



OAS RENEWS SUPPORT FOR DIALOGUE IN VENEZUELA

August 14, 2002

The Organization of American States (OAS) today restated its firm commitment to supporting Venezuela's efforts to further its national dialogue and consolidate its democratic process.

In a resolution passed unanimously by the Permanent Council, the member states reiterated the assurance that the OAS stands ready to provide support and assistance as needed by the government of Venezuela to that end.

Entitled "Support for the Process of Dialogue in Venezuela," the resolution also gave the OAS a clear mandate to continue its collaboration with the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) and the Carter Center and move immediately on initiatives to encourage dialogue towards national reconciliation in the South American country.

Before the adoption of the resolution, which was sponsored by the Latin American Integration Association (ALADI) countries of the OAS, Venezuela's Ambassador Jorge Valero updated the hemispheric Council and the international community on initiatives taken by the Hugo Chávez Frías government to promote national dialogue.

The Ambassador cited President Chávez Frías' insistence on dialogue "without exclusions," noting that the President was also today delivering to Venezuelans and the international community a progress report on the "Dialogue Tables" being promoted by Presidential Commission for National Dialogue. Valero also quoted from the President's weekly broadcast last July 28, emphasizing the need for dialogue to "reflect and embody the will of the vast majority of Venezuelans."

The Permanent Council, the OAS' second highest decision-making body, also called on the government and all sectors of society as well as institutions in Venezuela to press towards "the national reconciliation that both the Venezuelan people and the international community yearn for," through dialogue and strict adherence to the Constitution.

Led by its Chairman, United States Ambassador Roger Noriega, the Permanent Council in the resolution also commended the Venezuelan government's initiatives to promote and conduct dialogue involving the opposition and all sectors of the society, with the assistance of the international community.