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ACTA
DE LA SESIÓN EXTRAORDINARIA
CELEBRADA
EL 30 DE ABRIL DE 2003

Aprobada en la sesión del 17 de marzo de 2004

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CONSEJO PERMANENTE DE LA ORGANIZACIÓN DE LOS ESTADOS AMERICANOS

ACTA DE LA SESIÓN EXTRAORDINARIA CELEBRADA EL 30 DE ABRIL DE 2003

En la ciudad de Washington, a las cuatro y cinco de la tarde del miércoles 30 de abril de 2003, celebró sesión extraordinaria el Consejo Permanente de la Organización de los Estados Americanos. Presidió la sesión el Embajador M. A. Odeen Ishmael, Representante Permanente de Guyana y Presidente del Consejo Permanente. Asistieron los siguientes miembros:

Embajador Denis G. Antoine, Representante Permanente de Grenada
Embajadora Sonia Merlyn Johnny, Representante Permanente de Santa Lucía
Embajadora Margarita Escobar, Representante Permanente de El Salvador
Embajador Joshua Sears, Representante Permanente del Commonwealth de las Bahamas
Embajadora Lisa Shoman, Representante Permanente de Belice
Embajador Juan Manuel Castulovich, Representante Permanente de Panamá
Embajador Miguel Ruíz Cabañas, Representante Permanente de México
Embajador Ellsworth I. A. John, Representante Permanente de San Vicente y las Granadinas
Embajador Izben C. Williams, Representante Permanente de Saint Kitts y Nevis
Embajador Henry Lothar Illes, Representante Permanente de Suriname
Embajador Raymond Valcin, Representante Permanente de Haití
Embajador Salvador E. Rodezno Fuentes, Representante Permanente de Honduras
Embajadora Marina Annette Valère, Representante Permanente de Trinidad y Tobago
Embajador Víctor Hugo Godoy Morales, Representante Permanente de Guatemala
Embajador Marcelo Hervas, Representante Permanente del Ecuador
Ministra Silvia María Meregá, Representante Interina de la Argentina
Consejero Jorge Wurst, Representante Alterno del Perú
Consejera Ilenia Medina, Representante Alterna de Venezuela
Consejero Carlos José Holguín Molina, Representante Alterno de Colombia
Primera Secretaria Ann-Marie Layne Campbell, Representante Alterna de Antigua y Barbuda
Consejero Carlos Caraballo, Representante Alterno de la República Dominicana
Ministro Ernesto Campos Tenorio, Representante Alterno de México
Embajador Peter DeShazo, Representante Alterno de los Estados Unidos
Segundo Secretario Paulo Eduardo de Azevedo Ribeiro, Representante Alterno del Brasil
Segunda Secretaria María del Carmen Oblitas, Representante Alterna de Bolivia
Primera Secretaria Laura Dupuy Laserre, Representante Alterna del Uruguay
Primera Secretaria Catherine Vézina, Representante Alterna del Canadá
Ministra Consejera Lila M. Bolaños Chamorro, Representante Alterna de Nicaragua
Primera Secretaria Donna M. Forde, Representante Alterna de Barbados

También estuvo presente el Secretario General Adjunto, Embajador Luigi R. Einaudi, Secretario del Consejo Permanente.

APROBACIÓN DEL PROYECTO DE ORDEN DEL DÍA

El PRESIDENTE: I am pleased to call to order this special meeting of the Permanent Council, convened at the request of the Permanent Representative of Saint Lucia, Ambassador Sonia Johnny, to receive the recommendations made by the OAS-CARICOM High-level Delegation to Haiti. These recommendations are being presented as requested by this Council at its meeting held on April 3, 2003.

[El proyecto de orden del día contiene el siguiente punto:

- Situación en Haití. Presentación y recomendaciones de la Delegación de Alto Nivel OEA-CARICOM.]

The draft order of business is before members for consideration. If there are no objections, the draft order of business is approved. Approved.

PRESENTACIÓN Y RECOMENDACIONES DE LA DELEGACIÓN DE ALTO NIVEL OEA-CARICOM SOBRE LA SITUACIÓN EN HAITÍ

El PRESIDENTE: Permit me to recall briefly the most recent treatment of this matter by the Permanent Council.

On March 26, the Assistant Secretary General, Ambassador Einaudi, presented to us an oral report on the visit of the OAS-CARICOM High-level Delegation to Haiti.

On April 3, the Assistant Secretary General presented to the Council the report of the OAS Special Mission for Strengthening Democracy in Haiti to the Secretary General on the situation as of March 30, 2003. That report is contained in document CP/doc.3722/03. The members of this Council took two decisions on April 3 with respect to this report:

1. That the member states' governments would require some time to properly consider the report; and
2. that the High-level Delegation that visited Haiti in March should submit recommendations for the consideration of the Council so that the Council can take the appropriate decisions on this matter.

I am pleased that members of the High-level Delegation have joined us today, and I welcome them. I recognize in particular:

- Senator the Honorable Julian Hunte, Minister of Foreign Affairs and International Trade of Saint Lucia and Chairman of the Council for Foreign and Community Relations (COFCOR) of the Caribbean Community (CARICOM), one of the two co-leaders of the Delegation;

- The Honorable Fred Mitchell, Minister of Foreign Affairs and Public Service of the Commonwealth of The Bahamas;
- Ambassador Sonia Johnny, Permanent Representative of Saint Lucia to the OAS;
- Ambassador Sergio Romero Cuevas, Special Representative of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Mexico to the High-level Delegation;
- Ambassador Sylvie Alvarez, Permanent Observer of France to the OAS;
- Ambassador Einaudi, Secretary of the Permanent Council, who is the other co-leader of the High-level Delegation;
- Ambassador Víctor Hugo Godoy Morales, Permanent Representative of Guatemala and the then Chairman of the Permanent Council; and
- Ambassador David Lee, Special Representative of the Secretary General and Chief of the OAS Special Mission for Strengthening Democracy in Haiti.

Representatives of the international organizations that accompanied the High-level Delegation as observers are also present with us. They include representatives of the Inter-American Development Bank (IDB), the World Bank, the International Monetary Fund (IMF), and the European Union (EU).

It's now my pleasure to invite the co-leaders of the Delegation to address the Council. I hand the floor over to Ambassador Einaudi.

El SECRETARIO GENERAL ADJUNTO: Thank you very much, Mr. Chairman. I do not believe I need to say very much, in light of the fact that on March 26 and April 3, I addressed this Council on the visit of the OAS-CARICOM High-level Delegation and on the report of the OAS Special Mission for Strengthening Democracy in Haiti, which is directed by David Lee. That report has been before our governments.

The Delegation did meet again, in large part, in Miami to consider recommendations and conclusions to be presented to the Council. I believe we should hear first from Minister Hunte, who will present the consensus view that emerged out of the visit.

Speaking on behalf of the OAS, I must say that we were genuinely privileged to have two ministers of foreign affairs on our delegation, as well as the U.S. Presidential Representative for Western Hemisphere Initiatives, Ambassador Otto Reich; and the Assistant Deputy Minister (Americas), Department of Foreign Affairs and International Trade (DFAIT) of Canada, Ambassador Marc Lortie. Ambassador Reich was present in Miami when this consensus was developed. Ambassador Lortie was represented there.

Thank you, Mr. Chair. I would like to pass the floor to my friend and colleague, Minister Hunte.

EI MINISTRO DE RELACIONES EXTERIORES DE SANTA LUCÍA: Thank you.

Let me begin by extending my congratulations to you, Mr. Chairman, on your ascendancy to this very distinguished position. I wish you every success during the term of your chairmanship of the Permanent Council of the Organization of American States.

I would also like to thank the OAS for making it possible for me to be here and for the kind hospitality extended to me during my stay so far.

Mr. Chairman, we have arrived at a stage at which serious decisions have to be taken concerning our approach to resolving the political impasse in Haiti. We are now confronted with two options. We can suspend our involvement in the process, or we can adopt a completely new approach to engagement with new strategies and measures of enforcement.

As you may recall, the OAS-CARICOM High-level Delegation visited Haiti from March 19 to 20, 2003, with a view to injecting some life into the process of reconciliation. At the time, the Delegation was convinced that the provisions of Permanent Council resolution CP/RES. 822 (1331/02), "Support for the Strengthening of Democracy in Haiti," were paramount in resolving the current political stalemate in Haiti. We had reviewed the second report of the Secretary General to the Permanent Council on the implementation of CP/RES. 822, which indicated that little progress had been made towards creating an environment that was conducive for the participation of all sectors in the electoral process, a condition deemed essential for holding free and fair elections.

The High-level Delegation unanimously agreed that it would not visit Haiti to negotiate, but to make clear to the Government and other participants, particularly *Convergence démocratique* and civil society, the measures that needed to be taken to achieve the goals envisaged in CP/RES. 822. The High-level Delegation felt it was necessary to reiterate to the *Convergence démocratique* that it will not support efforts to remove President Aristide through violent confrontation in the streets or other actions or arrangements contrary to democratic processes.

The Delegation identified areas thought to be paramount for establishing the Provisional Electoral Council (CEP) and needed to proceed towards the holding of elections. Implementing measures for establishing the CEP would also provide opportunities for all players to collaborate in the process of the "normalization of Haiti."

Mr. Chairman, reparations, justice, professionalization of the Haitian National Police (HNP), disarmament, election security, human rights, and political comity were the issues specifically highlighted in which the Government had to make concrete efforts by March 30, 2003, to demonstrate to the people of Haiti and to the international community its commitment to establish a secure environment conducive to free and fair elections.

The Delegation also provided the members of *Convergence démocratique* and civil society with a list of the steps that they, too, must follow to make free and fair elections a reality in Haiti. The importance of the immediate formation of the CEP was emphasized. *Convergence démocratique* and civil society were requested to give assurances of their good-faith participation in the operation of the CEP. They were also assured that if they were to move forward in collaborating with the Government on the formation of the CEP, they would not be isolated.

Mr. Chairman, as it was mandated to do, the OAS Special Mission for Strengthening Democracy in Haiti has reported to this Council through the Secretary General on the progress made by all the parties involved in implementing the March 20 action plan, copies of which have been circulated. We must commend Ambassador David Lee and his staff for working tirelessly with political and administrative representatives of the Government of Haiti to implement the March 20 measures before the deadline of March 30, 2003. Ambassador Lee presented a detailed report in which he recognized the significant contribution of the Haitian officials.

The High-level Delegation noted that the Government had made some progress in response to the points submitted by the Delegation and in fulfilling the Government's obligations under resolution 822. Among these, Mr. Chairman, it has been noted that the outstanding issue of reparations has been settled.

Another significant development is the agreement of the Government and the OAS Special Mission on the composition of the task force that has been mandated to assist in investigating and prosecuting cases arising from the events of December 17, 2001, as well as the follow-through of individual cases. This step would lessen the perception of impunity that exists amongst the populace.

Mr. Chairman, it should also be noted that in preparation for upcoming elections, the Government of Haiti agreed to the engagement of 100 uniformed and armed international police who will assist the Haitian National Police in the development and implementation of security plans for elections. Additionally, a Haitian National Police Special Committee for Elections Security has been appointed, and a competent and neutral individual has been nominated to work with the CEP, the OAS Special Mission, and other elements of the Haitian National Police.

Notwithstanding these institutional developments, the Delegation expressed concern that other issues that it had indicated would also be highly significant in demonstrating the Government's commitment to ensuring a secure environment for the formation of a CEP and deemed essential to the holding of free and fair elections in 2003 were not addressed satisfactorily. These other issues are the professionalization of the police leadership in consultation with the Special Mission; the arrest of Amiot Métayer; and the implementation of agreed disarmament measures.

The High-level Delegation was of the opinion that there was an urgent need for neutral and independent leadership in the police force. Public confidence in the leadership of the police had waned significantly, resulting in an environment of fear and mistrust that did not bode well for the electoral process and the participation of all in free, fair, and credible elections. Given the experience of the OAS Special Mission, it was recommended that the Government seek assistance in its efforts to professionalize the police leadership. This was not done. Consequently, Mr. Chairman, the climate of insecurity persists, despite the change made in the leadership of the force by the Government.

Let me make the point that we are not trying to interfere with the manner in which the Government chooses its people. We are not interfering with the Government's sovereignty. This issue and some others that we have raised are intended to inject confidence and trust above all else, so that in the event that there is any reluctance by others to participate in the process, that aspect of selection and involvement would be above board and unquestionable.

Another issue that appears to be thorny for all Haitians, as well as for the members of the High-level Delegation, is the perceived enjoyment of impunity by Mr. Métayer. Although several sightings have been reported following his escape from prison, no arrest has been made. This failure to find and arrest such a high-profile, notorious figure has given rise to skepticism about the efforts of the police.

The Delegation also noted with grave concern that the Government has not adequately addressed the disarmament measures agreed to by the Government and deemed critical in preparing the stage for elections.

Mr. Chairman, the majority of the members of the High-level Delegation expressed the opinion that had these issues, the importance of which was particularly emphasized to the Government, been addressed in any meaningful way, the Government of Haiti would have been that much more advanced in its efforts to form the CEP.

Mr. Chairman, the Government of Haiti was not the only party that didn't meet its obligations under the March 20 points. The *Convergence démocratique* and civil society also failed to show willingness to cooperate with the High-level Delegation in its efforts to establish the CEP. They also failed to give the requested assurances that they would participate in the CEP, and they have not demonstrated that they will make a good-faith effort to do so as and when President Aristide substantially implements the March 20 points. The opposition parties in Haiti must also play their part.

The points made by the High-level Delegation to the *Convergence démocratique* and civil society remain fully valid. The international community will not support efforts to remove the President of Haiti through unconstitutional means. The *Convergence démocratique* and civil society must be ready to live up to their responsibilities with respect to the establishment of the CEP as the Government of Haiti complies with the measures expected of it. Free and fair elections can only take place as all parties play their part. All parties must demonstrate good faith if a solution to the political impasse in Haiti is to be achieved. Such an outcome would allow the elections to take place and create an environment in which the Government and people of Haiti could share their pride with the rest of the international community as they celebrate the 200th anniversary, not only of nationhood, but also of an extraordinary, historic accomplishment.

The High-level Delegation believes that it is imperative that a sequence of steps be taken—and we continue to repeat this: a sequence of steps—by the Government of Haiti, civil society, and the *Convergence démocratique*. These steps will allow Haiti to get its legislative and local electoral processes underway, bringing with it the formation of an independent, neutral, and credible Provisional Electoral Council.

Mr. Chairman, the importance of the immediate formation of the Council cannot be overemphasized. This is the organ that makes the decisions required to lead the electoral process. There is no question that with the appropriate support from the relevant Haitian actors and with the assistance of the international community, coordinated through the Special Mission, the CEP can be established to begin the work so necessary for the “normalization of Haiti.”

The Caribbean Community (CARICOM) has been acutely aware of the continuing humanitarian plight of the Haitian people. In this regard, CARICOM welcomes the ongoing support from the international community to the Haitian people. It is also aware of the ongoing discussions between the Government of Haiti and the international financial institutions (IFIs) with a view to regularizing their relations. The Caribbean Community hopes that this will soon be achieved. The Government of Haiti, for its part, must do everything possible to facilitate the urgent regularization of these relations.

Mr. Chairman, we must continue to monitor the efforts of the Government, the opposition, and civil society and exhort all parties to implement the action plan submitted by the High-level Delegation, which is aimed primarily at enabling elections later this year. This situation will be reassessed at the OAS General Assembly in Chile in June, during which a determination would be made as to how best to proceed.

I thank you for the opportunity to present this report.

El PRESIDENTE: Thank you very much, Minister Hunte, for your report. I now give the floor to the Honorable Fred Mitchell, Minister of Foreign Affairs and Public Service of the Commonwealth of The Bahamas.

El MINISTRO DE RELACIONES EXTERIORES Y DEL SERVICIO PÚBLICO DE LAS BAHAMAS: Thank you, Mr. Chair. I wish to first congratulate you on your ascendancy to this high position and wish you well as you continue your work.

My presence here is a demonstration of the fact that the Commonwealth of The Bahamas considers this an important and serious issue. We support unreservedly the work of the OAS Special Mission for Strengthening Democracy in Haiti, and it is our view that we must continue to be engaged in this process.

The Bahamas sits on the northern sea border of the Republic of Haiti, and migration issues have been the most vexing problem between us. We believe that the Haitian Government has been forthright and accommodating in understanding the nature of the issues as The Bahamas sees the problem. We in The Bahamas believe in the multilateral process. The Bahamian people and their government have committed and will continue to commit resources to this process. We work at the United Nations, the Organization of American States, and with our partners in the Caribbean Community (CARICOM). We are convinced that continued engagement in the process and making our views known firmly and in a friendly and direct manner to all sectors in the Republic of Haiti will augur for the better and will bear fruit. Instability is not to the good of the region or the Hemisphere.

I wish to thank my colleague, Minister Julian Hunte of Saint Lucia, and Assistant Secretary General Einaudi for their patient work in this matter. They have kept us all on track.

The Bahamas had the distinct advantage of reviewing the statement of Minister Julian Hunte in advance of its delivery; therefore, we are happy to adopt it.

In our interventions in Haiti we have pointed out that in our own country, while we have political differences, at a certain level there is a commonality of interests between the parties. It is at

that point where both opposition and government positions must be subsumed for the greater good. We have sought to urge such a process in Haiti as the only way forward, and we say this as a friend.

The Bahamas has also indicated its willingness to lend support from our own Royal Bahamas Police Force for the 100-man force being assembled by the OAS Special Mission to help with security issues. There are Bahamians who are of Haitian descent in our public service and in the police and defense forces who are bilingual and can assist in lending the considerable security experience that we have in organizing elections. I renew that commitment here today.

The OAS stands for the value of the rule of law, the protection of human rights, the role of dissent, and the plurality of political interests. These are best upheld by free and fair elections that in today's world must not only be free and fair, but must be seen to be free and fair. Both sides must be committed in Haiti to this, and there does not have to be absolute security at the start of the process, but the process of electioneering can begin as we build simultaneously trust and security.

This process then is also about building trust: trust of the international community and in the domestic politics of Haiti. It must be understood that it is possible to speak frankly to one's friends without compromising the friendship or putting that friendship on the line.

We support constitutional processes. We cannot support extra-constitutional measures.

In summary then, we support this process. We are disappointed that the process is not moving forward as expeditiously as it ought. The appearance is of relishing gridlock; that cannot be the way forward. The people of Haiti demand more. A history of two centuries of independence demand more strenuous efforts. Elections must be held. Our feet must be held to the fire, and this process must move forward.

The Bahamas thanks Ambassador David Lee for his patient work in Haiti, and we reaffirm our commitment to this process.

Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

El PRESIDENTE: Thank you very much, Minister Mitchell, for your statement.

I now invite representatives of the international financial institutions (IFIs) to speak. I understand that the Representative of the Inter-American Development Bank (IDB) may wish to make a statement. If so, you have the floor.

La REPRESENTANTE DEL BANCO INTERAMERICANO DE DESARROLLO: Good afternoon.

In the context of all the ongoing efforts of the international community, the Inter-American Development Bank (IDB) confirms that it will resume its lending operations in Haiti immediately, once arrears have been cleared. The settlement of these arrears will be within a comprehensive, sequential approach to settlement of arrears to all international financial institutions (IFIs) in which settlement of the arrears to the IDB will be the first step.

Thank you very much.

El PRESIDENTE: Thank you very much, Representative of the Inter-American Development Bank (IDB).

The floor is now open to any delegations that may wish to make a statement. I give the floor to Ambassador DeShazo of the United States.

El REPRESENTANTE ALTERNO DE LOS ESTADOS UNIDOS: Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

The United States expresses its thanks to the Chair for convening this important special meeting of the Permanent Council. My delegation offers its gratitude to the members of the OAS-CARICOM High-level Delegation that visited Haiti from March 19 to 20, whose work has done much to advance the deliberations of this Council, and to the OAS Special Mission for Strengthening Democracy in Haiti for the informative report it submitted on April 2.

We note with particular appreciation the presence with us today of the Honorable Julian Hunte, Minister of Foreign Affairs of Saint Lucia; the Honorable Fred Mitchell, Foreign Minister of The Bahamas; and Ambassador Sergio Romero Cuevas from the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Mexico. Their contributions are most welcome.

Mr. Chairman, it is time for Haiti to end the political crisis that has hindered the social and economic development of the Haitian people since the flawed elections of May 2000. During its March visit to Haiti, the High-level Delegation delivered a strong, unequivocal message that Permanent Council resolution CP/RES. 822 (1331/02) is the only way out of Haiti's political impasse. The Delegation detailed clearly to the Government of Haiti concrete steps it should take to fulfill the commitments it undertook under resolution 822, including the arrest of Amiot Métayer, the professionalization of the police leadership in full consultation with the OAS Special Mission, and the implementation of disarmament measures. The Delegation also made clear to the opposition and civil society their obligation to participate in the formation of an independent, neutral, and credible Provisional Electoral Council (CEP) once the Government had taken those steps. It emphasized that the international community would not support efforts to remove President Aristide through violent confrontation or any nondemocratic means.

At its April 12 meeting in Miami, the Delegation evaluated the reactions to its March visit by the Government and by the opposition and civil society. The Delegation was united in its conclusions. It found that the Government of Haiti had not taken certain essential steps and had undertaken others in a way that did not contribute to the creation of a climate of security. The points made by the Delegation to the Government in March remained valid, and we call on the Government to act on them urgently.

The Delegation also concluded that the opposition and civil society had made no commitment to form the CEP once the Government took the concrete steps urged by the Delegation. These points made by the Delegation also remain valid.

Mr. Chairman, the United States, along with all the members of the OAS-CARICOM High-level Delegation, remains firmly committed to the democratic process set out under resolution 822. The continued engagement of the international community is vital in the form of the OAS Special Mission and ongoing efforts of the international financial institutions (IFIs) to reach agreement with the Government on normalizing economic relations. Full support for the OAS Special Mission will be critical in assisting the Government to meet the terms of reference that have been negotiated for disarmament, electoral security, professional development of the Haitian National Police (HNP), and elections.

While the political crisis continues, the people of Haiti continue to suffer through social and economic distress. To help alleviate the suffering, the United States has long provided humanitarian assistance to the people of Haiti and remains committed to providing additional humanitarian resources in the near future.

Mr. Chairman, the United States fully supports the various instruments of the inter-American system designed to uphold democracy in the Hemisphere, including the Inter-American Democratic Charter. Positive, concrete actions or the lack thereof on the part of the Government of Haiti, as well as the opposition and civil society, will help member states determine which of those instruments to apply so as to assist Haitians in resolving their political crisis.

We join with other representatives of the OAS-CARICOM High-level Delegation to Haiti in reiterating that the democratic process under resolution 822 must continue. This is the clear path forward for all Haitians.

The United States hopes that when the member states discuss the situation in Haiti at the thirty-third regular session of the General Assembly in order to take appropriate decisions, we will be able to note that considerable progress has been made and that the democratic process is again underway in Haiti through the formation of an independent, neutral, and credible CEP.

Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

El PRESIDENTE: Thank you very much, Ambassador. I now recognize the Delegation of Canada.

La REPRESENTANTE ALTERNA DEL CANADÁ: Merci, Monsieur le Président.

Ma délégation voudrait remercier les honorables ministres Hunte et Mitchell de leur présence et de leur rapport ce matin, ainsi que l'Ambassadeur Romero de sa présence à Washington pour cette réunion. Nous souhaitons également remercier le Secrétaire général adjoint de son travail, ainsi que tous les autres représentants de la Délégation de haut niveau qui ont assisté à la réunion de Miami tenue le 12 avril, notamment les membres de l'OEA.

Nous souhaitons mentionner que nous apprécions particulièrement de travailler aux côtés de la CARICOM et des pays de la CARICOM à la recherche d'une solution à la crise haïtienne.

Le Canada a pris note du rapport d'activités relatives à la mise en application des termes de référence signés par le Gouvernement d'Haïti et la Mission spéciale de l'OEA que la Mission

permanente d'Haïti a fait parvenir aux missions permanentes, mais nous continuons à croire qu'il reste beaucoup à faire en Haïti.

Nous restons convaincus qu'il est nécessaire que le Gouvernement d'Haïti, ainsi que tous les acteurs de la scène politique haïtienne fassent tout leur possible enfin d'entamer le processus électoral en 2003. Nous croyons que le plan d'action présenté par la Délégation de haut niveau à Port-au-Prince est toujours valide et qu'il doit être promptement mis en œuvre.

Nous réitérons en particulier notre appel au Gouvernement d'Haïti afin qu'il prenne des mesures concrètes pour assurer l'établissement d'un environnement sécuritaire et propice à la tenue d'élections crédibles.

Nous souhaitons également saisir l'opportunité de la réunion aujourd'hui pour réitérer que le travail de la Mission spéciale en Haïti est pour nous inestimable. Le Canada continue d'appuyer ses efforts dans la mise en œuvre des résolutions 806 et 822, notamment en ce qui concerne les domaines de la justice, de la sécurité, des droits de la personne et de la bonne gouvernance.

Finalement, le Canada souhaite que les négociations déjà entreprises entre les autorités haïtiennes et les représentants du Fonds monétaire international vont aboutir à un accord sur la bonne gouvernance économique. Ceci permettrait que les institutions financières internationales se réengagent en Haïti et facilitent la reprise économique si nécessaire pour le développement du pays.

Merci.

El PRESIDENTE: Thank you very much, Delegation of Canada. I now give the floor to the Ambassador of Honduras.

El REPRESENTANTE PERMANENTE DE HONDURAS: Gracias, señor Presidente.

En nombre de mi Delegación, quiero agradecer el informe que nos ha presentado el señor Ministro de Relaciones Exteriores de Santa Lucía, así como el de su colega de las Bahamas, sobre la visita oficial que realizaron recientemente a Haití.

Deseaba referirme a un punto específico que fue mencionado por el señor Ministro de Relaciones Exteriores de Santa Lucía, como también por los señores Representantes de los Estados Unidos y de Canadá, respecto al tema de la normalización de las relaciones con los organismos financieros internacionales. Más bien, tengo una pregunta, señor Presidente. En dos ocasiones anteriores, en las resoluciones CP/RES. 806 (1303/02) corr. 1 y CP/RES. 822 (1331/02) este cuerpo expresó su deseo de que se normalicen esas relaciones. Por su intermedio, señor Presidente, quisiera preguntar a la Secretaría General cómo se traslada este deseo, expresado en una resolución, hacia los organismos financieros y si se ha hecho alguna gestión. En ninguno de los informes hemos visto nada que nos dé una idea de qué se ha hecho sobre el particular.

Tengo mucho respeto por el trabajo que hace la Secretaría, pero es un punto que no hemos visto. Agradezco, señor Presidente, esta oportunidad.

El PRESIDENTE: Thank you very much, Ambassador. I will ask Ambassador Einaudi to respond.

El SECRETARIO GENERAL ADJUNTO: I thank the Ambassador for his query.

I would note that at least in the first and second reports of the Secretary General on the implementation of resolution CP/RES. 822 (1331/02), there is an explicit statement of contacts made. Resolutive paragraph 11 of resolution 822 was very explicit. It asked the Secretary General to work to overcome obstacles to the normalization of relations between the international financial institutions (IFIs) and Haiti with some urgency. That is a paraphrase of paragraph 11; the substantive meaning was that there was a delinkage in the resolution; namely, the ability of the IFIs to normalize their provision of international financial assistance was no longer predicated by any action of the OAS or there being a previous solution of the political crisis.

The IFIs have their own procedures; they are very jealous of them, properly so, just as we in the OAS are jealous of our prerogatives. The Secretariat, in the person of the Secretary General, myself, and my office, has maintained close contacts with the World Bank, the Inter-American Development Bank (IDB), and the International Monetary Fund (IMF). Two of them, the Bank and the Fund, were observers in the High-level Delegation, so they were brought into the discussions so that they could see the efforts we were making to resolve political issues and so that we could be informed of the status of the discussion within the international financial community.

I would note that there is today in Haiti a mission of the IMF that is negotiating arrangements for a staff monitoring program with the Republic of Haiti. The statement earlier in this meeting by the Representative of the IDB that the Bank is prepared to resume lending operations in Haiti immediately once arrears have been cleared is also part of the decision of the Bank in its negotiations with the Government of Haiti. It is for the Bank to speak, but I can tell you, in direct response to your question, that we have worked actively and as constructively as possible with the members of the IFIs. The World Bank was also present as an observer and contributed support to the Special Mission, which is working in the area of governance to facilitate the kind of transparency and financial management that will give confidence to the banks for a lending program.

I end by saying that our personal contacts in support of normalization, as instructed under paragraph 11, have been continuing and that we have been in touch with all three international financial institutions within the past week.

El PRESIDENTE: Thank you very much, Ambassador Einaudi. I trust that that answer satisfies the Ambassador of Honduras. I now give the floor to the Delegation of Mexico.

El REPRESENTANTE ALTERNO DE MÉXICO: Muchas gracias, señor Presidente.

Le agradezco, señor Presidente, por la convocatoria de esta reunión, pero muy especialmente quisiera agradecer la información y los conceptos que nos han transmitido hoy los excelentísimos señores Ministros de Asuntos Exteriores de Santa Lucía y de las Bahamas.

El Gobierno de México apoya decididamente la labor que realiza la Organización a través de la Delegación de Alto Nivel OEA-CARICOM. La presencia hoy aquí del Embajador Sergio Romero

Cuevas, Representante del Gobierno de México en la Delegación de Alto Nivel, así lo pone de manifiesto. Somos optimistas con los objetivos que busca la Delegación y con el cumplimiento de los objetivos que nos propusimos en la resolución CP/RES. 822 (1331/02). México es optimista porque cree en la labor que está realizando la Misión Especial de la OEA para el Fortalecimiento de la Democracia en Haití, a cargo del Embajador David Lee, y también los esfuerzos que realiza el Secretario General Adjunto.

Hemos escuchado información que nos hace tener una actitud positiva respecto a lo que ha sucedido en Haití. Nos parece que la tarea de profesionalización de la policía en ese país es un paso muy importante y creemos que el apoyo de otros países es un punto muy fundamental.

Hace unos diez años, en otro país de nuestro hemisferio se dio un fenómeno similar, que fue el caso de la Misión de Observadores de las Naciones Unidas en El Salvador (ONUSAL). Hoy, una década después, podemos ver un resultado muy positivo, con una policía muy profesional en un país que logró superar un proceso muy dramático. Creemos que este mismo resultado lo podemos tener en Haití.

También nos alienta el anuncio que nos ha hecho la representante del Banco Interamericano de Desarrollo. Creemos que esa actitud positiva va a ayudar mucho a la solución de la problemática en Haití.

Invitamos a todas las partes, es decir, al Gobierno, a la oposición, a la sociedad civil e, incluso, a la comunidad internacional para que den su apoyo para la constitución del Consejo Electoral Provisional. Nos parece que con la estructuración de este Consejo podemos alcanzar el rumbo adecuado para una solución definitiva en el caso de Haití.

Muchas gracias, señor Presidente.

El PRESIDENTE: Thank you very much, Ambassador of Mexico. I recognize Ambassador Antoine of Grenada.

El REPRESENTANTE PERMANENTE DE GRENADA: Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Having listened to the report and the interventions that followed, the question is: Has the Haitian Government identified any financial constraints in meeting its obligation under resolution CP/RES. 822 (1331/02), and did the OAS Special Mission for Strengthening Democracy in Haiti assess the means to achieve some of the obligations that are being required?

Thank you.

El PRESIDENTE: Thank you very much, Ambassador. The answers will be coming to you shortly, but before we get those answers, I'll ask Ambassador Castulovich of Panama to take the floor.

El REPRESENTANTE PERMANENTE DE PANAMÁ: Gracias, señor Presidente.

Este tema está sobre la mesa del Consejo, a consideración de la Organización, desde hace cerca de tres años, según recuerdo. En esos tres años se produjo la resolución CP/RES. 822 (1331/02), se constituyó la Misión con carácter permanente en Haití; en un momento determinado de todo ese largo proceso se expresó que prácticamente se había llegado a un punto muerto, donde había que tomar alguna medida excepcional para reactivar el proceso de alcanzar una solución al conflicto que vive la República de Haití. Esa medida fue la Delegación de Alto Nivel OEA-CARICOM.

Hoy hemos escuchado con mucha atención las intervenciones de los señores Ministros de Relaciones Exteriores de Santa Lucía y de las Bahamas. He tenido oportunidad de repasar un poco este documento, y especialmente sus conclusiones. Cuando uno acaba de escuchar estas informaciones y leer estos documentos, necesariamente surgen varias preguntas. La primera es la siguiente: Después de esta Delegación de Alto Nivel, de su informe, que agradecemos, y todas las aclaraciones a las preguntas que aquí se han dado, ¿qué sigue?, ¿cuál es el siguiente paso? Quisiera escuchar comentarios sobre eso.

Igualmente, cuando escuchamos, por ejemplo, que la representante del Banco Interamericano de Desarrollo nos dice que las instituciones financieras internacionales, o el Banco específicamente, están listas para reactivar un programa de préstamos a Haití, pero condicionado a que se paguen los atrasos, ¿qué significa eso?, ¿en cuánto tiempo? Se convierte en un círculo que no tiene punto de interrupción. La condición es pagar los atrasos, el país no tiene para pagarlos y debe \$25 millones o \$30 millones, no hay una seguridad, por ejemplo, de que exista un financiamiento puente, una ayuda de contingencia que permita recuperar los atrasos para poder reactivar la cartera. Por experiencia sé que cuando se reactiva una cartera en el Banco Interamericano, sobre todo de préstamos suspendidos, o se va a definir un nuevo programa de préstamos, ese proceso puede demorar un año, año y medio o dos años, tranquilamente. Entonces, si el país no puede pagar los atrasos y no hay ninguna solución clara de cómo se va a resolver el problema, ya sea con un puente financiero o con una ayuda temporal, yo no pondría muchas esperanzas en una reactivación de la ayuda de la comunidad financiera internacional a corto plazo. Algún día llegará, pero no sé si ha de llegar con la urgencia que se necesita.

Dentro del marco de la primera pregunta, ¿qué sigue?, ¿cuál es el siguiente paso? La Organización tiene instrumentos, como mencionaba el señor Representante de los Estados Unidos. ¿Cuál de ellos aplicar?, ¿la Carta Democrática Interamericana? No sé. ¿Esperaremos a la Asamblea de Chile para volver a considerar el tema? ¿Tendremos algunos nuevos elementos positivos que nos permitan alentar una esperanza de que estamos avanzando en el camino hacia una solución más o menos definitiva? No lo sé. A mí me gustaría escuchar comentarios sobre eso, pero, principalmente me gustaría saber, y es una pregunta que le hago con la mayor transparencia y el mayor candor a nuestro Secretario General y a los miembros de la Delegación de Alto Nivel, cuánto tiempo queda. Si esta crisis se ha prolongado por tres años, si cada vez se agrava más, si no hay una vía de solución en el horizonte, si no hay una alternativa a que Haití pueda volver a ser sujeto de crédito frente a la comunidad financiera internacional, ¿cuánto tiempo más tenemos antes de que en ese país ocurra una explosión social que después no podremos contener? Ese es el problema.

Esas son mis preocupaciones, señor Presidente, más que comentarios al informe, por el cual felicito a la Delegación. Felicito también a los señores Cancilleres y a todos los miembros de la Delegación por la diligencia con que han trabajado. Creo que las preguntas fundamentales no están resueltas y son las que tenemos que resolver.

De los párrafos del informe, y sobre todo de sus conclusiones, hay un hecho claro. Por lo que ahí se lee, no hay una posibilidad en un futuro próximo de que se pueda integrar el Consejo Electoral.

Por las causas que ahí se explican, y el último párrafo es extraordinariamente claro, la Delegación de Alto Nivel ha decidido presentar los hechos en una forma transparente, aunque eso pueda ser utilizado, bien o mal, de acuerdo con el lado de los intereses con que se esté alineado. Pero eso no nos resuelve el problema. Es una exposición de los hechos.

Lo que queremos saber, porque tenemos el deseo vehemente de que podamos ver luz al final del túnel, qué es lo que sigue, cómo se va a resolver y cuánto tiempo nos queda, antes de que tenga que reunirse esta Organización para ocuparse de una situación caótica, explosiva y de un drama humano de las proporciones que se viene anunciando que va a ocurrir en Haití.

Muchas gracias.

El PRESIDENTE: Thank you very much, Ambassador, for your comments and, of course, your questions. The Representative of the Inter-American Development Bank (IDB) may be able to throw light on some of your queries, so I will give her the floor.

La REPRESENTANTE DEL BANCO INTERAMERICANO DE DESARROLLO: Gracias, señor Presidente.

Quería simplemente responder a la pregunta concreta del *timing* y de la capacidad de reactivar rápidamente las operaciones pendientes por parte del Banco Interamericano de Desarrollo.

Durante estos meses se ha reanudado el diálogo técnico con las autoridades haitianas para buscar una solución al problema de los adeudos de Haití al Banco y también lo que está íntimamente ligado a esto, que es la reactivación de operaciones pendientes. Se han actualizado todas las operaciones pendientes, en consulta con las autoridades. La consideración del paquete de reactivación por nuestro Directorio y su posterior reactivación ocurrirán una vez que se hayan pagado los adeudos al BID.

Así es que estamos preparados para poder responder en el momento oportuno.

Muchas gracias.

El PRESIDENTE: Thank you very much. I give the floor to the Delegation of Venezuela.

La REPRESENTANTE ALTERNA DE VENEZUELA: Gracias, señor Presidente.

Ante todo quisiéramos agradecer la presentación del informe, así como las intervenciones de los honorables Cancilleres de Santa Lucía y de las Bahamas.

También quisiera agradecerle a la funcionaria del Banco Interamericano de Desarrollo su intervención. Confieso que, dada mi ignorancia en materia financiera, no logré interpretar del todo su respuesta.

Quisiera señalar que, antes de que se tomara la decisión de enviar esta delegación de altísimo nivel a Haití, ya la Delegación de Venezuela había planteado esta interrogante y esta preocupación. En las resoluciones anteriores a la CP/RES. 822 (1331/02) se señalaba que era prioritario que el Gobierno haitiano alcanzara, junto con la oposición, un acuerdo para llegar a la normalización con las instituciones financieras. Aparentemente era un impedimento político, pero nunca entendimos que sobre eso pudiese llegarse a los impedimentos técnicos y a los procedimientos que defiende o ha aclarado el Embajador Einaudi.

Insistimos en que la responsabilidad de la comunidad internacional y entre ellas la Organización y el Grupo de Amigos es tratar de superar esos aspectos técnicos.

La Delegación de Venezuela hizo algunas gestiones, muy oficiosamente, para conocer exactamente el estado de la situación de Haití con respecto a algunas instituciones financieras. Si antes de la resolución CP/RES. 822 o antes de la resolución de Barbados, por alguna razón, se hubiesen pagado los adeudos de Haití, ¿cuál hubiese sido ese impedimento político para que Haití recibiera los financiamientos? ¿Cuál hubiese sido el impedimento político-técnico, si por alguna otra alternativa Haití hubiese logrado normalizar su relación técnica?

Creo que las falsas premisas hacen mucho daño. Tenemos, conjuntamente, que transparentar los esfuerzos. Lo digo en el sentido constructivo, nos hacemos eco del planteamiento del Embajador de Panamá. En lo que concierne a Venezuela, nos sentimos muy motivados porque la intervención del Embajador de Santa Lucía fue muy propicia. Tal vez en tres años nunca habíamos escuchado un informe tan claro, como también lo fue el del Ministro de las Bahamas, motivado seguramente en la actuación del Embajador Lee, con respecto al objetivo fundamental de la Misión Especial de la OEA para el Fortalecimiento de la Democracia en Haití.

No hay posibilidad alguna de que la Organización apoye desafueros anticonstitucionales. Eso es importante. Tal vez nunca antes habíamos escuchado una afirmación de tal naturaleza, tan clara y tan tajante. Eso es sumamente positivo en lo que concierne a distensionar el clima político en Haití, es sumamente importante.

Entendemos que el segundo paso, tal como lo dice el Embajador de Panamá, es, justamente, cómo lograr instalar ese Consejo Electoral Provisional. Si para la oposición quedaron claras las responsabilidades que tiene como sector social, creo que sí, que hay un avance para lograr esto, y, como lo dijo el señor Representante de México, tenemos que felicitarnos por ello.

Ahora, hay un punto imperativo, que es cómo lograr que el Gobierno haitiano pueda normalizar realmente sus relaciones con los organismos internacionales, porque, si no, estaríamos, evidentemente, caminando sobre círculos.

Para finalizar, si fuera posible y si no hubiese otra intervención, nos gustaría escuchar, como compete, la opinión del Embajador de Haití, si él tiene a bien intervenir en este momento.

Gracias.

El PRESIDENTE: Thank you very much, Representative of Venezuela, for your statement. I will now ask the Ambassador of France to take the floor.

LA OBSERVADORA PERMANENTE DE FRANCIA: Monsieur le Président, chers collègues, j'ai eu l'honneur de représenter la France, qui est membre du Groupe des pays d'amis d'Haïti, au sein de la Délégation de haut niveau OEA/CARICOM qui s'est rendue à Port-au-Prince les 19 et 20 mars derniers. En outre, j'ai pu participer avec beaucoup d'intérêt à la réunion de suivi de cette mission qui s'est tenue à Miami le 12 avril. Je suis heureuse de retrouver aujourd'hui ici, dans cette salle, les honorables ministres des affaires étrangères et délégués qui ont participé à ces missions.

La Délégation française souhaite aujourd'hui présenter, par quelques observations, son appréciation des résultats de ces démarches. Permettez-moi, tout d'abord, de rendre hommage à la manière exemplaire dont ces missions, qui étaient particulièrement délicates, ont été menées sous la co-direction dynamique, intelligente et efficace de M. Julian Hunte, Ministre des Affaires étrangères de Sainte-Lucie, et de l'Ambassadeur Luigi Einaudi, Secrétaire général adjoint de l'OEA. Qu'ils en soient remerciés chaleureusement !

Nous avons été particulièrement satisfaits du contenu des messages et des plans d'action précis et rigoureux qui ont été transmis au Gouvernement haïtien, mais également à l'opposition et à la société civile pour mettre en œuvre, dès maintenant, les dispositions de la résolution CP/RES. 822 (1331/02) du Conseil permanent.

L'organisation de la mission à Port-au-Prince, grâce à la courtoisie du pays hôte et à la mobilisation de la Mission Spéciale de l'OEA dirigée par l'Ambassadeur David Lee, a été parfaite et nous a permis d'être reçus par le chef de l'État haïtien et les membres de son gouvernement et de rencontrer pratiquement tous les acteurs importants qui participent à la vie politique, économique, sociale et religieuse en Haïti.

La Délégation de haut niveau a adopté un langage clair et ferme à l'égard de tous les protagonistes de la crise afin de sortir de l'impasse politique. C'est donc une position OEA/CARICOM cohérente et unanime qui a prévalu à Port-au-Prince comme à Miami, marquée par le souci d'obtenir de manière urgente, principalement du Gouvernement haïtien, des gestes forts et concrets dans le sens des requêtes formulées depuis maintenant plus de deux ans.

Malheureusement, du point de vue de notre délégation, force est de constater qu'à ce jour les résultats ne sont pas au rendez-vous. Nous avons pris acte des faits relatés dans le rapport de la Mission spéciale de l'OEA au Secrétaire général sur la situation en Haïti au 30 mars 2003. Nous avons pris note des avancées enregistrées, mais nous ne pouvons que regretter l'insuffisance de ces progrès au regard d'une situation politique et de sécurité critique qui ne s'est pas améliorée, selon les termes même du rapport de la Mission spéciale de l'OEA. Et sur un certain nombre de points, nous constatons soit l'absence d'initiatives, soit des décisions qui vont à l'encontre même de la substance et de l'esprit des requêtes formulées par la Délégation de haut niveau.

Pour sa part, la France et l'Union européenne, dans sa déclaration du 7 mars dernier, estiment encore et toujours que la résolution 822, adoptée par l'OEA en septembre 2002 avec l'accord des autorités haïtiennes, contient tous les éléments permettant de sortir de la crise et de relancer un processus électoral crédible, un processus électoral qui apparaît en panne.

Mais où en est la mise en œuvre de cette résolution huit mois après son adoption ? La plupart des recommandations âprement négociées pendant plus d'un mois sont restées pratiquement lettres mortes. Je rappelle que, toujours dans sa déclaration du 7 mars, l'Union européenne s'est déclarée prête à apporter son soutien à un processus graduel de retour de l'état de droit dont la première étape est bien entendu le rétablissement de la confiance et de la sécurité permettant la constitution du Conseil électoral provisoire et l'organisation des élections. L'Union européenne prendra part – et cela a été annoncé et confirmé par le Délégué de la Commission européenne à Port-au-Prince le 19 mars dernier – à un programme d'appui technique à la police et à la justice haïtienne sous réserve de l'obtention de garanties de la part des autorités en vue du rétablissement de l'ordre, de la sécurité et du droit.

La France continuera à appuyer résolument les efforts de l'Organisation des États Américains qui s'est impliquée très courageusement dans ce dossier et les efforts de sa mission spéciale à Port-au-Prince.

Je voudrais également marquer nos préoccupations quant à la situation des droits de l'homme en Haïti. Les constatations pessimistes que nous avons formulées dans le passé et que nous formulons aujourd'hui sont corroborées par les analyses qui sont faites dans d'autres enceintes, notamment à la Commission des droits de l'homme de l'Organisation des Nations Unies. Aussi, paraît-il très souhaitable que la Commission interaméricaine des droits de l'homme puisse se rendre prochainement en Haïti, ainsi qu'elle l'a envisagé.

Enfin, à plusieurs reprises, la France a exprimé ses inquiétudes face aux fragilités économiques, sociales, humanitaires et sanitaires d'Haïti et aux souffrances terribles de la population. Nous sommes très sensibles à cette situation. Nous poursuivrons notre aide à ces populations sur le plan bilatéral et avec nos partenaires européens. Nous souhaitons continuer à apporter une assistance humanitaire rapide et efficace pour répondre aux besoins de celle-ci.

Enfin, nous désirons bien entendu la reprise progressive de l'aide internationale à Haïti dès lors que les conditions seraient réunies.

Je vous remercie, Monsieur le Président.

El PRESIDENTE: Thank you very much, Ambassador Sylvie Alvarez, Permanent Observer of France to the OAS, for your statement.

I understand that Minister Mitchell of The Bahamas may wish to make some comments, so I give him the floor.

El MINISTRO DE RELACIONES EXTERIORES Y DEL SERVICIO PÚBLICO DE LAS BAHAMAS: Thank you, Mr. Chair.

I want to make one or two remarks following the distinguished Ambassador of Panama's question as to what is the next step. That led to the comments from the Inter-American Development Bank (IDB) about where we are on the economic side of this equation.

In our view, it is appropriate to ask what's the next step. I think it admits to a certain impatience or fatigue with the issue. To all delegations, I wish to proffer this advice: The answer to this issue is that we must remain engaged, engaged, engaged. We have told our domestic population that we have no guillotine to drop down on this issue and say the issue is solved from here forward. It is an issue that must continue to be managed in the long term, so in my view, there isn't an answer as to what is the next step beyond our continued engagement.

Part of that engagement is the clearing up of the arrears, which at the last count stood at about \$25 million. The IDB has indicated that if those arrears are cleared up, it is ready to advance to the next stage. An effort is being organized, and I think the European Union (EU) is also involved in the process, in which the five Caribbean Community (CARICOM) members of the IDB have been asked to pledge funds to a rescue effort to clear the arrears. The Bahamas has agreed, and I think at least one other Caribbean country has agreed to advance these monies. It is felt that within a short period of time we can get this package to clear the arrears and then things can move to the next stage. I wouldn't want to put a time limit on it, but if I am correct, it should happen shortly. We think it is important for this economic side to move forward.

You asked whether invoking the Inter-American Democratic Charter is part of the next steps of the process. I assume that means going further in the bits of the Charter that have already been invoked because, as I understand it, resolution CP/RES. 822 (1331/02) is part of the process of the Charter itself. Haiti has agreed to invite the international community to help solve these issues. That is why we are now engaged.

There are some who feel that we ought to go to the extreme as far as the Charter is concerned. Our view is that that would be taking the matter too far, because it would go against the idea of remaining engaged, and that is the word I want to leave with you.

It is important to continue to be engaged. We must understand that this process did not happen overnight, and it is going to take a long time for it to resolve itself. But with the continued engagement of the international community, the continued talking, the continued influencing, and the continued engaging in the process, ultimately we are going to get there. It is a difficult issue to resolve. I agree with you when you say that there is no time, and yet there is time. There has to be time. We have to make the time to continue to engage in the process in order to resolve the situation.

I urge that to all delegations and thank again the Ambassador of Panama for his intervention. I hope that the economic side of the question is somewhat clarified for you and for your government.

Thank you very much.

El PRESIDENTE: Thank you very much, Minister Mitchell. I now give the floor to the Delegation of the Dominican Republic.

El REPRESENTANTE ALTERNO DE LA REPÚBLICA DOMINICANA: Muchas gracias, señor Presidente.

Ante todo, mi Delegación desea agradecer el informe de la Delegación de Alto Nivel OEA-CARICOM que ha sido presentado. Agradecemos también la participación en esta sesión extraordinaria de los señores Ministros de Relaciones Exteriores de Santa Lucía y de las Bahamas y el interés que han mostrado en buscar soluciones efectivas.

Señor Presidente, deseo recalcar la solicitud que en varias ocasiones y en foros internacionales ha hecho el Presidente de la República Dominicana, ingeniero Hipólito Mejía, de que se dé ayuda concreta a la República de Haití. Como él dice, con discursos no llega la ayuda; con la acción, llega.

Entendemos la solicitud del BID de que es necesario ponerse al día con los atrasos. Entendemos que esa solicitud es legítima, pero también entendemos que, dado el momento, estas exigencias son en cierto modo inoportunas. Hace varios meses se había dado la noticia –no me atrevo a decir el monto– de que el BID estaba en condiciones de desembolsar ya una suma importante de ayuda a la nación haitiana. Lamentablemente, ahora están sobre la mesa los requisitos sobre los atrasos.

Solo quisiera recordar a la Presidencia, a todos los Representantes y a los demás organismos internacionales aquí presentes que el que más sufre esta veda es el pueblo haitiano. No sé si algunos de ustedes han ido a Haití; yo sí he ido, y realmente es una situación muy penosa.

Señor Presidente, mi Delegación desea unirse al clamor de que el BID tome en consideración nuestras solicitudes y, aunque no pueda asegurar los desembolsos de manera inmediata, por lo menos suavice los requisitos para cumplir con los atrasos, recordando que este año es de mucha importancia, de mucha relevancia, para la estabilidad política de Haití. Es un apoyo también a las gestiones que ha realizado la Delegación de Alto Nivel encabezada por el Ministro Julian Hunte y el Secretario General Adjunto, Embajador Einaudi.

Muchas gracias.

El PRESIDENTE: Thank you very much, Representative of the Dominican Republic. I give the floor to Ambassador Raymond Valcin of Haiti.

El REPRESENTANTE PERMANENTE DE HAITÍ: Merci, Monsieur le Président.

Mes premiers propos exprimeront la gratitude du Gouvernement de la République d'Haïti pour la présence à cette session spéciale du Conseil permanent des Ministres Hunte de Sainte-Lucie et Mitchell des Bahamas. En leur transmettant les chaleureuses salutations du Ministre Antonio, je voudrais également signaler la grande appréciation que le Gouvernement et le peuple haïtiens manifestent pour l'intérêt que ces deux partenaires de la CARICOM portent aux efforts visant à une sortie de crise dans notre pays.

Les remerciements de la Délégation de la République d'Haïti vont également au Secrétaire général adjoint, l'Ambassadeur Einaudi ; à l'Ambassadeur Lee ; à l'Ambassadeur Romero et à tous les membres de la Délégation de haut niveau OEA/CARICOM, ainsi qu'à la Mission spéciale de l'OEA en Haïti.

La Délégation de la République d'Haïti, Monsieur le Président, comprend très aisément les préoccupations qui ont été formulées par la Délégation de haut niveau OEA/CARICOM, par le truchement des présentations effectuées respectivement par le Ministre Hunte et le Ministre Mitchell. En même temps, la Délégation n'est pas en mesure d'apporter une adhésion totale et pleine à ses préoccupations, en ce qui a trait à leurs causes explicatives.

Je m'en voudrais de signaler seulement deux aspects dans cette direction là. En premier lieu, la question de la formation du Conseil électoral provisoire (CEP). Il est évident que le Gouvernement de la République d'Haïti est le premier partenaire, la première entité à montrer un intérêt invariable et absolu pour la mise sur pied du Conseil électoral provisoire. Il est évident qu'un gouvernement aux prises avec des difficultés qui ont leur origine dans des élections qui ont été contestées ne saurait s'offrir le luxe de ne pas adhérer à une démarche de normalisation qui passe indispensablement par la tenue d'élections, par la réalisation d'un ensemble d'activités électorales pour lesquelles la mise sur pied du CEP constitue une condition *sine qua non*. Mais en même temps, et ce, de façon tout à fait regrettable, le Gouvernement de la République d'Haïti n'est pas en mesure de forcer aucun de ses partenaires ou aucune des entités impliquées dans le processus de normalisation à adopter une décision ou une position qu'il refuse d'endosser. Et c'est le choix absolu – nous respectons ce choix – qu'a fait l'opposition dans son désir très certainement de ne pas participer, comme cela a été dit à plusieurs reprises, avec la présence du Président Aristide au pouvoir à aucune des activités de normalisation, incluant les élections.

Je sollicite votre autorisation, Monsieur le Président, pour donner un deuxième exemple en vue d'illustrer ces contraintes et difficultés auxquelles fait face le Gouvernement de la République d'Haïti pour adopter certaines des mesures et avancer dans l'adoption de ces mesures, tel que cela l'a été recommandé par la Délégation de haut niveau OEA/CARICOM. C'est l'exemple de la professionnalisation de la police. Monsieur le Président, la démarche de professionnalisation de la Police nationale d'Haïti donne lieu à des difficultés d'une complexité extraordinaire. Le Gouvernement de la République d'Haïti n'est pas en mesure de compter sur une banque de ressources humaines expertes très vaste ou très large qui permettrait presque automatiquement de procéder au remplacement d'une personnalité aussi importante que le Directeur général de la Police. Dans un pays où cette expertise n'existe pas, très certainement il faut pouvoir compter sur un certain délai, un certain temps que va nécessiter la mise en œuvre du processus et la manière de le finaliser. Et c'est dans cette direction aussi qu'il nous a semblé utile de solliciter une assistance de la part de nos partenaires de la communauté internationale pour aider à la démarche de professionnalisation. Il s'agit donc d'une démarche qui va nécessiter certainement plus que dix jours, comme j'ai eu l'opportunité de le souligner dans un autre forum, qui va peut-être nécessiter plus de dix mois, que sais-je ?

Le Gouvernement haïtien souhaiterait que cela s'effectue de la manière la plus rapide, mais malheureusement la précarité de nos ressources ne pourrait en aucun cas nous porter à garantir que le processus s'effectuera dans un délai plutôt court.

Ceci étant dit, Monsieur le Président, vous me permettrez de réaffirmer la volonté du Gouvernement de la République d'Haïti de poursuivre avec assiduité, le long cheminement vers une solution de la crise. Au cours de la visite de la Délégation de haut niveau OEA/CARICOM à Port-au-Prince, bonne note a été prise des préoccupations et souhaits de la communauté internationale face à certains développements en Haïti, ainsi en sera-t-il du dossier de la Police nationale d'Haïti par

rapport auquel le Gouvernement de la République d'Haïti demeure extrêmement ouvert et par rapport auquel il a pris soin de procéder à l'adoption d'une décision dictée au coin de la prudence en procédant à une nomination sur une base intérimaire du responsable de la Police nationale d'Haïti. Cette approche qu'a retenue le Gouvernement permettra de faire le point, le cas échéant, sur la validité ou non des allégations effectuées à propos du profil professionnel et personnel du fonctionnaire désigné. La procédure en vigueur ne confère pour autant aucune prérogative particulière à la Mission spéciale dans le processus de nomination, comme cela a été malencontreusement mentionné dans certains milieux de l'OEA. Il s'agit d'un espace exclusif de souveraineté. Ainsi, le Gouvernement est pleinement habilité à user de ses souveraines prérogatives, et ce, dans le cadre de l'exercice légitime de son mandat.

De ce point de vue il est nettement regrettable que des persistants malentendus continuent à caractériser les attentes de la Mission spéciale par rapport aux modalités de gestion retenues pour ce dossier de la désignation d'un directeur général de la police.

Malgré tout, dans sa démarche d'ouverture et de flexibilité, le Gouvernement considère encore qu'aucune option n'est fermée dans la mesure où elle demeure respectueuse des impératifs attachés à la souveraineté nationale et aux prescrits constitutionnels, ou tout au moins s'avèrerait compatible avec eux.

Il est donc souhaitable que des gestes de bonne volonté viennent également des autres secteurs impliqués dans la crise, car il devient indispensable de juguler la tendance consistant à considérer ces secteurs comme de simples spectateurs pouvant prétendre à l'enjeu sans participer au jeu.

Le refus systématique de l'opposition et de la société civile à participer au processus électoral équivaut à l'utilisation d'un veto de fait par rapport à la démarche de normalisation. En même temps, le Gouvernement déplore et dénonce les encouragements, directs ou indirects, prodigués à l'opposition dans cette démarche négativiste. Il s'agit d'une caution irresponsable octroyée à des secteurs qui, au lieu de se soumettre au verdict populaire, préfèrent lancer des appels à la déstabilisation par la pratique dite de l'option zéro. Pas plus tard que cette semaine, les dirigeants de la Convergence ne se sont pas cachés pour réitérer cette détermination à fonctionner seulement dans une perspective où le Président ne serait pas dans le décor politique.

Monsieur le Président, les obligations faites par la résolution CP/RES. 822 (1331/02) invitent tous les acteurs à agir simultanément. Ainsi, en s'attelant à la tâche de mise en œuvre de la résolution 822, le Gouvernement s'attend à ce que l'opposition, les organisations de la société civile et la communauté internationale jouent leur partition.

De ce point de vue, ma délégation rejette catégoriquement les procédés insidieux utilisés par certains supporteurs internationaux de l'opposition haïtienne qui tentent de justifier le négativisme de celle-ci par de prétendus manquements du Gouvernement. Dans cette optique, l'invocation de la situation en matière de sécurité constitue un alibi facile pour se barricader dans une opposition à la normalisation.

Haïti demeure, malgré ce que l'on en dit et malgré d'indéniables problèmes de sécurité, l'un des pays de l'hémisphère où se pratique le moins de violence, même durant les périodes électorales.

Les statistiques sur la violence à travers le continent sont d'une éloquence aussi surprenante qu'irréfutable. À ce chapitre il y a de très nombreux pays où les élections seraient impossibles bien avant Haïti si l'on prenait à la lettre l'alibi de la sécurité.

Cela étant dit, le Gouvernement continuera d'accorder toute l'importance qu'il mérite au dossier du fugitif Amiot Métayer par rapport auquel il a déjà émis un mandat d'arrêt, par rapport auquel aussi des dispositions ont été prises pour localiser l'endroit où il aurait pu trouver refuge, etc.

Monsieur le Président, la question de la coopération financière semblerait actuellement relever du domaine technique, alors que le mépris des conventions et des règles administratives qui avait conféré un caractère politique au blocage des fonds a aggravé les contraintes techniques et a créé des situations de faiblesse structurelle qu'il s'avère tout à fait difficile à redresser, ce sur quoi avait insisté en partie dans son intervention mon très distingué collègue et ami du Panama, l'Ambassadeur Castulovich. Il en demeure donc que le retour à cet ensemble technique devrait s'accompagner de mesures propres à enrayer les dommages causés aux capacités de réponse nationale—capacités de réponse financière s'entend.

A ce propos, le Gouvernement de la République d'Haïti salue chaleureusement l'initiative lancée par des pays de la CARICOM, de même que l'intérêt exprimé par certains gouvernements, comme celui de la République sœur du Venezuela, en vue d'aider à liquider les arriérés de la dette externe d'Haïti. Il s'agit de gestes de bonne volonté qui très certainement ne manqueront pas d'engendrer des conditions favorables au développement économique d'Haïti. Il s'agit aussi de gestes que nous apprécions davantage lorsque nous nous rappelons la précarité des conditions et ressources financières des pays qui ont eu ce geste de générosité à l'endroit de la République d'Haïti.

Monsieur le Président, certaines voix ont cru approprié de plaider en faveur de l'application à Haïti de la Charte démocratique interaméricaine. Je voudrais réaffirmer tout net que le Gouvernement d'Haïti ne favorise pas cette option. Normalement, la Charte consacre une implication de l'OEA dans des cas d'altération inconstitutionnelle de l'ordre démocratique, dans une perspective de redressement ou une perspective de correction. Cet instrument, pensons-nous, Monsieur le Président, devrait plutôt servir à prévenir au lieu de servir à proférer des menaces ou à intimider. Il devrait servir à reconstruire plutôt qu'à épouvanter.

En ce qui concerne Haïti, l'OEA est déjà impliquée et, ce, bien avant l'adoption de la Charte. Une mission spéciale de l'Organisation prête son concours aux acteurs politiques et des mécanismes de coopération fonctionnent. Dans ce contexte, il reste difficile à déceler la valeur ajoutée qu'une telle invocation pourrait apporter.

Le Gouvernement s'en tiendra strictement aux obligations auxquelles il a souscrit et souhaite une stricte réciprocité de la part des autres partenaires. Son empressement à signer les termes de référence avec la Mission spéciale de l'OEA dans de nombreux domaines d'intervention conjointement agréés en constitue une illustration. Pourtant, l'adoption d'une approche résolument cèle dans l'envoi des 100 experts internationaux en matière de sécurité – la sécurité électorale en particulier – est encore attendue. Malgré tout, le Gouvernement de la République d'Haïti malgré tout s'est gardé de mettre en doute la bonne foi de la Mission spéciale à ce chapitre spécifique.

En même temps, il est à déplorer que l'opposition, encouragée par certains supporteurs étrangers, continue à ne pas participer à la mise sur pied du CEP, car, comme le souligne le Président Aristide, « le CEP s'avèrera un catalyseur de réconciliation parce qu'il peut servir de plateforme pour la résolution pacifique de différends, par la discussion en lieu et place du conflit ».

Monsieur le Président, le refus de la société civile et de la Convergence à s'engager de manière sérieuse dans le processus électoral participe d'une vision erronée des modalités de règlement de la crise. Je les invite une fois de plus, ainsi que tous les frères et sœurs de l'Opposition à ne pas s'enfoncer dans cette direction si stérile, si meurtrière pour l'ensemble de notre société.

Monsieur le Président, dans deux semaines, ma patrie commémorera le bicentenaire de la création de son drapeau. Cet événement s'est déroulé à l'Arcahaie, une petite bourgade tout près de Port-au-Prince, le 18 mai 1803. Environ deux mois auparavant, avait eu lieu, du 4 au 24 mars de l'année 1803, l'importante bataille de la Crête-à-Pierrot où les troupes de Pétion, qui était rentré au pays avec le corps expéditionnaire envoyé par Napoléon Bonaparte, avaient procédé au siège avec celles de Dessalines, principal lieutenant de Toussaint Louverture et futur commandant en chef de l'armée nationale, après l'ignoble capture de celui-ci par un acte de fourberie pseudo-militaire.

En dépit de ces hostilités meurtrières inqualifiables, Monsieur le Président, ces deux figures de proue de l'indépendance d'Haïti avaient compris que le salut national passait par l'entente de la solidarité. Devant le danger commun et le péril collectif, ils ont pu transcender les divisions fratricides et se sont retrouvés côte à côte pour porter le bicolore national sur les fonts baptismaux. Aujourd'hui, deux cents ans après, les vertus fécondantes de leur démarche patriotique unitaire n'ont pas changé. Au contraire, personne ni rien au monde, malgré des vicissitudes de toutes sortes et une adversité impénitente cultivée à l'endroit d'Haïti, n'a pu éteindre la flamme du patriotisme qui luit au fond du cœur de toutes les filles, de tous les fils de notre pays.

Je nourris donc la conviction que cette source intarissable d'énergie nationale, illustrée par l'exemple stimulant de Dessalines et de Pétion, aidera à déclencher les initiatives nécessaires pour mettre un terme aux spectacles de luttes sans grandeur et en même temps si menaçantes pour notre autonomie, voire pour notre survie.

Pour sa part, le gouvernement de mon pays continue d'afficher sa posture invariablement et vigoureusement optimiste en espérant que la célébration du triple bicentenaire de la disparition de Toussaint Louverture, de la création du drapeau national et de l'indépendance d'Haïti servira de clignotant destiné à préserver notre liberté dans le respect fraternel et la justice.

Je vous remercie.

El PRESIDENTE: Thank you very much, Ambassador Valcin, for your statement. Minister Hunte of Saint Lucia has asked to make some comments.

El MINISTRO DE RELACIONES EXTERIORES DE SANTA LUCÍA: Mr. Chair, it is important that I clear up two points, if only for my conscience's sake.

When the OAS-CARICOM High-level Delegation to Haiti was appointed, people questioned whether anything could come of it because of the intransigence of the parties involved. We therefore

decided to meet in Miami and answer this question by going through what had happened before and determining the best way forward.

If you look at page 27 of the document before you, I am sure that you would consider it a bit unusual that a delegation would make a presentation in this form. We made the presentation in this form after taking into account all that was happening in Haiti—as far as we were aware—and pinpointing the measures that we felt needed to be taken by the key players in order to move the process forward. I want to deal with just two of those measures.

We know that there is intransigence on the part of the opposition and, for that matter, civil society. But I want to emphasize—because this is important to me personally—that when we listed those measures, the idea was that if the Government of the day took those measures and the opposition, despite the fact that those measures had been taken, refused to engage, then the Government of the day was free to proceed because it was clear that the intransigence was not based on any sound fact.

One of those measures relates to the Haitian National Police (HNP). I made the point in the early stages—and I want to reemphasize it because it is important to me—that there was never any intention to impinge on the sovereignty of the Government and people of Haiti in making that proposal, but difficult circumstances call for drastic measures in order to solve problems.

In the region right now, almost every country is facing problems with crime; almost every country is looking at ways to reshape its police force in order to make it more representative in dealing with drugs, corruption in the force, and a whole host of things.

So that there would be no mistake or infringement, the attempt was to make an appointment that was above board and that would not give rise to questions of affiliation that would subvert due process and the professional performance of the police force. It was not intended as a measure to infringe on the sovereignty of the country.

The OAS Special Mission for Strengthening Democracy in Haiti served as advisor in determining how to ensure that the people of Haiti and the international community all had confidence in the process. It was necessary to do certain things.

The distinguished Ambassador of Grenada asked about the cost. These things really don't need a monumental amount of money. Some things merely need will—political will. That's why in every report that we have submitted that I have been associated with, the word used was the “intransigence” of the opposition, because we met them and said to them that once there is movement, there are things in here, you cannot . . . how do you determine when all the security matters have been dealt with? The process that we advanced was meant to bring this situation to a point that would indicate clearly to all concerned that we were ready to proceed. Any parties that determined that it was still not sufficient would be deemed unreasonable and the process would have to go forward without them.

It is important to make these distinctions so that you can understand quite clearly the *raison d'être* of the action plan and why it was put in this form. Above all else, creating the correct climate and ensuring that the Government took the lead in dealing with these matters was extremely

important in order to facilitate that process both at home and abroad. There was never any intention, insofar as the High-Level Delegation was concerned, to suggest measures that would impinge on the sovereignty of the country. However, in matters of this kind, sometimes it is necessary to look at things differently in order to achieve desired results.

Thank you, Mr. Chair.

El PRESIDENTE: Thank you very much, Minister Hunte.

I would now like to summarize what I gather to be the collective sentiment of this special meeting and which, with the agreement of this Council, I propose to issue as the official statement of the Chair emanating from this special meeting.

The Permanent Council takes note with appreciation of the written report of the OAS Special Mission for Strengthening Democracy in Haiti on results following the OAS-CARICOM High-level Delegation's visit to Haiti from March 19 to 20, 2003.

The Council welcomes the fact that key members of the High-level Delegation were present at today's special meeting and has considered their statements, as well as the recommendations of the Delegation.

The Council notes the consensus view of the Delegation that, although a number of actions have been taken by the Government of Haiti, unfortunately, the Government has not taken some key measures sought by the Delegation or has taken them in a fashion that does not contribute to the creation of a climate of confidence.

This Council is of the view that the March 20 points drawn from the provisions of resolutions CP/RES. 806 (1303/02) corr. 1 and CP/RES. 822 (1331/02) and put to the Government of Haiti (Annex C of the Special Mission's report) remain fully valid and require urgent action by the Government. Critical measures include:

- reviewing and professionalizing the police leadership in full consultation with the OAS Special Mission;
- ending the notorious impunity of Amiot Métayer by means of his arrest; and
- implementing agreed disarmament measures.

Inadequate Government responses to these substantive areas are the principal obstacles to public confidence and restored democratic progress.

At the same time, the Permanent Council is concerned that civil society and the *Convergence démocratique* have not given the requested assurances that they would participate in the Provisional Electoral Council (CEP) should President Aristide take the concrete measures put to him. Likewise, the Council is of the view that the points left with civil society and the *Convergence démocratique* by the Delegation, reproduced in Annex D of the Special Mission's report, remain fully valid. In particular, on behalf of the Council, I wish to emphasize that the international community will not

support efforts to remove the President of Haiti through violent confrontations in the streets or other actions or arrangements contrary to democratic processes. The right to govern must be won through democratic competition and elections.

Accordingly, the Permanent Council believes it is very important that a sequence of steps be taken by the Government of Haiti, civil society, and the *Convergence démocratique* to facilitate the formation of an independent, neutral, and credible CEP that will allow Haiti to get its legislative and local electoral processes underway. The CEP would then make decisions required to lead the electoral process, with appropriate support from the relevant Haitian actors and with the assistance of the international community coordinated through the Special Mission.

The Council strongly supports reinforcement of the OAS Special Mission for Strengthening Democracy in Haiti, with its mandate laid out in resolutions 806 and 822, notably its four pillars of security, including disarmament, justice, human rights, and governance. In this regard, the Council endorses the joint terms of reference attached to the second and third reports of the Secretary General on implementation of resolution 822, including those for the deployment of international police officers in accordance with OAS rules and procedures. The Council believes that the necessary and effective implementation by the Government, with the help of the Special Mission, of the measures and activities laid out in the terms of reference will enable the Government of Haiti to demonstrate credibly to the Haitian people, as well as to the international community, its concrete progress in improving the climate of security in Haiti and in strengthening its democratic institutions.

The Council notes that the European Union (EU) has confirmed that, if appropriate, it will take part in a program of technical support for the Haitian police and judiciary, provided that guarantees are obtained from the authorities with a view to the reestablishment of order, security, and the rule of law.

The Council takes note with much concern of the humanitarian crisis in Haiti and welcomes the launching by the UN System on April 22, 2003, of an Integrated Emergency Response Programme (PIR) Targeting Vulnerable Groups and Communities in Haiti and the continued implementation of the Pan American Health Organization's (PAHO) grant programs to combat HIV/AIDS. The Council notes with appreciation the provision of humanitarian assistance by the United States, Canada, and other members of the Group of Friends on Haiti. The Council remains convinced, however, that additional humanitarian assistance is still needed and welcomes recent announcements by the United States that it intends to make available further humanitarian resources.

But Haiti needs more than humanitarian aid. The Council welcomes work actively underway pursuant to paragraph 11 of resolution 822. In addition, the Council notes the confirmation by the Inter-American Development Bank (IDB) that it will resume its lending operations immediately once arrears have been cleared. To this end, the Council further notes that to assist with the clearance of outstanding arrears—a principal requirement of the international financial institutions (IFIs)—some CARICOM countries have made pledges to facilitate Haiti in clearing its arrears with the IDB. These pledges are, of course, contingent upon conclusion by the Government of Haiti of arrangements now being negotiated with the International Monetary Fund (IMF). The Council is aware that additional financing assistance will be required for full clearance of these arrears.

The Council has also taken note of the commitment of the Government of Haiti to the comprehensive clearance of arrears to all IFIs, using a sequential approach in which settlement to the IDB would be the first step. The Council expresses its conviction that transparency in economic governance will facilitate other needed agreements between the Government of Haiti, the IFIs, and other donors.

Finally, I know that I reflect fully the sense of this body when I invite the Government of Haiti and the other relevant Haitian actors to play their part actively, cooperatively, and responsibly. Positive, concrete actions or the lack thereof will help the member states to select carefully and correctly among the various instruments of the inter-American system designed to uphold democracy in the Hemisphere that should be applied to assist all Haitians to resolve the political crisis. Positive, concrete actions will also enable the international community to accompany the democratic, political, economic, and social development of Haiti, a founding member of the Organization of American States. Haitian actions and the response of the international community will underlie decisions on these matters at the OAS General Assembly from June 8 to 10 in Santiago, Chile.

That is the conclusion of the Chair. If there are no further requests for the floor, this meeting now stands adjourned.

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