fund. In addition, a contribution of US\$5,000 will help the Americas Magazine to promote mutual understanding throughout the Western Hemisphere.

The Head of Delegation and Political Counselor of the Permanent Observer Mission of Belgium to the OAS, Bruno Jans, expressed the view that the theme of citizen security is essential to sustainable social and economic development of the Latin America and Caribbean region. As a member of the European Union, Belgium fully supports multilateral efforts and cooperation in achieving greater security in the region.

Belgium supports OAS security initiatives, most notably those in demining. For example, in 2009 and 2010, Belgium contributed to efforts to clear landmines along the Peru-Ecuador border. Mr. Jans also announced Belgium’s intent to reinforce OAS humanitarian efforts in the demining sector with a €100,000 contribution, and commented on the current negotiations with the General Secretariat on the terms for a three-year cooperation agreement to support OAS programs related to destruction and elimination of antipersonnel landmines. Mr. Jans reaffirmed Belgium’s close ties to the region, such as its participation in Fondo Indígena since 1993.

The Head of Delegation and Alternate Observer of the Hellenic Republic of Greece to the OAS, Aristidis Strimbakos, thanked the OAS for the opportunity to engage in dialogue with Permanent Observer countries as a means of reaffirming the excellent relations between Greece and the Americas. Greece seeks to promote democratic governance, the strengthening of human rights, and efforts against human trafficking and narcotics. Despite budgetary pressures, the Alternate Representative of Greece was pleased to announce a US\$40,000 contribution in 2011 to support the work of the Inter-American Drug Abuse Control Commission (CICAD) and the Inter-American Commission on Human Rights (IACHR) in furthering these priorities.

Remaining committed to furthering the goals and objectives of the Organization, **the Head of Delegation and Deputy Permanent Representative of Azerbaijan to the United Nations, Tofiq**

Musayev, underscored the efforts of his country in promoting sustainable development, rule of law, democracy, human rights, and peace throughout the world. Azerbaijan gives particular notice to initiatives undertaken by governments, international organizations, and civil society relating to citizen security, viewing the subject as essential to the full development of human potential.

Azerbaijan has consistently assisted the poorest and most vulnerable of countries in promoting sustained economic growth and widespread prosperity. This assistance comes in the form of humanitarian and technical assistance to support development strategies and educational and cultural projects to further promote mutual understanding. The Head of Delegation of Azerbaijan announced contributory pledges of \$10,000 to the Inter-American Children's Institute, \$5,000 to the OAS Peace Fund, and \$5,000 to the Inter-American Commission on Human Rights (IACHR).

Head of Delegation and Ambassador of Japan in El Salvador, Yasuo Minemura, extended his gratitude for the solidarity and support Japan has received from all over the world following the devastating earthquake and tsunami of March 11th. The technical assistance provided by many partner countries enabled Japan to quickly and safely control the situation at the Fukushima Daiichi Nuclear Power Plant. Japan will redouble efforts to share information with maximum transparency.

Japan's diplomatic relationships with Latin America and the Caribbean focus on the principles of promoting economic partnerships, strengthening bonds to address global issues, and supporting efforts for sustainable development. High-level visits from countries of the region to Japan, such as at the Japan-CARICOM Ministerial Level Conference, have contributed to enhanced relations with respect to the economic, social, and political development of the region. In its support of open and transparent elections, Ambassador Minemura noted that Japan dispatched personnel and equipment to aid in the OAS Electoral Observer Mission in Haiti. With respect to democratic governance and the importance of peaceful negotiations, the Head of Delegation of Japan concluded that his country highly values the recent efforts and initiatives of the OAS in stabilizing the political situation in Honduras and resolving the border issue between Costa Rica and Nicaragua in the San Juan River.

The Head of Delegation and Alternate Observer of the Permanent Observer Mission of Austria to the OAS, Markus Reiterer, commented on the recent decision of the OAS General Assembly to readmit Honduras in the activities of the Organization, asserting that democracy must be respected and that strict adherence to the rule of law is a prerequisite for the peace and prosperity of all nations. In relation to the General Assembly theme of "Citizen Security in the Americas," the Head of Delegation of Austria expanded upon his government's recent initiative to establish the International Anti-Corruption Academy (IACA) as an international organization dedicated to the fight against corruption. More than fifty states, including many in the Americas, have already become a part of the Organization and Mr. Reiterer encouraged those who are not to join Austria's and the international community's efforts against corruption.

Furthermore, as a Permanent Observer of the OAS for more than thirty years, Austria possesses a profound understanding of the region's challenges, and Mr. Reiterer stated that Austria remains active in the Americas through: US\$4,500,000 contributed during 2007-2012 for the "Energy and Environment Partnership with Central America" program, US\$865,000 granted during 2008-2012 to the "Caribbean Renewable Energy Development Program", and US\$850,000 donated during 2010-2012 to the "Latin American Energy Organization".

The Head of Delegation and Alternate Observer of the Permanent Observer Mission of Croatia to the OAS, Minister Counselor Dario Mihelin, expressed a sincere appreciation to the OAS Secretariat for External Relations and specifically the Department of International Affairs, for facilitating the input of Permanent Observer Missions into the General Assembly activities. The Head of Delegation of Croatia added that the facilitation of Honduras' return to the Organization and the support provided to the formation of the government of Haiti attest to the central role the OAS plays in the region. Croatia joins the Organization in celebrating the tenth anniversary of the Inter-American Democratic Charter.

The representative of Croatia announced that his government has been actively formulating its development assistance policy and as part of this initiative has arranged for its first contribution to the OAS for demining efforts in Colombia and electoral observation missions in the latter half of 2011. Croatia believes that regional cooperation and integration are essential to the integral development of the region and will continue to advocate for dialogue between the Western Hemisphere and Europe in its capacity as a member of the European Union.

The Head of Delegation and Member of the Permanent Observer Mission of Monaco to the OAS, Lorenzo Ravano, articulated his government's appreciation for being admitted as a Permanent Observer of the OAS on September 15, 2010, and expressed his hope that his country's participation in the General Assembly will allow it to better understand the priorities of Member States. Prince Albert II of Monaco has increasingly emphasized deepening bonds with the American continent. Monaco's global result development aid has increased each year by 25% since 2008, contributing to the reconstruction of schools in Haiti and Chile and education of young girls in El Salvador. Mr. Ravano confirmed that Monaco stands in solidarity with efforts to aid the most economically and socially fragile nations, in particular those dealing with natural disasters.

Head of Delegation and Ambassador of Thailand in Chile, Vipawan Nipatakusol, accentuated the importance Thailand places on connectivity with the Latin America and Caribbean region by hosting high-level visits and working toward trade and investment, tourism, and cultural exchanges. Ambassador Nipatakusol referred to the creation of the Thai-Latin America Business Council in 2009 as an example of its commitment to the region. Over the past five years, Thailand has provided 118 scholarships to OAS Member States to pursue studies in requested fields ranging from sustainable development to climate change.

With respect to the OAS, Thailand is currently in the process of negotiating a Memorandum of Understanding entailing issues such as integral development and sustainable agriculture to tourism management. It will continue to provide assistance on issues of common concern such

as disaster and risk management and food security. It has contributed monetarily or in-kind to countries in the region suffering from natural disasters, such as Haiti, Chile, and Brasil.

The Head of Delegation and First Secretary of the Permanent Observer Mission of Qatar to the OAS, Ali Saad Al-Hajri, thanked the Government of El Salvador and its people for their hospitality, and announced the intention of Qatar to contribute US\$10,000 to the Organization in 2011 – a donation which will be coordinated with the General Secretariat in the coming month to determine its most appropriate use.

The Head of Delegation of the Permanent Observer Mission of Russia to the OAS, Ambassador Sergey I. Kislyak, expressed interest in deepening dialogue and cooperation with the OAS in the framework of the Inter-American Committee against Terrorism (CICTE) and the Inter-American Drug Abuse Control Commission (CICAD). Ambassador Kislyak views the Organization as an influential actor in maintaining stability in the Latin America and Caribbean region, praising its initiatives to counteract contemporary threats such as drug trafficking, terrorism, and organized crime. Russia greatly values improving the transparency of electoral processes through its recently established cooperation partnership between the Russian Central Election Commission and the Department of Electoral Cooperation and Observation.

At the close of Ambassador Kislyak's remarks, Viceminister of Foreign Affairs of El Salvador opened the floor again to remarks by the OAS Member State delegations.

The Head of Delegation and Deputy Prime Minister and Minister of Foreign Affairs and Foreign Trade of Jamaica, Kenneth Baugh, recognized the support of Japan in continuing its development initiatives in the Caribbean and, in particular Jamaica, in spite of its own efforts to develop its economy following the devastating earthquake and tsunami of March 11, 2011. In addition, the Foreign Minister of Jamaica thanked China and the European Union for their strong presence in the region and work on concrete, substantive development programs. Mr. Baugh further expressed his appreciation for Spain's assistance in helping his country's economy by bringing large-scale tourism products to the market. The support of Permanent Observers is essential to the success of Jamaica and CARICOM.

In follow up to these remarks, **The Head of Delegation of Dominica, Ambassador Hubert J. Charles**, offered a specific proposal for quarterly meetings with these representatives located in Washington, D.C. so that issues of interest to Permanent Observers and CARICOM may be communicated more regularly and the dialogue strengthened.

Finally, the **Head of Delegation and Permanent Representative of Panama to the OAS, Ambassador Guillermo Cochez**, commended the nations of SICA for their support to OAS operations, in particular for human rights issues under the framework of the Inter-American Court of Human Rights and the Inter-American Commission on Human Rights (IACHR). Ambassador Cochez also offered appreciation to Spain for its solidarity with the region, and expressed hope that other nations would show equally strong support.

Following the interventions of the Member States, the representative of El Salvador thanked the Delegations of the Permanent Observer countries and OAS Member States for their participation and encouraged Permanent Observers to continue to support the Organization of American States.