

**“Peace, Security and Cooperation” will be the Central Theme of the 40 OAS  
General Assembly in Peru**

March 30, 2010

The Minister of Foreign Affairs of Peru, José Antonio García Belaunde, today presented to the members of the Permanent Council of the Organization of American States (OAS) the theme “Peace, Security and Cooperation” which was proposed by his government for the 40 OAS General Assembly that will be held on June 6 to 8 in Lima.

In his presentation, the Peruvian minister explained that the proposal to host the 40 General Assembly was part of “a series of activities organized in Peru to show the country’s commitment to the inter-American system and institutions” and noted the significance that the proposed theme has for his country and for the rest of the hemisphere.

“The theme ‘Peace, Security and Cooperation’ calls upon countries to agree on efforts to limit spending on arms acquisition so that all of our efforts and resources can be focused on the solution of grave challenges such as poverty, illiteracy and the lack of basic services that affect our societies,” explained Minister García Belaunde, who added that “it is not possible that in South America arms transfers from 2005 – 2009 are one hundred and fifty percent greater than in the 2000 – 2004 period, and that in 2008 Latin America budgeted 38 billion dollars for arms purchases, when such resources could be used to face the challenges already mentioned.”

Referring to important achievements reached by governments of the region in the last year, mainly in the economic and social sectors, García Belaunde called for countries of the region “to prioritize the efforts of working together to avoid wasteful expenditures that not only divert resources from development but also generate an environment of distrust in our societies.” We hope that the XL General Assembly in Lima will allow us to improve the climate of trust among our countries through a more intense dialogue on how to strengthen peace, security and cooperation,” he concluded.

During the special session of the Permanent Council, OAS Assistant Secretary General, Albert Ramdin thanked the Minister of Peru for his visit, and asserted that “the OAS joins to the spirit expressed by the government of Peru of putting our utmost efforts to ensure that the meeting in the Peruvian capital be a complete success, and that it can have a positive impact for the countries of the hemisphere.”