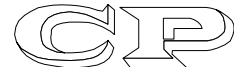


CONSEJO PERMANENTE



OEA/Ser.G
CP/ACTA 1257/00
1 diciembre 2000

ACTA
DE LA SESIÓN ORDINARIA
CELEBRADA
EL 1 DE DICIEMBRE DE 2000

Aprobada en la sesión del 13 de agosto de 2001

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DOCUMENTOS CONSIDERADOS EN LA SESIÓN
(SE PUBLICAN POR SEPARADO)

CP/doc.3369/00 add. 1, Proyecto de resolución “Apoyo al proceso de negociación entre los Gobiernos de Belice y Guatemala”

CP/doc.3377/00, Proyecto de resolución sobre lineamientos para el funcionamiento del Fondo de Paz: Solución pacífica de controversias territoriales

CP/doc.3374/00, Informe sobre el estado de ejecución de las recomendaciones formuladas por la Oficina del Inspector General en 1999

CP/doc.3373/00 corr. 1, Informe de la Secretaría General sobre el estado de cuotas y contribuciones al Fondo Regular al 31 de octubre de 2000

CP/doc.3378/00, Nota del Secretario General sobre la situación de liquidez del Fondo Regular de la Organización de los Estados Americanos

CP/doc.3376/00, Promoción de los temas de la niñez y la adolescencia en las Américas: Marco conceptual para la preparación de la Tercera Cumbre de las Américas

CONSEJO PERMANENTE DE LA ORGANIZACIÓN DE LOS ESTADOS AMERICANOS

ACTA DE LA SESIÓN ORDINARIA CELEBRADA EL 1 DE DICIEMBRE DE 2000

En la ciudad de Washington, a las diez y treinta de la mañana del viernes 1 de diciembre de 2000, celebró sesión ordinaria el Consejo Permanente de la Organización de los Estados Americanos. Presidió la sesión el Embajador Peter M. Boehm, Representante Permanente del Canadá y Presidente del Consejo Permanente. Asistieron los siguientes miembros:

Embajador M.A. Odeen Ishmael, Representante Permanente de Guyana
Embajador Denis G. Antoine, Representante Permanente de Grenada
Embajador Lionel Alexander Hurst, Representante Permanente de Antigua y Barbuda
Embajadora Laura Elena Núñez de Ponce, Representante Permanente de Honduras
Embajador Claude Heller, Representante Permanente de México
Embajador Luis Alfredo Ramos, Representante Permanente de Colombia
Embajador Álvaro J. Sevilla Siero, Representante Permanente de Nicaragua
Embajadora Virginia Contreras, Representante Permanente de Venezuela
Embajador Diego Abente Brun, Representante Permanente del Paraguay
Embajador Luis J. Lauredo, Representante Permanente de los Estados Unidos
Embajadora Margarita Escobar, Representante Permanente de El Salvador
Embajador Marcelo Ostria Trigo, Representante Permanente de Bolivia
Embajador Juan José Arcuri, Representante Permanente de la Argentina
Embajador Valter Pecky Moreira, Representante Permanente del Brasil
Embajador Esteban Tomic Errázuriz, Representante Permanente de Chile
Embajador Blasco Peñaherrera, Representante Permanente del Ecuador
Embajador Juan Enrique Fischer, Representante Permanente del Uruguay
Embajadora Lisa Shoman, Representante Permanente de Belice
Embajador Juan Manuel Castulovich, Representante Permanente de Panamá
Ministro Consejero Jean Ricot Dorméus, Representante Interino de Haití
Embajador Ramón Quiñones, Representante Interino de la República Dominicana
Ministro Consejero Kevin M. Isaac, Representante Interino de Saint Kitts y Nevis
Ministro Consejero Francisco J. Chacón Hernández, Representante Interino de Costa Rica
Primera Secretaria Edda D. Dumont-Adolph, Representante Alterna del Commonwealth de las Bahamas
Ministra Consejera Alma Gladys Cordero López, Representante Alterna de Guatemala
Consejera María de Fátima Trigoso, Representante Alterna del Perú
Consejera Renata E. Wielgosz, Representante Alterna del Canadá
Ministra Vilma McNish, Representante Alterna de Jamaica
Primera Secretaria Martha Louis Auguste, Representante Alterna de Santa Lucía
Primera Secretaria Jennifer Marchand, Representante Alterna de Trinidad y Tobago
Primer Secretario Philip St. Hill, Representante Alterno de Barbados
Segundo Secretario Henry Leonard Mac-Donald, Representante Alterno de Suriname
Ministro Consejero Dwight Bramble, Representante Alterno de San Vicente y las Granadinas

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

El PRESIDENTE: I am pleased to call to order this regular meeting of the Permanent Council, convened to consider the items on the order of business, document CP/OD.1257/00.

REELECCIÓN DEL PRIMER MINISTRO DEL CANADÁ

El PRESIDENTE: I am pleased to inform the Council that the Right Honorable Jean Chrétien was reelected Prime Minister of Canada for a third time on November 27. Prime Minister Chrétien will lead a majority government through the next Summit of the Americas and beyond. It is hoped that his reelection will bring economic and continued social stability and continuity to our country and will strengthen even more Canada's diplomatic relations in international forums, particularly with the countries of the Americas.

TOMA DE POSESIÓN DEL NUEVO PRESIDENTE DE MÉXICO

El PRESIDENTE: I also extend the congratulations of the Council to the Permanent Mission of Mexico on the assumption of office today of His Excellency Vicente Fox, President of Mexico. We wish him all the very best as head of his country's government.

ELECCIONES EN HAITÍ

El PRESIDENTE: Finally, I would like to note that Haiti held presidential elections on November 26, a matter which I gather will be touched upon under "Other business."

CONSIDERACIÓN DE LA RESOLUCIÓN "APOYO AL PROCESO DE NEGOCIACIÓN ENTRE LOS GOBIERNOS DE BELICE Y GUATEMALA"

El PRESIDENTE: Let us refer now to item 1 on the order of business, the consideration of the draft resolution entitled "Support to the Process of Negotiations between the Governments of Belize and Guatemala," contained in document CP/doc.3368/00 add. 1.

As you may recall, at its regular meeting on November 8, the Permanent Council considered the note from the permanent missions of Belize and Guatemala, as well as a draft resolution entitled, "Support for the Process of Negotiations between the Governments of Belize and Guatemala," CP/doc.3369/00. At that time, the Council decided to approve the draft resolution ad referendum subject, however, to rewording of the text, bearing in mind comments made by delegations. The General Secretariat was instructed by the Permanent Council to include a reference to resolution AG/RES. 1756 (XXX-O/00), "Fund for Peace: Peaceful Settlement of Territorial Disputes."

Accordingly, the General Secretariat has included this reference in the text of the draft resolution in document CP/doc.3369/00 add. 1. The suggested text was discussed with and accepted by the parties involved. The Chair therefore suggests that the Council approve the amendment as it appears in the draft resolution. There being no objections, it so agreed.

I recognize the Representative of Belize.

La REPRESENTANTE PERMANENTE DE BELICE: Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

I would like to thank the staff of the Secretariat for their hard work and everyone here for their support for this process. I would especially like to thank Chris Hernández Roy, who showed a lot of patience and forbearance in helping us put this together. I would especially like to thank Ambassador Laredo, on behalf of not only my delegation but also the Delegation of Guatemala, if they will allow me, for his intervention. I am thankful for our mutual cooperation in seeing this very important matter put to bed. We look forward to receiving moral support and support for the fund from all of you.

Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

El PRESIDENTE: Thank you, Ambassador Shoman. If there are no other comments on this item, we will consider the draft resolution approved. Approved.^{1/}

PROYECTO DE RESOLUCIÓN SOBRE LINEAMIENTOS PARA
EL FUNCIONAMIENTO DEL FONDO DE PAZ:
SOLUCIÓN PACÍFICA DE CONTROVERSIAS TERRITORIALES

El PRESIDENTE: Item 2 on the order of business refers to the draft resolution entitled “Guidelines for the Operation of the Fund for Peace: Peaceful Settlement of Territorial Disputes,” document CP/doc.3377/00.

The General Assembly, by means of resolution AG/RES. 1756 (XXX-O/00), created the Fund for Peace to provide member states that so request with the financial resources to assist in defraying the costs of proceedings previously agreed to by the parties for the peaceful resolution of territorial disputes among member states. The General Assembly also instructed the Permanent Council to establish guidelines for the operation of said fund before October 31, 2000.

Following lengthy discussions in meetings of the informal working group chaired by the Chair of the Permanent Council, delegations reached an agreement on the draft guidelines. The draft resolution with the attached draft guidelines are now under consideration. The floor is open to delegations who wish to speak to this point.

The Representative of El Salvador has the floor.

La REPRESENTANTE PERMANENTE DE EL SALVADOR: Gracias, señor Presidente. En primer lugar, permítame expresar nuestra complacencia porque este Consejo se encuentre considerando el punto relativo al proyecto de resolución sobre los Lineamientos para el Funcionamiento del Fondo de Paz: Solución Pacífica de Controversias Territoriales. Estamos seguros de que con su aprobación se evidenciará el compromiso de todos los Estados Miembros con los propósitos consagrados en la Carta de la Organización, referidos a prevenir las posibles causas de dificultades y asegurar la solución pacífica de controversias que surjan entre los Estados Miembros y

1. Resolución CP/RES. 780 (1257/00), anexa.

de esa manera afianzar la paz y la seguridad del Hemisferio. Asimismo, se ratifica la vigencia del principio de que las controversias de carácter internacional que surjan entre Estados americanos deben ser resueltas por medio de procedimientos pacíficos.

Mi Delegación visualiza este Fondo como una forma de propiciar la integración, la paz y el desarrollo de nuestros pueblos. Por ello el uso de los recursos del Fondo General y los subfondos deberán ser utilizados en ese sentido, de una manera transparente e integradora, evitando situaciones en que su uso pudiera ser concebido de una manera distinta a la finalidad del mismo. Esta es la visión que tenemos sobre la letra y el espíritu del proyecto de resolución que se encuentra sobre la mesa.

Dicho proyecto posibilita, además, que este Consejo Permanente cumpla con lo encomendado por la Asamblea General de Windsor en la resolución AG/RES. 1756 (XXX-O/00). Con ello la Organización se coloca a la vanguardia en materia de mecanismos para canalizar aportes financieros de donantes, que así lo soliciten, para prestar asistencia en el cubrimiento de los costos inherentes a los procedimientos previamente acordados por las partes en la solución pacífica de controversias territoriales entre Estados Miembros.

Una vez más el Secretario General y este Consejo Permanente tendremos la oportunidad de reforzar los principios de neutralidad e imparcialidad que han caracterizado la actuación de nuestra Organización en este caso en lo relativo a las decisiones atinentes al Fondo.

Todos sabemos que las negociaciones no fueron necesariamente fáciles, en materias en las que se juega todo el prestigio de nuestra Organización. El acento se ha colocado sobre el control de calidad de los productos que emanen de las negociaciones y no sobre el cumplimiento forzado de plazos, que no es un fin en sí mismo.

No debíamos pensar solo en el corto plazo, perdiendo de vista el bosque y la perspectiva que estamos obligados a preservar, es decir, el desarrollo, la integración y la paz.

Durante las negociaciones nuestras propuestas de modificaciones al texto estuvieron siempre orientadas a perfilar adecuadamente sus lineamientos evitando con ello interpretaciones y abonando a ese control de calidad para que las directrices del Fondo estén a la altura de su objeto. Las sugerencias de mi Delegación siempre se inscribieron en esa línea propositiva, que además caracteriza nuestros aportes a los temas de la agenda interamericana, trátense de corrupción, igualdad de género, derechos humanos o cualquier otro tópico.

El bosque al que me referí es patrimonio de todos. Él nos estimula a fortalecer nuestros lazos de hermandad en la búsqueda de un nuevo orden interamericano. Ese es el verdadero sentido de la solidaridad en las Américas.

Dentro de unos minutos el Fondo será de todos. Los Estados tienen la responsabilidad de utilizarlo con transparencia sin perder de vista el propósito para el cual está siendo creado.

Esto ha sido posible, señor Presidente, gracias al concurso de todas las delegaciones que participamos en las negociaciones del mismo; a la asesoría de la Secretaría General; a las consultas desarrolladas por el Secretario General Adjunto, el Embajador Luigi Einaudi; y al apoyo, receptividad,

consulta y tacto desplegados por usted, señor Presidente, y por los cuales le reiteramos nuestros agradecimientos.

Muchísimas gracias.

El PRESIDENTE: Thank you, Ambassador Escobar.

I give the floor to the distinguished Representative of Mexico.

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

Agradezco la presentación de este proyecto de resolución, que pone fin a la negociación de un tema planteado originalmente por la Delegación de Honduras en Windsor, durante la Asamblea General. Creo que se trata de un proyecto de resolución sólido, que va encaminado en buena dirección.

Sin embargo, mi Delegación quisiera hacer dos observaciones sobre el artículo 4, llamado "Distribuciones". Tenemos dos sugerencias en la segunda línea. Este artículo dice que el Secretario General examinará cada solicitud de asignación de recursos del Fondo General y de los subfondos. Nuestra sugerencia es que la siguiente línea diga: "El Secretario General, en consulta con los Estados partes involucrados en una controversia...", y seguiría igual a como aparece en el texto. Nos parece importante que se diga "en consulta" porque, si no, daría la impresión de que se abriría la puerta para un veto en el caso de que algún país desee recurrir al Fondo; y, "Estados partes involucrados en una controversia", porque creo que aclararía mucho sobre el asunto del que estamos tratando.

Gracias, señor Presidente.

El PRESIDENTE: Thank you, Ambassador Heller. I draw everyone's attention to the proposal made by the Representative of Mexico. I will ask the Secretariat to read it out slowly so that it can be captured by the interpreters in all of our languages.

La SECRETARÍA: Gracias, señor Presidente. El artículo 4, con la enmienda sugerida, leería: [Lee:] "El Secretario General examinará, en consulta con los Estados partes involucrados en una controversia, cada solicitud de asignación de recursos del Fondo General y de los subfondos". Todo lo demás continúa exactamente como aparece en el texto. Es todo, señor Presidente.

El PRESIDENTE: Thank you. The floor is open to those who may wish to comment. The Ambassador of Mexico on a point....

El REPRESENTANTE PERMANENTE DE MÉXICO: La propuesta que hicimos es para la segunda frase: "El Secretario General, en consulta con los Estados partes involucrados en una controversia, adoptará la decisión...". Gracias.

El PRESIDENTE: Thank you, Ambassador, for that clarification. I would ask the Secretariat to read it again, emphasizing the correct placement of the amendment proposed by the Representative of Mexico.

La SECRETARÍA: Gracias, señor Presidente. Mis disculpas al señor Embajador de México. El párrafo lee: [Lee:] “El Secretario General examinará cada solicitud de asignación de recursos del Fondo General y de los subfondos. El Secretario General, en consulta con los Estados partes involucrados en una controversia, adoptará la decisión...”. El texto continúa igual a como aparece en el documento. Es todo, señor.

El PRESIDENTE: Thank you. The distinguished Representative of the United States has the floor.

El REPRESENTANTE PERMANENTE DE LOS ESTADOS UNIDOS: ^{2/}... involved enormous amounts of time, energy, and consultation under the Committee on Juridical and Political Affairs (CAJP) or wherever it was, and all member states made an input in that process. Let me rephrase: I would like to have this in writing. Could the Secretariat quickly type in English what has been suggested so that I can read it in its entirety? I was prepared to move that the draft be accepted as presented, and I thought it had been properly digested and most of the delegations had consulted on it.

El PRESIDENTE: Thank you, Ambassador. I ask the Secretariat to accede to the Ambassador's request. Let's put that line in writing for the benefit of the delegations. In the meantime, I suggest that we move to the next item on our order of business. With the agreement of the Council, we will come back to that as soon as we conclude the next item and the paper is circulated.

INFORME VERBAL DEL PRESIDENTE DE LA COMISION ESPECIAL
SOBRE GESTIÓN DE CUMBRES INTERAMERICANAS
ACERCA DE LA XX REUNIÓN DEL GRUPO DE REVISION E
IMPLEMENTACIÓN DE CUMBRES (GRIC)

El PRESIDENTE DE LA COMISIÓN ESPECIAL SOBRE GESTIÓN DE CUMBRES INTERAMERICANAS: En tant que Président de la Commission spéciale sur la gestion des sommets interaméricains, j'ai le plaisir de faire rapport à ce conseil du déroulement de la vingtième session du Groupe de suivi des Sommets (GSS), qui s'est tenue à Washington ces trois derniers jours au siège social de la Banque interaméricaine de développement.

Beaucoup d'entre vous ont eu le plaisir de retrouver leurs collègues de l'OEA dans des séances de rédaction du plan d'action consacré à la démocratie et aux droits humains, à la sécurité continentale, à l'éducation, ou à la santé, par exemple. J'aimerais d'ailleurs souligner que l'expérience de mes collègues de l'OEA et des autres coordinateurs nationaux, jumelée à l'expertise de nombreux représentants sectoriels de tous les gouvernements, a permis des discussions substantielles et des progrès importants, notamment sur la connectivité ainsi que les chapitres « Renforcer la Démocratie » et « Réaliser le potentiel humain. »

Une discussion des plus intéressantes sur la structure de gestion du Groupe de suivi des Sommets s'est conclue par un accord pour l'expansion de la Troïka et l'inclusion en son sein de représentants de chacune des régions du continent, conjointement avec des représentants de pays

2. Grabación defectuosa.

hôtes de sommets. Les pays des Amériques se sont quittés fermement convaincus que cette nouvelle structure permettra un maximum d'efficacité, de représentativité et de continuité du processus.

En conclusion, j'aimerais informer ce Conseil que le Groupe de suivi des Sommets a décidé de se réunir à nouveau à Washington les 29 et 31 janvier prochains, à l'OEA, pour accueillir les coordinateurs nationaux des gouvernements nouvellement élus dans le continent et finaliser les premier et troisième chapitres du plan d'action. Tous ces développements vont dans le sens de la résolution adoptée par ce Conseil lors de sa précédente séance, et appelant à un plus grand rapprochement entre le processus interaméricain et celui du Sommet. J'invite tous les représentants permanents ici présents à renforcer leurs contacts avec leurs capitales et les ministères concernés pour assurer une excellente participation des délégations, avec des instructions claires et flexibles pour la prochaine réunion en janvier.

J'aimerais aussi adresser des félicitations toutes spéciales aux pays de la CARICOM. L'excellente préparation et collaboration entre les 15 pays de la CARICOM a eu une influence positive très visible sur l'avancement des travaux de négociations. En tant que Président de la CEGCI, j'encourage les autres sous-régions à tenir des réunions préparatoires similaires au sujet des paragraphes entre crochets qui demeurent dans les deux premiers chapitres et en prévision des discussions subséquentes sur le deuxième chapitre « Créer la Prospérité. »

Dans ce contexte, j'ai un plaisir particulier à annoncer à ce Conseil que le Groupe de suivi des Sommets a répondu favorablement à la généreuse invitation de la Barbade à tenir sa réunion suivante dans ce pays, la semaine du 5 au 9 mars 2001. La réunion du mois de mars portera sur ce deuxième chapitre ainsi que sur une première version de la déclaration. Une version préliminaire de « Créer la Prospérité » sera mise à la disposition des délégations par le Canada à la mi-janvier. Nous invitons fortement tous les gouvernements à acheminer leurs suggestions de changements rapidement, pour qu'elles soient intégrées à ce document de travail avant la prochaine réunion et que l'on puisse ainsi se concentrer sur les points de controverse seulement.

Je vous remercie de votre attention et j'aimerais maintenant offrir la parole aux délégations qui souhaitent intervenir sur ce sujet. Merci. [Pausa.]

S'il n'y a pas d'autres observations, la Présidence suggère que ce Conseil prenne note du report verbal présenté par le Président de la Commission sur la gestion des Sommets interaméricains, votre serviteur.

Le Représentant de l'Uruguay a la parole.

El REPRESENTANTE PERMANENTE DEL URUGUAY: Pido disculpas al señor Presidente. Como usted recordará, en las reuniones de ayer trabajamos en distintos grupos paralelos y en el transcurso de las decisiones definitivas que se adoptaron hay un elemento que me gustaría aclarar.

Señor Presidente, la expansión de la "Troika" se haría con representantes de grupos regionales, ¿Existe la posibilidad de que eso sea "open-ended", o queda simplemente conformado con los representantes de grupos regionales?

El PRESIDENTE: Thank you for that question, Ambassador. In order to answer it, I will give the floor to our colleague from the United States, who is also the National Summit Coordinator for his country. As you know, for most of the two days I was tied up in a negotiating session that did not address this particular question.

The question, Ambassador Lauredo, is: In the expansion of the Troika, is this mechanism open-ended? You have the floor.

El REPRESENTANTE PERMANENTE DE LOS ESTADOS UNIDOS: As was clearly and eloquently outlined by our leader, Ambassador Lortie, the effort to expand the Troika was born out of the request of several delegations for broader participation. We will cease using the word "Troika" henceforth and we will refer to it as the new Executive Council of the Summit. It is an excellent framework that takes care of a delicate balance between representation of all of the regional groups, with extreme sensitivity to regional groups' language considerations, and the need for efficiency. The Summit of the Americas encompasses a lot of things, but it is an event that needs to get done on a specific date. It cannot be a speaking society.

The Canadian Sherpa, Marc Lortie, came up with what I thought was an excellent compromise that is reflective, fair, and inclusive of all past and future summit host countries, because he and most delegations wanted to draw upon the experience. There is nothing like doing it in order to learn.

I thought it was an excellent presentation, and yesterday he and the Group adopted it by consensus. He explained that it is not intended to replace the supremacy of the Summit Implementation Review Group (SIRG). In fact, it is an executive council of the SIRG that can act more quickly regarding recommendations, organizing the agenda, arranging logistics, and in supporting the host country. He made it perfectly clear, however, that inclusion was one of its driving philosophies, so member states that are not legal members of the Executive Council can attend and participate in a meeting.

I gave you a long answer so that you have a full understanding. The sure answer is yes, it is inclusive in that when the meetings are called, non-Executive Council members are welcome to participate, because the important spirit here is the inclusion of groups. That was the way it was approved yesterday.

El PRESIDENTE: Thank you, Ambassador, for helping the Chair on this one. I give the floor to the Representative of Uruguay.

El REPRESENTANTE PERMANENTE DEL URUGUAY: Gracias, señor Presidente. Estoy muy satisfecho con la respuesta que me ha dado el señor Embajador de los Estados Unidos. Gracias.

El PRESIDENTE: Thank you. The distinguished Representative of Guyana has the floor.

El REPRESENTANTE PERMANENTE DE GUYANA: Thank you very much, Mr. Chairman.

I would just want to seize this opportunity to make a couple of comments on the decision of the XX Meeting of the Summit Implementation Review Group (SIRG) to expand the Troika, which our colleague from the United States explained.

As you know, Mr. Chairman, the CARICOM group was one of those that made initial suggestions for the expansion of the Troika, and we very much welcome the decision that was taken yesterday. We feel, as you clearly stated, that it will bring all the regions and subregions of this hemisphere into more active participation in the work of the Summit process. By having an Executive Council, we will find that the entire Summit process will be seen as a living process, something that will not be very far divorced from the peoples of our hemisphere.

In addition, CARICOM also suggested that this expanded Troika, which will include representatives of the various subregions represented in this hemisphere, be responsible for overseeing the implementation process of the Summit of the Americas.

Mr. Chairman, I also wish to comment briefly on the OAS Summit follow-up process. As you know, the Special Committee on Inter-American Summits Management (CEGCI) has been meeting between the SIRG meetings. We feel that this is very important, because the OAS's Summit follow-up process examines the proposed agenda for upcoming SIRG meetings and does quite a lot of preparation. This makes a SIRG meeting very easy to go through, because much of the background work is done in the Special Committee which, I believe, supplements the work of the SIRG.

On this point, I want to congratulate you, Mr. Chairman, for your work in that Special Committee and for bringing on board the ideas of civil society. As we all know, civil society has been making a very great impact in presenting its ideas and moving the process forward.

Thank you very much.

El PRESIDENTE: Thank you, Ambassador Ishmael. Your comments have been carefully noted and your compliments appreciated.

I recognize the distinguished Representative of Antigua and Barbuda.

El REPRESENTANTE PERMANENTE DE ANTIGUA Y BARBUDA: Thank you very much, Mr. Chairman.

I take the floor to repeat an idea that we have allowed to circulate among member states before. We thought that in an effort to sell it, we would take this opportunity to repeat it. You have indicated that on December 8 when we hold our special meeting on priorities, we will have an opportunity to air it once more. We are making reference, Mr. Chairman, to the creation of a specific fund of \$8 million that will allow the OAS to play a more substantive role in the Summit implementation process.

We also indicated at the last Permanent Council meeting that one of our fears was that existing funded programs within the OAS budget might be cannibalized in order for the OAS to play a more meaningful role within the Summit implementation process. We believe that one way to save

those sacred cows from slaughter is to create a specific fund that would allow Summit implementation by the OAS to take place in a more expanded and funded manner.

We are taking the opportunity to repeat this today, knowing full well that next week Friday, when the opportunity presents itself, we will have painted a larger picture of what we have in mind. But we wanted it aired once more today so that member states can have an opportunity to digest it better when it is presented during our special Permanent Council meeting next week.

Thank you, sir.

El PRESIDENTE: Thank you, Ambassador Hurst; your comments have been carefully noted. If there are no other comments on this item, we will consider it closed.

PROYECTO DE RESOLUCIÓN SOBRE LINEAMIENTOS PARA
EL FUNCIONAMIENTO DEL FONDO DE PAZ:
SOLUCIÓN PACÍFICA DE CONTROVERSIAS TERRITORIALES
(CONTINUACIÓN)

El PRESIDENTE: I'd like to move back to item 2. We have circulated in English and in Spanish the proposed amendment to Article 4.1 of the guidelines by the Delegation of Mexico. Every delegation should have it. It is the view of Chair that this amendment provides an added amount of precision to the guidelines.

I would ask the Representative of the United States, who suggested that this amendment be circulated, whether he agrees with it. While the Representative of the United States is considering that, I give the floor to the distinguished Representative of Panama.

El REPRESENTANTE PERMANENTE DE PANAMÁ: Muchas gracias, señor Presidente. Quiero hacer una observación de forma: aunque en la propuesta del distinguido Representante de México no se toca este punto específicamente, me llama la atención por qué se utiliza la expresión "Estados Partes" en mayúscula.

Cuando esa expresión se utiliza para hacer referencia a Estados partes en un convenio o tratado, se sustituye la expresión más larga de "Estados Partes de la convención" o "Estados Partes del tratado" por la simple de "Estados Partes", y queda sobreentendido a qué se está haciendo referencia. Si el señor Embajador de México está de acuerdo, dado que es su enmienda, creo que la frase podría leer: "El Secretario General, en consulta con los Estados involucrados en una controversia..." y continuaría igual.

Esa es la propuesta que hago, específicamente, y entiendo que el señor Embajador de México la encuentra apropiada. Gracias.

El PRESIDENTE: Thank you, Ambassador. We will come back to that.

I give the floor to the distinguished Representative of Venezuela.

La REPRESENTANTE PERMANENTE DE VENEZUELA: Gracias, señor Presidente.

La Delegación de Venezuela no encuentra ningún inconveniente en apoyar la idea del señor Embajador de México pero quisiera hacer una sugerencia. Cuando se hace referencia a la siguiente oración: “El Secretario General, en consulta con los Estados Partes involucrados en una controversia,” pensamos que debería aclararse que se trata de la controversia en cuestión. No es una controversia en general, es una controversia específica, porque pudiera presentarse la situación en que existan varias controversias entre algunos Estados.

Entonces, quisiera solicitar ayuda del señor Embajador de México, para ver si se puede conseguir una expresión que haga referencia específica a la controversia que en ese momento tienen los Estados que requieren ese tipo de colaboración o contribución.

Muchas gracias.

El PRESIDENTE: Thank you, Ambassador. We have a suggestion by the Representative of Venezuela, as well as a proposal by the Representative of Panama to slightly amend the original proposal by the Representative of Mexico, who has accepted the Delegation of Panama's proposal. We have a suggested formulation to meet the concerns of the Representative of Venezuela and perhaps the Council.

First, I give the floor to the Representative of the United States.

El REPRESENTANTE PERMANENTE DE LOS ESTADOS UNIDOS: Mr. Chairman, let's see if we can move on, because my introductory remarks are right on mark: once you start down the slippery road.... An awful lot of work has gone into this.

The U.S. Delegation has no problem with this last-minute addition of the words “consultation in the dispute” proposed by the Representative of Mexico, nor do we have a problem with the grammatical change to delete the words “parties,” because it is redundant. It also reads well in English. If the distinguished Ambassador of Mexico accepts the Ambassador of Panama's deletion of “parties” and “*partes*,” we are prepared to accept the amendment by the Delegation of Mexico.

El PRESIDENTE: Thank you, Ambassador. The Ambassador of Mexico is indicating his agreement, and I thank him.

With respect to the request made by the Ambassador of Venezuela, I am working from the Spanish text here, so the *hispanoparlantes* can correct me. If we put “*la*” in front of “*controversia*” instead of “*una*,” does that help us? “*En la controversia*.” Thank you.

Would the Secretariat please read the amended phrase?

La SECRETARÍA: Con gusto, señor Presidente. En español, leería: [Lee:] “El Secretario General, en consulta con los Estados involucrados en la controversia, adoptará ...”, y continúa igual. En inglés, leería: “*The Secretary General, in consultation with the states involved in the dispute,...*” y lo demás continúa igual. Gracias, señor Presidente.

El PRESIDENTE: The Representative of El Salvador has the floor.

La REPRESENTANTE PERMANENTE DE EL SALVADOR: Gracias, señor Presidente.

La verdad que, comenzar a reformar textos tan delicados en un formato como éste quizá no es del todo deseable. Solo quisiera llamar la atención sobre el primer considerando en donde se recoge el lenguaje de la resolución AG/RES. 1756 (XXX-O/00) y que dice que la finalidad será proveer recursos financieros a los Estados Miembros de la Organización, que así lo soliciten, para asistir a cubrir costos inherentes a los procedimientos previamente acordados por las partes en la solución pacífica de controversias territoriales.

Solo señalo esto, señor, y quisiera que me diera unos momentos para leer esto con un poco más de tranquilidad. Gracias.

El PRESIDENTE: Ambassador, thank you for your comments. I will offer you the minutes that you had asked for.

The Chair believes that this item is very close to final resolution. The amendment proposed by the Representative of Mexico was amended and accepted, and it is our intention to proceed with this particular item.

INFORME VERBAL DEL SECRETARIO EJECUTIVO DE LA CICAD

El PRESIDENTE: We will now move to item 4 on the order of business, the oral report by the Executive Secretary of the Inter-American Drug Abuse Control Commission (CICAD) on the Commission's twenty-eighth regular session, held in Trinidad and Tobago in October, and on the meeting of the Multilateral Evaluation Mechanism (MEM), held two weeks ago here in Washington. I give the floor to Mr. David Beall, the Executive Secretary of CICAD.

El SECRETARIO EJECUTIVO DE LA CICAD: Thank you very much, Mr. Chair.

I have a couple of reasons for being brief, the most important of which is the fact that the schedule that I am talking about has arrived at a time when brevity is dominant in everything.

Let me first refer to the meeting of the Commission in Trinidad and Tobago and the election of Trinidad and Tobago as Chair and Venezuela as Vice Chair for the coming year. There are a couple of things of overriding interest, and I want to start with displacement. We had an intense but productive and realistic discussion of the theme, which is extremely complex and encompasses many causes and effects. Obviously, not all of this has to do with drugs, but the bottom line for the delegates was getting at realities in a way that unites the Hemisphere to face a common hemispheric problem.

On the basis of this problem, we are working under the concept of shared responsibility. In the long run, we want to remove the idea of a safe haven for those who, in every sense of the word, are transgressing the laws and the borders of member states.

We are working with a definition that includes displacement of ideas through culture; displacement of money; displacement of drugs; displacement of people; and many other contexts. We will attempt to create a series of scenarios that will be presented to the CICAD plenary in May, with the objective of convoking a specialized meeting, probably at a very high level, to continue the issue and to recommend a specific path for solution.

I want to emphasize that the discussion was both intense and very realistic, and I think we have made a beginning, but I do not want to go beyond that. It was a beginning.

I think the other major point to emerge from the meeting in Trinidad and Tobago was the MEM itself. Once again, I am talking about the compression of time that we now face as we come to the end of the process. This was a key meeting for the plenary, because it was the first time that the plenary came directly into the process. As you know, the plenary will consider the national reports and the hemispheric report in December. Up to now, the experts have been doing the work. Thus, the meeting in Trinidad represented an opportunity for us to, in effect, begin a crossover so that the Commission will be fully briefed and fully familiar with the work and the methodology of the experts in December when all of this product arrives simultaneously.

We split the discussion into two sections, one on the state of the MEM and one on the actual work for December. A key factor in all this is the sense of identity that the MEM is acquiring. The second factor was the need for the Commission to begin considering possibilities coming out of the MEM. Once again, the MEM is not an end in itself, it is a means; the end is improved cooperation and coordination through specific actions. At the end of the analysis, you have recommendations that constitute specific expressions of better coordination and cooperation on this common theme.

The Commission had a very basic need for a lot of its questions to be answered. The experts spent so much time working on their reports that there are a multitude of rules and adopted behaviors that the Commission needs to understand as it begins to read these final reports.

We also had a strong need to communicate our recognition of how all of these steps come together in a very precise order—the series of negotiating steps that led to a final design and acceptance for the MEM, then to its implementation, then to the groups of experts doing their actual work, all in increasingly narrow timeframes, to the point where the last meeting of experts to produce the final report occurs only two weeks before the Commission needs those reports.

We spent about three hours on the state of the MEM for people to understand that it is still new territory, a new system with new ideas behind it. We needed to emphasize that because everything that we are talking about takes place in a context. We have a context from the past, and we are now trying to establish a multilateral cooperative effort in the Hemisphere with an entirely new philosophical basis.

The countries looking at the current status of the MEM as it comes to completion are interested in what it is producing. They're also interested in reviewing its methodology and indicators, which are complicated, and in renewing the process. Several countries expressed the need for more in-depth evaluation. That depth will come through a maturation process in time and in making the indicators increasingly sophisticated.

Eventually, the Commission hit upon a metaphor to describe what is taking place. The Commission's focus on the current first-round effort is like taking a photo of countries' work in the Hemisphere. We are establishing a point of reference. The deeper evaluation will come with a comparison between this photo, taken with data from 1999 and 2000, and another set of data that will come perhaps in 2001 or in some other time frame. It is essential that we have a point of reference, and that is what the current MEM effort is doing. We are setting the base.

This discussion began to focus on future problems for the Commission. The experts produced the reports, but the Commission will have to defend, support, and promote it. The Commission has spent some time thinking about marketing and its needs.

The Commission looked at the significance of the identity of the MEM. The significance can be described in four ways. First, it commands the full participation of all the countries in the Hemisphere, which is significant in itself. Second, it is a transparent process, meaning that all of its information is available to all participants at all times. Third, it was designed to be flexible—to evolve with time—because the problem is going to change. Fourth, it is ordered and has a plan. It was agreed to in advance; the countries know what is going to happen before the machinery begins to work. I think that is very useful, but it also causes problems, and I want to illustrate that.

Once you begin executing a plan, it is impossible to go back and change it. New issues arise, and sometimes there is an interest in having an instantaneous response. But the design of the data-collecting machinery does not respond to that particular issue. So while it's a forward-looking mechanism, it is also true that because it is all agreed in advance, it is difficult to simply throw in the very latest consideration.

But these four words—participation, transparency, flexibility, and order—identify the MEM and, I hope, will develop its identification in the public eye as time goes forward. If I had to add a fifth word, by the way, it would be “public.” The fact that these reports are going to be public will strengthen the reports and their reception on the long run.

As a footnote we could have done this separately by identifying a high-powered and high-priced firm of consultants and having them write the report for us. We could have spent a lot more money and received a glossier report, but we would have had neither participation nor agreement. It would have been a radically different situation.

The discussion ended up emphasizing that at this point, the MEM is not the best, but it's a first effort and a good one. It's also important that the commissions recognize that this is a risk.

Our other discussion was on the work for December. Having absorbed everything from the initial discussion, some thinking began to emerge on what this will mean for the future. The delegates emphasized the fact that this will be a permanent process; that it will be done in a credible way; and that—though it may seem minor, but it is not—we will have to train the people who work with the questionnaires, because precision is all important. The experts have a difficult time dealing with responses that are ambiguous, so training is needed at both ends.

In looking ahead to December, the Commission began to think about its own plan for presenting this to the Summit. There is a great deal of information; some of the recommendations,

especially at the hemispheric level, are significant, and the manner of delivery to the Summit is going to be important. So, they will be thinking about that and working on it in December.

This is a technical point, but should the MEM continue to move into the future, we will have to make an adjustment to the Statute, and we discussed that as well.

I want to focus for just one second on the Mexican encapsulation of what we are going to do in December, because I believe that it presents, in very brief order, the heart of all this. We are going to present the documents nationally, then the hemispheric report, and we will be discussing them all. The purpose, of course, is consideration and approval. Then the meeting will move into a discussion on the follow-up to all this, both by CICAD and by the states. We'll then evaluate the process since Santiago and the experience of the experts. In other words, we'll look at what the experts, those who receive the end product of all the negotiations, believe is necessary for the future. Then, of course, as I mentioned earlier, there will be a period of direct consideration of how we will transform this into a presentation that makes sense in the context of the Summit.

That was at the end of October, and then two weeks ago we finished the last meeting of the experts. At that meeting, the experts reviewed everything that they had done, particularly the second round of country comments on the drafts, and put the reports into what they believe is their final state for presentation to the Commission. In addition, on the basis of all the work thus far and consolidating everything that has been done, the experts drafted the hemispheric report. So those two products, one consisting of 34 national reports and one consisting of the hemispheric deal, are ready.

The group of experts was able to meet its commitments, they worked hard, and they had no extra time. In fact, although we had wanted to begin the discussion of their own recommendations for the process during this meeting, there simply was no time to do it. I hope that experts are going to be included on national delegations for the December meeting, and I have written a letter to this effect. If the commissioners have questions, the experts would be the best source for answers.

The product that the Summit called for in April 1998 is now ready, and we are down to the point of deciding exactly how to deliver it. We are on schedule, and I think we have a realistic product, but the point I made about marketing and about credibility is basic. We will have to not only defend ourselves but promote ourselves in the context that I signaled. This is not an effort aimed at headlines; rather, it is aimed at making progress. We will take it to the next step, and I hope to have an opportunity to report to you on that later.

Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

El PRESIDENTE: Thank you very much, Mr. Beall, for that comprehensive oral report.

The floor is open to delegations who may wish to comment. I recognize the distinguished Representative of Colombia.

El REPRESENTANTE PERMANENTE DE COLOMBIA: Muchas gracias, señor Presidente.

Para Colombia resulta de gran satisfacción la culminación de la ronda de prueba del Mecanismo de Evaluación Multilateral. Por eso a través del señor David Beall, Secretario Ejecutivo de la CICAD, queremos expresar a la Comisión y al Grupo de Expertos Gubernamentales encargado de adelantar la evaluación la más sincera felicitación por el trabajo desarrollado en cumplimiento del mandato presidencial expresado en la Segunda Cumbre de las Américas celebrada en la ciudad de Santiago, Chile, en 1998.

Para mi país la creación de este mecanismo tuvo una especial importancia. Significa el reconocimiento internacional sobre la naturaleza transnacional del problema de las drogas el cual exige un tratamiento multilateral.

Desde los años setenta Colombia ha promovido internacionalmente los principios de responsabilidad compartida, integridad en el tratamiento del problema y cooperación internacional. Por ello reconoció en la negociación, aprobación y puesta en marcha de este instrumento la aceptación en el Hemisferio de estos principios fundamentales que hoy rigen las acciones para enfrentar el problema de las drogas en todas sus manifestaciones.

No obstante, mi Gobierno sabe que el mecanismo se encuentra en una etapa embrionaria y, como tal, tiene aspectos que pueden corregirse y mejorarse tanto en su concepción como en el proceso desarrollado. Por ello, consideramos no menos importante la etapa de revisión del proceso que se cumplirá en los próximos días durante el primer período extraordinario de sesiones de la CICAD, cuando también se considerarán los informes nacionales y el hemisférico. La profundidad de las rectificaciones y mejoras que se le introduzcan permitirán que se convierta en un instrumento efectivo de cooperación para fortalecer las acciones contra las drogas en la región.

Nos congratulamos por este gran avance, que es un resultado del consenso y que le ha dado al Hemisferio una posición de liderazgo en el mundo para enfrentar el problema desde una perspectiva global y, sobre todo, con la cooperación como principal herramienta de acción.

Muchas gracias, señor Presidente.

El PRESIDENTE: Thank you, Ambassador Ramos. The Representative of Trinidad and Tobago has the floor.

La REPRESENTANTE ALTERNA DE TRINIDAD Y TOBAGO: Thank you very much, Mr. Chairman.

My delegation thanks Mr. David Beall for his oral presentation on the XX Regular Session of the Inter-American Drug Abuse Control Commission (CICAD), which was held in Port-of-Spain in October. As host of the meeting, the Government of Trinidad and Tobago was pleased to welcome the member states of the OAS to Port-of-Spain.

We also express our gratitude to those General Secretariat staff who assisted our governmental authorities with the preparations for the meeting and whose contribution in no small way ensured the smooth functioning and success of the meeting.

Allow me to express Trinidad and Tobago's appreciation to those member states who supported Mr. Lancelot Selman, our candidate, for Chairman of CICAD. We also extend our congratulations to the Government of Venezuela, whose candidate was elected Vice Chair of the Commission at that meeting.

Mr. Chairman, CICAD is an area of cooperation of special significance for Trinidad and Tobago. Whilst government has embarked on a series initiatives at the national level, we recognize that national efforts in this area can have but limited effect. Drug trafficking is among those pressing issues that constitute transnational challenges. These issues have no passports and are difficult, if not impossible, for states to solve alone. It is for this reason that Trinidad and Tobago values greatly its membership in CICAD and participates in its program of activities.

We are very heartened by the work completed to date on the Multilateral Evaluation Mechanism (MEM), and we wish at this time to express our unwavering support for the work conducted on it. We look forward to the meeting in December, the evaluation of the progress achieved by the MEM, as well as the implementation of the recommendations emanating therefrom. We concur with Mr. Beall that the ingredients of participation, transparency, flexibility, and order will, indeed, enhance the functioning of the MEM.

At this time allow me to express the appreciation of my government to the Executive Secretariat for the cooperation we have received in other CICAD activities; namely, demand reduction, supply reduction, and institution building.

Trinidad and Tobago has consistently supported adequate financing for CICAD, and we will state this at next week's special meeting of the Permanent Council when we will consider the priorities of the Organization.

Finally, I wish to state that we are ready to cooperate with other OAS member states with a view to exchange information or engage in joint activities that could assist in eradicating the menace of drug trafficking from our hemisphere.

Thank you very much, Mr. Chairman.

El PRESIDENTE: Thank you very much for that important statement by the host member state of the meeting. I give the floor to the Representative of Ecuador.

El REPRESENTANTE PERMANENTE DEL ECUADOR: Gracias, señor Presidente.

Mi Delegación quiere dejar constancia, en primer término, de su reconocimiento al importante informe presentado por el señor Secretario Ejecutivo de la CICAD. Al mismo tiempo quiere reiterar el criterio del Gobierno del Ecuador acerca de la importancia de este mecanismo multilateral de evaluación sobre los esfuerzos que se realizan para enfrentar el flagelo de la producción y distribución de la droga. En este sentido hace suyos los conceptos expresados por el distinguido señor Embajador de Colombia y quienes me han precedido en el uso de la palabra.

Gracias, señor Presidente.

El PRESIDENTE: Thank you, Ambassador Peñaherrera. The distinguished Representative of Antigua and Barbuda has the floor.

El REPRESENTANTE PERMANENTE DE ANTIGUA Y BARBUDA: Thank you very kindly, Mr. Chairman. Let me thank you for inviting Mr. Beall here this morning to render an oral report. I thank Mr. Beall for sharing tidbits of a very important meeting with us. We congratulate CICAD for what we believe was a very successful regular session last October in Port-of-Spain, Trinidad. We believe that quite a lot of work still remains to be done.

On a number of occasions my delegation has repeated that in order for the Multilateral Evaluation Mechanism (MEM) to be considered a success, it must come to the attention of the public, certainly of the decision-making public in several capitals. For that reason, Mr. Chairman, we wonder whether Mr. Beall could tell us this morning whether a public relations strategy is in place and if so, the kind of costs that strategy might incur. We'd also like to know what measurements he will have in place to determine whether the strategy is a success. We think Mr. Beall could easily answer these two questions, and we also believe that they are necessary if the MEM is to be considered a success in the final analysis.

Thank you very much, sir.

El PRESIDENTE: Thank you, Ambassador. I will allow Mr. Beall a few moments to think about the answers to your two questions, and I give the floor to the Representative of Mexico.

El REPRESENTANTE PERMANENTE DE MÉXICO: Muchas gracias, señor Presidente. Deseo también agradecer al señor David Beall, Secretario Ejecutivo de la CICAD, por la presentación de su informe, tanto sobre el último período ordinario de sesiones como sobre la evolución que ha tenido el Grupo de Expertos Gubernamentales.

Como él lo ha destacado, se trata de un primer ejercicio de evaluación. Habría que resaltar que algo en que ha sobresalido la OEA en los últimos años, además de las temáticas de derechos humanos, cooperación y promoción de la democracia, es por la CICAD. Este es un aspecto muy importante que debemos tener en cuenta.

Este ejercicio, que deberá convertirse en un esfuerzo anual, constante y permanente, lleva a la conclusión de que la evaluación multilateral es la única vía legítima para abordar la problemática de las drogas y fomentar la cooperación entre los Estados. De ahí la importancia del primer período extraordinario de sesiones de la CICAD, que se llevará a cabo dentro de quince días, en donde se adoptarán tanto los informes anuales como el informe hemisférico.

Quiero llamar la atención al Secretario Ejecutivo de la CICAD, señor David Beall, respecto a que la CICAD deberá decidir cuáles partes de los informes nacionales se publicarán y cuáles no. Esta es una decisión que deberán determinar los Estados, así como debe ocurrir sobre el informe hemisférico.

Muchas gracias.

El PRESIDENTE: Thank you, Ambassador. Forgive my interruption. I give the floor to Mr. Beall to respond to the questions from the representatives of Antigua and Barbuda and Mexico.

El SECRETARIO EJECUTIVO DE LA CICAD: Regarding a public relations strategy, tomorrow I will be sending the Commission members a menu of possible actions to make this effort function in public as well as officially. I do not know how much that will cost; it will depend on what the Commission actually ends up deciding.

Frankly, I think we will need continuing involvement by the Commission. I would not be surprised if that would involve some travel to capitals by the leadership of the Commission. It will certainly involve a good deal of time spent with the media and with leading public information centers, both governmental and nongovernmental. It is very important to continuously look at the public aspect of this process. We will not be able simply to release the report, hold a press conference, and think that we have established something clearly in the mind of the public.

When I made my earlier remarks, I mentioned the context in which we are working. We are trying to change that context, and to do so we are going to have to communicate effectively over a period of time with the public, but I think the Commission will be prepared to do that.

Although I cannot estimate the cost, I will be able to after the December meeting. Once the Commission makes some basic decisions on how it chooses to execute its public information strategy, I will know approximately how much it will cost—and it will have a cost to it.

The larger part of the cost, however, will not be financial; it will be human. The Commission itself will need to dedicate a significant amount of its own time, through speaking channels that it designates, to this work. That will be the most significant area of cost, but it is also the most significant area of benefit.

How will we know it is a success? There are two answers; one is internal and the other is external. In an internal sense, there is much evidence within CICAD that this is already a success. For example, the simple process of going through these working steps has accelerated the passage of national legislation and strengthened national institutions. I am speaking specifically of the national drug commissions and the production of integrated national plans. National plans by themselves do not give you the progress you want, but I think national plans are the base upon which the rest is built. The fact that we have a national plan does not prevent us from making mistakes, but it makes mistakes a lot easier to correct, and it makes staying on course a lot easier.

The external criteria has two parts. One is public, which we have already discussed. The other, which is key, is the Summit itself, and I made an oblique reference to it in my remarks. We are returning to the Summit with the product that it asked for. The Summit requested the MEM in three very brief paragraphs, and we are responding with a complete set of evaluations and recommendations. We will have to see how the Summit reacts to that. In other words, a central, external criteria for judging success is the reaction of the presidents and prime ministers when CICAD's membership delivers the product that the Summit called for. We will get that answer in April. Once again, I think that is an important reason for CICAD to think of exactly how this is done in April.

Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

El PRESIDENTE: Thank you very much. I trust that Mr. Beall's response answers the questions put by the two permanent representatives. There being no further comments, the Chair suggests that the Council take note of the oral report of the Executive Secretary of the Inter-American Drug Abuse Control Commission (CICAD) and the remarks made by the delegations in response. As per normal practice, this verbal report will be included in the annual report of CICAD to the General Assembly; therefore, the Council will consider this issue again.

PROYECTO DE RESOLUCIÓN SOBRE LINEAMIENTOS PARA
EL FUNCIONAMIENTO DEL FONDO DE PAZ:
SOLUCIÓN PACÍFICA DE CONTROVERSIAS TERRITORIALES
(CONTINUACIÓN)

El PRESIDENTE: I would like to return to item 2 on our order of business, the draft resolution on the "Guidelines for the Operation of the Fund for Peace: Peaceful Settlement of Territorial Disputes."

I give the floor to the distinguished Representative of El Salvador.

La REPRESENTANTE PERMANENTE DE EL SALVADOR: Gracias, señor Presidente. Agradezco a usted y a este Consejo el tiempo que me otorgaron para leer las propuestas. Estamos listos para adoptar estos lineamientos en la forma como le he hecho llegar a usted el texto, si la Secretaría es tan amable de leerlo. Gracias.

El PRESIDENTE: Thank you, Ambassador, in which case I would ask the Secretariat to read in Spanish and in English the language that has been the subject of some consultation here.

La SECRETARÍA: Con gusto, señor Presidente. El párrafo leería: [Lee:] "El Secretario General, en consulta con los Estados concernidos en la controversia...", y queda lo demás igual. En inglés, leería: [lee:] "*The Secretary General, in consultation with the states involved in the dispute...*", y todo lo demás queda igual. La palabra "concernidos" solamente afecta al idioma español, de acuerdo con la información que tengo de la División de Servicios de Idiomas. Es todo, señor Presidente.

El PRESIDENTE: Thank you. Is that clear enough for delegations, or shall we do it again? It appears that it is clear. If there are no comments, we will consider that amendment as accepted and we will approve the draft resolution and the attached guidelines. Approved.^{3/}

I offer the floor to delegations. The distinguished Representative of Honduras has the floor.

La REPRESENTANTE PERMANENTE DE HONDURAS: Gracias, señor Presidente.

3. Resolución CP/RES. 781 (1257/00), anexa.

Quisiera hacer uso de la palabra para expresar la satisfacción del Gobierno de Honduras por la aprobación, finalmente, por parte del Consejo Permanente, de los lineamientos que han de poner en funcionamiento el Fondo de Paz: Solución Pacífica de Controversias Territoriales.

Los Estados del Hemisferio nos hemos comprometido a rechazar cualquier uso de la fuerza para imponer soluciones, en aplicación de los medios pacíficos contemplados en la Carta de la Organización de los Estados Americanos. El día de hoy, mediante la puesta en marcha de este Fondo, la Organización ha establecido un mecanismo de apoyo a la aplicación de las normas del derecho internacional, en pleno respeto a los principios de la no intervención e igualdad jurídica de los Estados.

Mi país, señor Presidente, se siente satisfecho de haber resuelto sus delimitaciones fronterizas pacíficamente y en aplicación de los medios que el derecho internacional establece: la negociación directa, el arbitraje, la mediación y el procedimiento judicial. En todos los casos Honduras ha honrado y respetado los resultados de los mismos, tanto los favorables como los desfavorables. Honduras es uno de los países en donde la observancia del derecho internacional, los laudos arbitrales y las decisiones de tribunales internacionales, se ha elevado a rango de norma constitucional. La historia de mi país muestra su estricta vocación pacifista y voluntad integracionista.

En tal sentido, reitero nuestra satisfacción al ver concretada la iniciativa de poner en funcionamiento este Fondo en el seno de la Organización de los Estados Americanos. Ello contribuirá a fortalecer el diálogo como mecanismo de entendimiento entre nuestros pueblos, dentro de la aspiración por una coexistencia pacífica y armoniosa en todo el Hemisferio.

Muchas gracias señor Presidente.

El PRESIDENTE: Thank you, Ambassador Núñez. The distinguished Representative of El Salvador has the floor.

La REPRESENTANTE PERMANENTE DE EL SALVADOR: Muchas gracias, señor Presidente. También mi Delegación quiere expresar su satisfacción por la aprobación por parte del Consejo Permanente del Fondo de Paz: Solución Pacífica de Controversias Territoriales. Mi Delegación ha apoyado su creación como un aporte más a la integración y el desarrollo de nuestros pueblos con el objeto de que el uso de los recursos del Fondo y los subfondos sea transparente e integrador y se eviten así situaciones en que su uso pueda ser concebido de una manera distinta al propósito para el que fue creado. Esta es la visión que tenemos sobre la letra y el espíritu del proyecto de resolución que acabamos de aprobar.

Desde ahora el Fondo es de todos y corresponde a los Estados utilizarlo con responsabilidad y transparencia para hacer honor a su nombre y objetivo primario que es la paz. Así se evitará que jamás pueda ser mal interpretado como un mecanismo financiero que reduce los costos de entablar diferendos o controversias entre los Estados Miembros de la gran familia americana.

Nuevamente, señor Presidente, deseo expresar nuestro agradecimiento a todas las delegaciones. Con ellas trabajamos estos textos con seriedad y comprometidos verdaderamente con la paz de nuestro hemisferio. Muchísimas gracias, señor Presidente.

El PRESIDENTE: Thank you, Ambassador Escobar. I recognize the distinguished Representative of Nicaragua.

El REPRESENTANTE PERMANENTE DE NICARAGUA: Muchas gracias, señor Presidente.

En representación del Gobierno de Nicaragua, deseo expresar nuestra gran satisfacción por la aprobación en esta sesión del proyecto de resolución que establece los lineamientos para el funcionamiento del Fondo de Paz: Solución Pacífica de Controversias Territoriales, en armonía con la resolución AG/RES. 1756 (XXX-O/00). Nos alegramos sinceramente y queremos expresar nuestra gratitud hacia todos los Estados que brindaron su apoyo a este proyecto de resolución. Muchas gracias.

El PRESIDENTE: Thank you, Ambassador Sevilla. I now give the floor to the Assistant Secretary General.

El SECRETARIO GENERAL ADJUNTO: Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

I wanted to add a few comments to those already made by the representatives of Honduras, El Salvador, and Nicaragua about our satisfaction with the approval of the Peace Fund guidelines. I believe this fund and the Belize-Guatemala subfund that we approved as the first item today are, in effect, a bet on modernity, on progress, and on the fact that international cooperation can work specifically in helping to clear away some of the historic underbrush that hampers the process of full integration in the Hemisphere.

I think it is important to note that our difficulties in adopting these guidelines did not come about because the negotiators or the participants in these discussions were being difficult or obstinate. Neither did they have ulterior motives in hopes of somehow opposing the process. It is because these problems are quintessentially, extraordinarily difficult. They affect questions of sovereignty that are vital to all of our states and respect for which is fundamental to our cooperation. They are often problems that are therefore not admitted.

It is interesting that a small project was conducted at the Columbus Memorial Library recently, inspired by the adoption in Windsor of resolution AG/RES. 1756 (XXX-O/00). The project covered just an index of references to disputes between 1948 and June 2000, and they're all of the OAS. It is an extraordinary fact that this is a pervasive though often undiscussed problem in our relations; therefore, in my view at least, the adoption of these funds constitutes a demonstration of political will and provides a vehicle through which the international community can respond by channeling support for dispute resolution processes.

If you will indulge me, I just want to make two points: a historical note and a direct appeal to the donor community, including many of our observer states.

El triángulo temático de los fundadores de la Carta de Bogotá —paz, seguridad y solución pacífica de controversias—no se ha desarrollado fácilmente en la práctica. La Comisión Interamericana de Paz, así como la Comisión Interamericana de Soluciones Pacíficas incorporada a la Carta mediante el Protocolo de Buenos Aires suscrito en 1967, llevaron indirectamente al

congelamiento de las posibilidades políticas de considerar temas de esa naturaleza en el ámbito de la OEA. A ello se sumó el proceso incompleto de ratificación del Pacto de Bogotá, así como las dudas permanentes y crecientes con el pasar de los años, asociadas con el papel del Tratado de Río de Janeiro de 1947 y el sistema de cooperación militar.

Sin embargo, el Protocolo de Cartagena de Indias aprobado en 1985, tomando en cuenta los excelentes resultados que habían tenido las comisiones ad hoc integradas en 1978 para resolver el conflicto fronterizo entre Costa Rica y Nicaragua, flexibilizó el sistema de solución pacífica de controversias y lo despojó de su tradicional rigidez, tanto en lo que respecta a la integración, como al mandato.

Asimismo, los procedimientos políticos y diplomáticos han evolucionado hacia formas eficientes que en los últimos años han aportado soluciones realistas a diferendos territoriales que, más allá de la mera disputa fronteriza, tienen dimensiones particulares también en el ámbito económico. Varios ejemplos recientes nos indican que una dosis de buena voluntad de las partes puede superar las complejidades de la historia y la disputa, y conducir a un desenlace equitativo.

Es importante reconocer que el debate que hemos tenido en esta Organización, tanto en la preparación de la presente resolución como en los lineamientos, ha contado con la participación positiva de cerca de la mitad de los Estados Miembros. He tomado nota, muy rápidamente, de aquellos que han participado en forma sustantiva en esos debates: Brasil, Canadá, El Salvador, Honduras, Jamaica, México, Guatemala, Belice, Chile, Estados Unidos, Venezuela, Nicaragua, Costa Rica y Antigua y Barbuda. Esto representa, efectivamente, un compromiso común en la búsqueda de soluciones pacíficas.

I would like to end by saying, by way of appeal, something very simple on the importance of contributions to this fund. We all know that where conflicts exist in the areas affected, the border provinces in particular are held back and punished, historically and often by their own central authorities, for nothing more than being in the way of a possible attack from another country. We are all aware of situations where roads cannot be built because the road could be used by a neighbor to invade.

Today, in this hemisphere, that is increasingly less the case. Border peoples are willing and eager to cooperate to resolve disputes, and central governments are increasingly aware of the costs of unsettled disputes.

The real issue today, it seems to me, is that for various reasons of indifference, we in the international community who are not parties to the dispute will allow these conflicts and potentials conflicts to fester. Then once agreements have been reached, we allow them to be orphaned and left without the support that they deserve.

I have spent 45 years working on U.S. relations with Latin America and the Caribbean, and in those years I have seen some extraordinary things happen, as have all of you. There are things that we often forget. We have seen the end of military dictatorship in Latin America. We have seen the end of colonialism in the Caribbean. More recently, we have seen the end of armed conflicts in Central America. Yet in our discourse, we are still often filled with doubts as to whether we can

achieve irreversible progress or whether the details of our political lives and of our integration can be made to work.

I believe that we are showing that the details can work. However, we cannot be absent; we must create a mutual support mechanism, an *engranaje* of integration, cooperation, and mutual responsiveness that will ensure that peace will last and that the problems that still exist can be resolved so that we can together reap the benefits of the 21st century.

I am sorry for that slightly excessive end, but this is what I believe.

Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

El PRESIDENTE: Thank you, Ambassador Einaudi, for that very eloquent conclusion to the study of an important and complex issue. The Council wishes to thank you for your remarks.

INFORME SOBRE EL ESTADO DE EJECUCIÓN DE LAS RECOMENDACIONES FORMULADAS POR LA OFICINA DEL INSPECTOR GENERAL EN 1999

El PRESIDENTE: We move on to item 5, the status of the implementation of recommendations issued by the Office of the Inspector General in 1999, document CP/doc.3374/00. The Chair suggests that this issue be forwarded to the Committee on Administrative and Budgetary Affairs (CAAP) for its consideration. If there are no objections... The Representative of the United States has the floor.

El REPRESENTANTE PERMANENTE DE LOS ESTADOS UNIDOS: No, I have no objection. I like the way you move this meeting, so I will be very brief.

You are on item 5, correct? I have lost track of the changes back and forth. The Assistant Secretary for Management was going to make an oral...

El PRESIDENTE: The Assistant Secretary for Management will speak to item 5. The Chair's recommendation is that we forward the document to the Committee on Administrative and Budgetary Affairs (CAAP) for its consideration before this issue comes back to the Council.

El REPRESENTANTE PERMANENTE DE LOS ESTADOS UNIDOS: When the Inspector General's report was presented, I raised considerable concern on behalf of my delegation and, I am sure, many others, about the financial management of the Organization.

In other words, there was a gap between the information given by the Inspector General and the Assistant Secretary for Management. You will recall vividly that some substantial deficiencies were highlighted, and there was no opportunity to hear the countervailing arguments on how far we've come. I would hope that from now on, as a matter of process and of fairness to both sides, the Assistant Secretary for Management will have the opportunity to address this body concurrently with the presentation of the Inspector General and that that would be the practice henceforth.

I am addressing this, I imagine, to the Assistant Secretary General.

El PRESIDENTE: Thank you, Ambassador. Ambassador Einaudi, would you wish to respond?

El SECRETARIO GENERAL ADJUNTO: Would you allow me a minute of consultation, please? [Pausa.] Mr. Chairman, I am going to defer to Mr. Harding on this question. Thank you.

El SUBSECRETARIO DE ADMINISTRACIÓN: Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

No. I think it is a very reasonable request, and I am delighted to comply with it. It is a very common practice in many other organizations. It's not a we-they sort of thing; it's about the differences in the times in which things are done, and I am glad the Ambassador brought it up.

We would be delighted to coordinate with the Inspector General. As you may note, the report we provided on the 1999 recommendations was prepared in consultation with the Inspector General. We are in agreement with what has been said here, so I welcome the opportunity.

Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

El PRESIDENTE: Ambassador Lauredo, do you find those responses satisfactory? We have here the Assistant Secretary for Management and the Inspector General, and the Council can take note of your recommendation and the response. You have the floor.

El REPRESENTANTE PERMANENTE DE LOS ESTADOS UNIDOS: I am just delighted that they accepted. I think it is a fair thing to do. I think that when all of us have very strong points of view regarding financial management, we would like to be able to hear both sides of the argument at the same meeting. We have a lot of other responsibilities, and the gap between the presentations is not fair. But I accept the procedure, and I think it more efficiently manages the Secretariat's and the Assistant Secretary's responsibilities to keep us informed in an intelligent way.

Thank you very much, Mr. Chairman.

El PRESIDENTE: Thank you. I would add that the points have been noted and that the issue will be forwarded to the Committee on Administrative and Budgetary Affairs (CAAP). In terms of the consistency that you requested, the next two chairs of the Permanent Council are here; we are in consultation with the ambassadors of Chile and Colombia. If there are no other comments, we will move to item 6.

INFORME DE LA SECRETARÍA GENERAL SOBRE EL ESTADO DE CUOTAS Y
CONTRIBUCIONES AL FONDO REGULAR
AL 31 DE OCTUBRE DE 2000

El PRESIDENTE: We will now consider the report of the General Secretariat on the status of contributions and quotas to the Regular Fund as of October 31, 2000, document CP/doc.3373/00. I give the floor to the Assistant Secretary for Management, Mr. James Harding.

El SUBSECRETARIO DE ADMINISTRACIÓN: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I won't go into detail on the report on quota payments as of October 31, but I would like to add, as I normally do, the payments received since the report was prepared. There have been three. Barbados paid \$15,700 on November 7 and is now paid in full. It has moved from category 2 to category 1, and the categories are on the attachments to the report. Costa Rica paid \$13,218.70 on November 13, some of which is applied to next year. Jamaica paid \$50,000 on November 6 and is now paid in full. It changes status from category 2 to category 1 and, as indicated at another time, it has also been paying a little bit towards 2001.

A number of states have already responded to the General Secretariat with payment plans covering the 2001 quota payments, and we are very grateful for this. These states include Antigua and Barbuda, Bolivia, Colombia, the Dominican Republic, Haiti, and Nicaragua, and we look forward to receiving payment plans from other member states so that we can work the cash flow.

Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

El PRESIDENTE: Thank you. I offer the floor now to delegations wishing to comment on the report in document CP/doc.3373/00 corr. 1. If there are no comments, we will move on to the next item.

INFORME SOBRE LA SITUACIÓN DE LIQUIDEZ DEL FONDO REGULAR

El PRESIDENTE: We will now consider the report on the cash situation of the Regular Fund and the draft resolution contained in document CP/doc.3378/00. I give the floor again to the Assistant Secretary for Management.

El SUBSECRETARIO DE ADMINISTRACIÓN: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. It seems as though every year at this time of the year, we return to the issue of the cash balances of the Regular Fund.

I mentioned at the outset that we are speaking of the Regular Fund. The Organization has considerable resources and is fully liquid in all its other funds, but because we handle the Regular Fund uniquely, I am addressing solely the cash balances of the Regular Fund. This problem was identified, as you may recall, by the Board of External Auditors in a number of their reports, more recently on March 31 of this year, in which they highlight the fact that shortfalls in quota collections are the primary cause of deficits in the fund balances of the Regular Fund.

The General Secretariat, in coordination with the member states, developed a rather aggressive cash management plan for the year 2000. In fact, we saw a marked improvement in our status up until almost October of this year, by which time we had received \$6.5 million more than we had received by that same time in the previous year. This, I think, was the result of the very aggressive efforts of member states to pay their arrears and assessments, to reduce arrears, and in some cases to even make future payments.

However, the evidence now indicates that this trend will reverse in this last month. The plan, based on both verbal and written payment plans of member states, showed that we would have a

reasonable cash balance of roughly \$2.5 million at the end of December. But we now believe that, perhaps for reasons internal to some of the bigger donors, their payments in the last month may not be received in a timely manner, and that might create certain difficulties in the cash management of the Organization.

The bottom line is that unless we receive additional, significant cash contributions, the Organization will be short a little over \$6 million at the end of December. That does not provide a balance as we move into January when bills and other things are paid.

The Secretary General has reported to the General Assembly on cost- saving measures, such as the reduction of posts and a number of other things that have been done to conserve resources, but the bottom-line problem is the shortfall of incoming quota receipts.

The paper that we presented to you, Mr. Chairman, has six options. We think only the first two have value at this point in time. The first one, of course, is the most desirable—that members states make payments of \$8.5 million, as they had planned to do. The difference between the \$8.5 million and the \$6 million is to allow us to move into January with some cash. At the end of December, we need \$6 million as a reserve before we start receiving payments in January.

The second option is the establishment of credit with a commercial bank, which would not be necessary if we received payments. It takes about ten business days to establish the line of credit, according to the bankers I spoke to in my most recent discussion, and they are not interested in sitting down at the table to discuss this until the proper people in the General Secretariat have the authority to negotiate—to establish a line of credit. If we want to follow this option, and as ten business days are really two weeks, we are talking about starting the process of the approval to move forward by December 10. In that way, I can have it in place in time for the end of the month, if you choose to go that route.

The other options are possible, but we do not think that it is reasonable to assume that they may be achieved in the time left.

What are the consequences? Beside our concern about the credit rating of the Organization, we have stopped paying any bills that we possibly can postpone. Clearly, the resources will not be there to pay salaries and other benefits at the end of the year, nor in December, nor would we have the resources to pay stipends, fellowships, tuition, and other things that are part of the normal course of business at the end of December.

The bottom line, Mr. Chairman, is that we would be very grateful if member states could see their way to provide the necessary cash of arrears of approximately \$8.5 million or provide us another alternative in order to overcome this short-range difficulty. We suggest the line of credit.

Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

El PRESIDENTE: Thank you, Mr. Harding, for your sobering presentation.

I open the floor to those who wish it. I recognize the distinguished Representative of Mexico.

EL REPRESENTANTE PERMANENTE DE MÉXICO: Muchas gracias, señor Presidente.

Agradezco al señor James Harding su presentación. Ella está plenamente respaldada por la documentación que nos ha sido remitida y que demuestra la gravedad de la situación por la que atravesamos, especialmente tomando en cuenta el incumplimiento de pagos y los atrasos de varios años de países muy importantes dentro de nuestra Organización. Debemos analizar con toda seriedad esta situación y esperar claras manifestaciones de voluntad política por parte de los Estados Miembros.

Creo al mismo tiempo, señor Presidente, que no estamos en condiciones de adoptar una resolución en este momento. El camino más adecuado es continuar con las consultas informales, como las que iniciamos esta mañana. La solución prevista en este proyecto de resolución enfrentaría dificultades para la Delegación de México así como para otras delegaciones.

Sin embargo, al mismo tiempo que continúen las consultas informales sobre este tema buscando las mejores alternativas, proponemos que el Secretario General formule una declaración pública haciendo un llamado a los Estados Miembros para que cumplan con el pago de sus cuotas ordinarias, tomando en cuenta la grave situación financiera por la que atraviesa la Organización de los Estados Americanos y que pone en duda su credibilidad, adecuado funcionamiento y el cumplimiento de los mandatos encomendados por la Asamblea General.

Nos parece que ha llegado el momento en que el Secretario General alerte públicamente sobre la situación que estamos atravesando y haga un llamado a los Estados a cumplir con sus obligaciones. Se encuentra en duda la credibilidad de la Organización, justamente a unos meses de que se celebre la Cumbre de las Américas en Quebec, de la que se espera surjan nuevos mandatos o la renovación de los actuales.

Eso es lo mínimo que podemos hacer en este momento y además pedirle al Secretario General y al Secretario General Adjunto que continúen adelantando sus gestiones de alto nivel con los Estados Miembros, a fin de encontrar una solución adecuada y no un mero "parche" a estas situaciones que atravesamos cada seis meses o cada año.

Creemos que es el momento de afrontar esta situación de manera pública. De allí depende, en gran medida, el futuro de la Organización.

Muchas gracias, señor Presidente.

EL PRESIDENTE: Thank you, Ambassador, for your comments and your proposal, which have been duly noted.

I give the floor to the distinguished Representative of Antigua and Barbuda.

EL REPRESENTANTE PERMANENTE DE ANTIGUA Y BARBUDA: Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

My delegation takes the floor to express its support for the draft resolution and for the request by the Assistant Secretary for Management with regard to the establishment of a line of credit in the amount of \$12 million.

Mr. Chairman, we do not believe that it is appropriate for staff to give of their time to an institution. We believe that staff should be paid for their time. We do not believe that staff should be told at Christmas that there is every possibility that they may not receive their salaries. We believe that that is neither just nor fair.

The British sovereign used to have a court of equity that was called on frequently to make decision that were equitable or fair but may not necessarily have been in accord with the strict rules laid down by the law. My delegation is of the view that the Permanent Council serves as a kind of court of equity, so our decision to support such a draft resolution would, in large part, be equitable, especially to the 560-odd employees of the Organization. At Christmas time, it is not fair to suggest to employees here at the OAS that they may not be paid.

Thank you very much.

El PRESIDENTE: Thank you, Ambassador. The distinguished Representative of Honduras has the floor.

La REPRESENTANTE PERMANENTE DE HONDURAS: Gracias, señor Presidente. Agradecemos que se haya llamado nuestra atención sobre la alarmante situación de iliquidez del Fondo Regular de la Organización y, asimismo, la información brindada por la Subsecretaría de Administración.

En mi calidad de Presidenta de la Comisión de Asuntos Administrativos y Presupuestarios, y conociendo la situación que se presenta, me siento enormemente comprometida en brindar apoyo a la Subsecretaría de Administración en la búsqueda de soluciones. Sin embargo, así como en las actuales circunstancias estamos obligados a tomar decisiones que nos permitan disponer de fondos de una manera inmediata, también nuestro diario quehacer debería estar orientado a no recaer en un estado de iliquidez como el actual.

Según estimaciones previas, realizadas sobre la base de los compromisos de pago de cuotas a realizarse por parte de los Estados Miembros, podríamos haber cerrado el año con cifras modestas, pero positivas, que nos habrían permitido honrar nuestros acuerdos.

Vemos con suma preocupación que la situación que se está generando es muy distinta: los ingresos percibidos por concepto de pagos de cuotas al final del año serán incluso inferiores a los del año anterior y, por supuesto, mucho menores de lo previsto para este año.

Es cierto que el 60% de los Estados Miembros se encuentra al día en el pago de sus obligaciones. Sin embargo, el 90% del valor adeudado por el 40% restante recae sobre dos de los países miembros. Enfrentamos momentos de crisis, una vez más, como en los últimos tres años.

Deseamos reconocer el incesante esfuerzo realizado por los Representantes Permanentes de los países involucrados en el mencionado 90%. A pesar del enorme interés que han demostrado, sus

países no han logrado resolver algunas dificultades que les impiden estar solventes con la Organización como lo habrían querido.

Deseo reiterar lo que antes había afirmado: esta situación seguirá presentándose mientras no asumamos todos, administración y Estados Miembros, un mayor compromiso con la Organización. Es indispensable que exista la voluntad política de cada uno de los Estados Miembros para levantar esta Organización y proveerla de los recursos financieros necesarios para su buen funcionamiento.

Este es un momento en que, con la mayor objetividad posible, debemos estudiar las opciones que se nos presentan en el documento CP/doc.3378/00, puesto a consideración de este Consejo Permanente por la Secretaría General.

Ciertamente, es indispensable y esencial motivar a todos los Estados Miembros, grandes o pequeños, para que cumplan con sus obligaciones de pagos. Debe recordarse que por muy buena voluntad que haya por parte de los Estados Miembros, existe la posibilidad de que no contemos con los recursos con la prontitud requerida para pagar empleados, becarios, acreedores y llevar a buen término nuestra labor cotidiana.

La solución que podría procurarnos recursos de una manera inmediata, para cumplir con estos compromisos, sería la aprobación de una línea de crédito por un período no mayor de 90 días. Estamos de acuerdo con lo expresado por el distinguido Representante de México acerca de la dificultad que ofrece esta opción. En ese sentido deberán hacerse prontamente las gestiones al más alto nivel para ver si es posible resolver esta situación de otra manera. Paralelo a ello, debemos seguir considerando otras medidas que provean alivio a más largo plazo y que contribuyan a disminuir el déficit; ellas podrán significar cifras pequeñas pero sumadas pueden resultar en cifras significativas.

Como ya se ha señalado antes, debe haber mayor austeridad en algunas áreas. Es importante y necesario que se realice una evaluación de puestos y salarios dentro de la Organización. El reto, señor Presidente, es grande. Sin embargo, si todos tenemos verdadera voluntad y buena disposición, lograremos salir adelante, sin las crisis de fin año que de ninguna manera deben volverse costumbre.

Gracias, señor Presidente.

El PRESIDENTE: Thank you, Ambassador. I give the floor to the Representative of Trinidad and Tobago.

La REPRESENTANTE ALTERNA DE TRINIDAD Y TOBAGO: Thank you very much, Mr. Chairman.

Once again our organization is in financial crisis, and my delegation calls on all member states, particularly those member states that are in arrears, to demonstrate a greater commitment to meet their financial obligations to the Organization. In the absence of such commitments, our lofty praises to inter-American cooperation appear meaningless.

I say this, Mr. Chairman, because whilst we assign a greater role for the OAS in several areas, this organization will only be as effective as we allow it to be, particularly insofar as funding is

concerned. In the current hemispheric environment, the OAS must have the institutional, structural, and financial wherewithal to effectively and efficiently manage the challenges we collectively face. As member states, we must realize the convergence between the expectations placed on the Organization, the resources allocated by member states to fulfill these expectations, and the political will of member states to fulfill these expectations. Without such convergence, the prospects for success are, indeed, limited.

In addition, we do concur with the view expressed by the Ambassador of Mexico that this perennial financial crisis harms the public image of the Organization. I have personally found that personnel in other multilateral organizations do not have a very positive view of the OAS, and I am certain that our ongoing financial crises do not help.

As I pondered the situation, I am reminded of a scene from *Alice in Wonderland*. When the White Queen chastised Alice for her insufficient imagination, the Queen recommended to Alice that she should practice daily exercises in expanding her capacity to imagine. The Queen said: "My dear, sometimes I think six impossible thoughts before breakfast."

As I sat down to breakfast this morning, I had but one thought, not six like Alice's White Queen, and I hoped against all hope that at this meeting this morning, there would be announcements of imminent payments to the Regular Fund. But alas! My one hope has not been fulfilled.

Like the Delegation of Mexico, the Delegation of Trinidad and Tobago is not in a position to support the resolution as drafted. We are concerned about the issue of the Secretary General securing a loan, because we believe it would represent the thin edge of the wedge. As the delegations of Mexico and Honduras stated before me, this financial crisis is perennial. We would therefore be facing a very similar situation perhaps six or eight months down the road. Do we then agree to take another loan? Too often in the OAS, approval on an exceptional basis becomes the norm. If this organization does not currently have any assets in reserve, how are we going to repay this particular loan or subsequent loans that I realistically see coming?

We therefore support the proposal by the Representative of Mexico that informal consultations be held among various delegations, that the Secretary General personally become involved in this issue as a matter of great urgency, and that reports be then submitted to all delegations with a view to resolving the situation in as expeditious a manner as possible.

Thank you very much, Mr. Chairman.

El PRESIDENTE: Thank you very much. The Representative of Jamaica has the floor.

La REPRESENTANTE ALTERNA DE JAMAICA: Thank you very much, Mr. Chairman.

While I thank Mr. Harding for presenting the documents, we wish that the Assistant Secretary for Management was not the bearer of bad tidings. Obviously, it is unfortunate that we have yet again returned to this issue as a result of the nonpayment of contributions by some member states.

The last special session of the General Assembly adopted very flexible measures, we believe, to encourage member states to pay their contributions to the Regular Fund. This seems to have had very limited success, since the major contributors still are indebted to the Organization.

Mr. Chairman, with respect to the options before us, the most desirable for my delegation is the first option, wherein member states would be urged to make good on their obligations and responsibilities to the Organization. In this regard, my delegation wishes to support the proposal by the Delegation of Mexico that the Secretary General make a clear and public statement drawing attention to the financial crisis facing the Organization and calling on member states to reaffirm and demonstrate their political commitment to the Organization by honoring their obligations.

Nevertheless, we do recognize the immediate problem facing the Organization. In this regard, my delegation would not object if the membership decides that we approve a line of credit or give the Secretary General authority to seek a line of credit. However, we wish to emphasize that if we were to choose this option, the Government of Jamaica would not be in a position to accept responsibility for interest payments that would be incurred. We believe that such interest payments should fall squarely on those member states who are indebted to the Organization.

Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

El PRESIDENTE: Thank you. I give the floor to the Representative of Canada.

La REPRESENTANTE ALTERNA DEL CANADÁ: Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

We find ourselves faced here again with what is described as a cash-flow problem, but it is such a perennial and repeat problem of serious magnitude that we would rather much more accurately term it a question of political will.

We note that option 2, which is a commercial loan, poses serious difficulties, some of which were addressed by delegations that spoke before us, particularly but not only by Trinidad and Tobago.

We heard earlier this morning in another meeting related to this issue that the loan of 90 days would cost us \$1,700 a day. A quick tabulation of that would bring us to \$153,000 for the 90-day period. I would venture to add that this is more than the annual quota assessment of 24 of our 34 member states. If we have difficulties in terms of paying the actual quotas, where would this organization be if we find ourselves, as pointed out by the Representative of Trinidad and Tobago, in a situation where we cannot pay the interest on the loan? We will be proceeding down a very slippery slope that puts the credibility of this organization at serious risk.

We sympathize very much with the members of the Secretariat who have been working very hard in support of OAS activities and priorities throughout the year, as they have consistently for many years. However, at this stage we wonder whether we need to muster more political will to protect their salaries.

As such, we strongly support the Mexican proposal tasking the Secretary General with redoubling the excellent efforts he has engaged in throughout this year, issuing an urgent statement regarding the critical stage we have reached once again, and perhaps seeking a more permanent

solution with the member states who are in arrears. We propose that they explore various modalities, and those member states in arrears may wish to tap into their specific funds or look at other possible approaches. However, we urge that this be done on an urgent basis.

In summary, therefore, we support the Mexican proposal wholeheartedly. Thank you.

El PRESIDENTE: Thank you. The distinguished Representative of Ecuador has the floor.

El REPRESENTANTE PERMANENTE DEL ECUADOR: Gracias, señor Presidente.

En el informe está registrado el modesto pero significativo abono que mi país ha hecho en los últimos días para iniciar el proceso de evasión de la categoría en que se encuentra, no obstante, en muy conspicua compañía. Esto quiere decir que de parte de mi Gobierno existe una voluntad firme de regularizar la situación en la que lamentablemente nos encontramos frente al financiamiento de la Organización. Con este antecedente podemos opinar respecto al tema que se discute.

No cabe duda de que el planteamiento del distinguido Representante Permanente de México tiene una lógica y hasta un fundamento ético indiscutible. Es imposible que la Organización siga afrontando indefinidamente la situación financiera en que se encuentra. No cabe explicarle al mundo que esto sucede, no obstante que le ocurre lo mismo a la Organización de las Naciones Unidas y a casi todos los organismos internacionales.

Sin embargo, el distinguido señor Representante de Antigua y Barbuda hizo una reflexión, que no puede ser desoída y ante la que no podemos ser indiferentes. El personal administrativo de la Organización no puede sufrir las consecuencias por los conflictos de carácter técnico, político, administrativo o financiero que afrontan los Estados Miembros, especialmente en la época en que, supuestamente, debe descender el maná del cielo y no las cuentas de los acreedores.

Esto debería conducirnos a una solución intermedia en relación con los planteamientos que se han hecho, que podría consistir en fijar un plazo para que la Secretaría General, y concretamente el señor Secretario General, efectúe las gestiones, formule las declaraciones y haga todo aquello que le parezca conveniente para conseguir la regularización de la situación de la mayor parte de los Estados deudores. Al mismo tiempo se contaría con un plazo dentro del cual, de no obtener resultados favorables, el Secretario General tendría la autorización suficiente para optar por otra alternativa que podría ser la del endeudamiento. En este caso habría que establecer quién asume el costo de este endeudamiento porque no es justo que lo hagan todos los Estados o solo unos pocos pues ello resultaría desproporcionado en relación con las diferentes situaciones específicas.

En resumen, señor Presidente, mi Delegación propone que la Secretaría General efectúe las gestiones que estime del caso para la regularización de esta situación pero que, vencido un plazo de ocho o diez días, por las razones que nos expuso con tanta lógica el señor Subsecretario de Administración, pueda optar por una solución de emergencia que lógicamente tendría que ser la última de las mencionadas.

Gracias, señor Presidente.

El PRESIDENTE: Thank you Ambassador. The Representative of the United States has the floor.

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

In the past year we have rightly expended a great deal of time and attention on the budget and the priorities of the Organization. This has produced a new and productive dialogue at the highest levels, extraordinary efforts by member states to pay their quotas, and the approval of resolutions that address these financial issues. But we must do more.

It is important to realize that the current "financial crisis" is rooted in many factors. While the United States greatly values the work of the OAS, this organization's over-reliance upon the United States to provide nearly 60 percent of the cash flow of the Regular Fund inevitably contributes to financial difficulties whenever we experience even a slight delay in our payment. This delay, as all of you are aware, is due to the nature of our system, our budget cycle, and other political issues; these problems are experienced by each one of our countries.

I would like to emphasize that the United States, which pays 60 percent of the Regular Fund, is slightly more than six months in arrears in its quota payments to this organization. I also want to emphasize that we remain committed to our obligations and are working very hard to meet them.

The lack of an adequate reserve fund to carry the Organization through periods such as these contributes to the problem we are facing. Although this organization took \$6.5 million more in quota collection as of October of this year compared to October 1999, and obligations are the same, we still are confronting today a so-called "financial crisis."

We must have greater restraint in our decisions if we truly want to financially strengthen the OAS. Potential shortfalls must be identified and brought to the attention of member states early in the year so that we do not have to worry about Christmas time. Rather than shut down at year end, we could implement austerity measures earlier so that they do not culminate in this so-called crisis. My fellow ambassadors, this crisis, panic-management technique is simply not acceptable to the United States.

Six scenarios are currently before us. Clearly, we would all like to see option 1 occur, and we are committed to work on that option. If this does not occur and the option of external borrowing is the favored option of this body, we will not and cannot join the consensus, but we will not block that consensus. Our Congress feels very strongly that organizations such as the OAS should live within their means.

We feel that emergency external borrowing, interest payments, and the numbers that we have just heard from the distinguished Representative of Canada would set an unfortunate precedent and encourage regular external borrowings, an easy answer. We cannot support this option.

The time has come to make difficult decisions. Increasing our debt is not the solution to the deeper problems that exist. We need to get serious about financial reforms, create a reserve fund for

real crises, start to live within our means, and project our cash-flow problems earlier in the year. Only in this way can we avert a similar situation year after year.

Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

El PRESIDENTE: Thank you, Ambassador. Three other delegations wish to speak, following which the Chair will offer a course of action and some conclusions. The Representative of Saint Kitts and Nevis has the floor.

El REPRESENTANTE ALTERNO DE SAINT KITTS Y NEVIS: Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

I doubt very strongly that this is a case of "The Grinch who Stole Christmas." This is a systemic problem that we have been battling since I have been here. We have been working at a tremendous amount of solutions and remedies that seem to fall on deaf ears. To steal the words of the Representative of Canada, it is not necessarily a cash-flow crisis, but moreso a crisis of commitment.

I am encouraged by the Assistant Secretary General's comment this morning about his 45 years of service, during which the improbable and the impossible became practical and eventually led to results. We cannot expect to solve these very serious systemic problems by going to the bank and asking for a short-term loan that will place additional burdens on those of us who have been paying our quotas regularly and on time. I am sure that when new quotas are assessed, we will end up having that allocated in our small contributions.

I think the best way forward is for us to subscribe to the wisdom of the Ambassador of Mexico and to call on the Secretary General and to address this matter at the highest level with the heads of government. In that way, we can address this problem, which keeps coming back to bite us year after year. It is not simply a case of our inability to pay salaries at Christmas. We have increasing mandates and diminishing resources, and we have to find ways to address this problem in a serious way.

Yesterday, as a matter of fact, I saw the approved budget for 2001 and there was a red paper on the top. One of my colleagues said: "Can you imagine? It has already been approved, yet it is in the red." That speaks volumes, because this is what we have been dealing with for the last few years.

Based on the meeting we had this morning, a number of member states have indicated that they are working on ways to pay their arrears. I think we should give them the benefit of the doubt, granted that in the past we have had very few reasons to feel any sense of solace. But, as I said, the Assistant Secretary General reminded us that things can happen, and because these member states are committed to making things happen, we should subscribe to what the Representative of Mexico has said.

Thank you kindly.

El PRESIDENTE: Thank you very much. I give the floor to the distinguished Representative of Chile.

El REPRESENTANTE PERMANENTE DE CHILE: Gracias, señor Presidente.

En primer lugar, quiero decir muy claramente que apoyo la moción presentada por el distinguido Representante de México. Solamente quiero hacer un par de reflexiones sobre el tema que nos ocupa. La primera tiene que ver con la vieja y conocida frase, que no está de más traer de nuevo a colación, según la cual “los chinos tienen un solo símbolo para representar las ideas de crisis y oportunidad”; ellos son un pueblo muy antiguo y, por lo mismo, muy sabio.

No haríamos algo peor que tratar de soslayar la crisis con medidas que, frente al problema de fondo, escamoteen la búsqueda de una solución inmediata, clara y precisa. Es mejor llamar a la crisis “crisis” que ponerle otro nombre.

En segundo lugar, creo que los montos de que hablamos son realmente modestos. El presupuesto ordinario de la OEA suma alrededor de 80 millones de dólares. Ese es un monto modesto para 34 países entre los que se encuentran algunos de los más poderosos del mundo. Ese es el presupuesto de uno entre los más de 30 municipios de mi ciudad, Santiago. Es también el presupuesto de una universidad de tamaño medio en los Estados Unidos o Europa.

El asunto de fondo, señor Presidente, es el que señalaba la Representante del Canadá: este es un problema de voluntad política. Los Estados Miembros tienen que resolver si existe la voluntad política para que la OEA siga existiendo o no, y tienen que hacerlo ahora.

Esta mañana en una reunión informal yo me permití recordar que los líderes de nuestro hemisferio están hoy reunidos en la ciudad de México con motivo de la asunción del nuevo Gobierno de dicho país. Conuerdo con la moción de encargarle a nuestro Secretario General que haga este llamado. Pero también recogí la información suministrada por su Jefe de Gabinete en el sentido de que esta toma de mando probablemente le da poco espacio al Secretario General para atraer la atención de los señores Jefes de Estado y de Gobierno allí reunidos.

En consecuencia, haríamos bien en pedirle esa gestión al Secretario General, pero al mismo tiempo, en respaldarlo con una decisión de nuestro Consejo Permanente. Eso le daría más eco a su llamado y atraería una mayor atención sobre el Secretario General de parte de los Jefes de Estado y de Gobierno reunidos en México.

Gracias.

El PRESIDENTE: Thank you, Ambassador. The distinguished Representative of Grenada has the floor.

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

Each member state present in this meeting has been aware throughout the year of the financial status of the Organization. Any number of reasons could be given for why member states are not current in their arrears. I think each member state is aware of why its government is not current; therefore, our debate seems to be a ritual.

I agree with the U.S. Ambassador that we should look at our mandates, program base, and resources. That may be one solution. However, in support of the proposal made by the distinguished Ambassador of Mexico, my delegation proposes that the Secretary General be requested to make contact with each member state that is not current in its arrears, request of them an indication, within ten days, of their intent to meet their obligations for 2000, and report to the Council.

Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

El PRESIDENTE: Thank you, Ambassador Antoine. The distinguished Representative of Barbados has the floor.

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

Mr. Chairman, there is an expression that literally translates in English "the more things change, the more they remain the same." I feel I am in some kind of time warp; the only difference is that I am not sitting on the other side, as I used to sit as an alternate 19 years ago. But this is the same perennial problem about the financial crisis of the Organization.

I will not necessarily agree with my distinguished colleague from the United States that the OAS is living above its means.

I would like us to undertake a serious self-examination of what kind of OAS we, the member states, want. Over the last 14 years since I left Washington, I have seen many mandates heaped upon the Organization, but few remedies for the financing of such mandates. I have also seen that we have not addressed the bases of financing of the Organization. I do not think that the financing of this organization should be driven by the desirability of any member state to reduce its quota contributions but rather, realistically, by our priorities. I have not seen the priorities of the organization for a ten-year period with a five-year review process and an effort to cause the financing of such priorities. We have to look at this realistically.

I believe also that if we reduce an organization's staff from 1,700 in 1976 to 550 today, and priorities still have not been established, we as representatives have failed our member states. We have not addressed the issue of structuring our future priorities in a way that our heads of government at the Summit can contribute to the debate. They can give directives with regard to the establishment of a proper funding mechanism for the OAS as part of the broad inter-American system.

We just completed a meeting of the Summit Implementation Review Group (SIRG), and there was all of this concern about implementing the mandates of the first two summits. That tells us again that we are very weak at convincing our heads that we need adequate resources to fund our commitments at the political level. I think that we must show more political will in addressing this issue, and it is a little difficult to tell staff members that they should be committed to a cause that they themselves must question if, indeed, at this time of the year we are still worrying about how they will be paid for the holiday season.

I would also like to suggest that it might be useful and timely to revisit the whole issue of financing the Organization and to work assiduously at seeing how it could be fitted into some part of the Summit agenda. In that way, we would not mislead our own leaders in Quebec City into thinking

that they can heap more mandates upon the OAS without providing the adequate and appropriate resources to ensure that they be implemented.

Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

El PRESIDENTE: Thank you, Ambassador King. I recognize the Representative of Antigua and Barbuda.

El REPRESENTANTE PERMANENTE DE ANTIGUA Y BARBUDA: Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

I know it might be inequitable for me to take the floor a second time, but there have been some remarks regarding addressing the problem. I wish to remind delegations that a Herculean effort was undertaken by the Alternate Representative of Mexico as Vice Chair of the Committee on Administrative and Budgetary Affairs (CAAP) in the 1998-99 and 1999-June 2000 periods. Countless hours were spent in addressing the question of quota payments and budget reform.

An underlying problem was correctly identified by the distinguished Permanent Representative of the United States. There is a disequilibrium, an over-reliance upon a single member state to meet so large a portion of the budget, to the extent that any default by that member state leads to the kind of crisis that we are now experiencing. But there is no political will to solve that underlying problem; there is no agreement that there will be a greater sharing of the burden.

The distinguished Representative of Chile talked about the size of the OAS budget being no more than that of a small university in the United States. Mr. Chairman, I believe your predecessor, the former Permanent Representative of Canada, used to point out that the OAS budget is smaller than that of the secondary school system of Prince George's County, the neighbor of Washington, D.C. Eighty million dollars simply cannot do the task that we intend for it to do. But having only one member state contribute 60 percent of the budget provides for a recurring crisis whenever that member states does not pay its quota in full and on time. That is the underlying problem that will not and cannot be addressed.

The suggestion that the political will is absent and so forth is really a subterfuge, Mr. Chairman. That is not the problem, with all due respect. I believe that the distinguished Alternate Representative of Mexico, having examined the problem for two consecutive years, knows precisely where the problems lies and how it can be solved. In fact, she has proposed many solutions to the problem, but there has been no attempt on the part of member states to accept the sharing of the burden in a more equitable fashion. Ambassador King of Barbados is quite right; this is going to continue to occur. It will never cease, provided that the method of payment continues to be 60 percent reliance upon the United States, and that is the source of the problem.

Forgive me for taking the floor a second time, but having heard several representatives indicate the need to address the problem, I thought that we might just put our finger right on the problem. Thank you very much.

El PRESIDENTE: Thank you, Ambassador. I recognize the Representative of Saint Lucia.

La REPRESENTANTE ALTERNA DE SANTA LUCÍA: Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

My delegation wishes to associate itself with the comments of the distinguished representatives of Jamaica, Trinidad and Tobago, Canada, and others who have underscored the problem as a direct result of the nonpayment of quota allocations. My government makes every effort to honor its financial commitments to this organization in a timely manner and will find great difficulty in having to pay any interest that will occur if the line of credit is established, as proposed.

My delegation is therefore not in a position to support this draft resolution in its present form. We will support the Mexican proposal for further political consultation on this issue.

Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

El PRESIDENTE: Thank you very much. The distinguished Representative of Colombia has the floor.

El REPRESENTANTE PERMANENTE DE COLOMBIA: Muchas gracias, señor Presidente.

No estoy de acuerdo en que se expida alguna resolución o que se acuda al mecanismo de que el Secretario General tenga que ir donde los señores presidentes que se encuentran reunidos en México con ocasión de la posesión del nuevo Jefe de Estado de ese país.

Esta mañana, en la reunión informal se debatió ampliamente la situación y queda muy claro que, en general, esta situación es muy fácil de solucionar. Dos de los países adeudan el 90% o tres el 95%. Eso quiere decir que los demás países estamos al día. No hay necesidad de molestar a nuestros presidentes y recordarles deudas que no tienen.

Los países que tienen las deudas mayoritarias ya han manifestado la forma en que van a cumplirle a la OEA. Por lo tanto, creo que con una buena gestión del Secretario General, de manera privada, con estos dos o tres países será fácil solucionar esta situación. Las gestiones realizadas por la administración han dado resultados y algunos países que estaban muy atrasados en sus cuotas han pagado durante el transcurso de este año. Por lo tanto creo que este trance no llegará a generar una crisis que justifique ahora la expedición de una resolución.

De suerte que con la muy buena voluntad de estos países vamos a poder solucionar esto y salir de las cuentas que tenemos pendientes para fin de año, que ha sido una situación crónica y recurrente, pero que no puede dar lugar a una gran crisis, como aquí se ha planteado.

Así que, simplemente, queremos reiterarle a esos países que hagan el esfuerzo necesario para agilizar el proceso en sus congresos o ante las autoridades presupuestales para que estos pagos se hagan prontamente.

Muchas gracias, señor Presidente.

El PRESIDENTE: Thank you very much, Ambassador, for your reflections.

I think we have had a very rich debate and exchange of views on a very important subject. It is clear to the Chair that we are not in any condition to approve the resolution as proposed. There are any number of ways of looking at the solution.

Let me first say that the close-down option is not a solution. It would be the bitterest of ironies for this Chair to be presiding over an organization that will close itself down because of a financial crisis, given the position that my country has consistently taken in its approach to its own payments and indeed to this issue.

That said, we in our craft engage in quiet diplomacy, as it seems to be the most effective recourse for problems. When that fails, we move on to public diplomacy in an attempt to force constructive quiet diplomacy.

I think the suggestions put forward are relevant, particularly that of our distinguished colleague from Mexico at the beginning of our debate that the Secretary General and the Assistant Secretary General—indeed the Secretariat—work as hard as they possibly can to resolve this crisis. The root of the problem is the failure on the part of several member states to make quota payments.

At the same time, there should be a very clear sign that if the quiet approach does not work, then perhaps a more vocal approach would represent a solution. I think the Council is signaling that.

Mr. Harding has given us a date of December 10. We have a meeting of the Council devoted to one subject, priorities, on December 8, and a letter on this subject will reach all permanent representatives soon, I hope. I am continuing with some consultations on that letter. That is not to say that we cannot discuss this particular crisis on December 8 in conjunction with our priorities. This goes in the direction of what Ambassador King was saying and allows some time for the Secretary General and the Assistant Secretary General to undertake their consultations, to make their *démarche*, and to engage in what we know they can do. Then we will look at this again on December 8.

The Chair would be loath to hold a separate Council meeting on this for a very simple reason. As we sit here, this meeting costs \$5,300. We have to be mindful of our costs. Self-examination, as suggested by Ambassador King, is useful in the context of trying to define our priorities, perhaps by different means; we will do that on December 8. But the Chair suggests that also on the December 8 we *retomar* this subject in the wake of the work that the Secretary General, the Assistant Secretary General, and their dedicated staff will undertake.

If this is agreeable to the Council, that is how we will proceed. Thank you.

PRESENTACIÓN DEL PRESIDENTE DEL CONSEJO DIRECTIVO DEL INSTITUTO INTERAMERICANO DEL NIÑO

EL PRESIDENTE: We move to item 7. I am pleased to welcome Mr. Brian Ward, Chairman of the Directing Council of the Inter-American Children's Institute (IACI), as well as its Director General, Dr. Alejandro Bonasso. I ask for a little bit of quiet in the room, if we can manage it. [Pausa.] Order, please; order.

I again extend a welcome to Mr. Brian Ward, the Chairman of the Directing Council of the Inter-American Children's Institute, as well as its Director General of that Institute, Dr. Alejandro Bonasso, who will present the document entitled "Advancing the Issues of Children in the Americas: Framework in Preparation for the Third Summit of the Americas." This document, CP/doc.3376/00, is presented in compliance with operative paragraphs 2 and 4 of resolution AG/RES. 1752 (XXX-O/00). Mr. Ward, you have the floor.

EI PRESIDENTE DEL CONSEJO DIRECTIVO DEL INSTITUTO INTERAMERICANO DEL NIÑO: Thank you very much. Mr. Chairman, Mr. Assistant Secretary General, representatives, permanent observers, ladies and gentlemen:

I am trying to think of any other topic of debate at this Council that I would rather not follow than the one that preceded me. But turning challenge to opportunity, I suggest that the Council may find in my report examples of significant work on an important population in our countries, as well as of good value for money. These examples represent 1.9 percent of the OAS budget that is worthy of the support of member states.

In Mexico City in October last year, a number of individuals known to many of you came together to issue a manifesto for children that included the following appeal:

We call upon the governments of Latin America, the Caribbean, as well as the world community to make a prime political, social, and economic objective to improve the living conditions of the population and to ensure that the best interests of children be a guiding principle within forums of public policy, including those made during periods of crisis, emergency, or structural adjustment.

Ladies and gentlemen, the theme of my presentation this year is "Children Have Friends in High Places." It is complemented beautifully by the presence of so many young people in your beautiful headquarters of the OAS. It is appropriate that these young people be in high places with their friends, who include writers, philosophers, Nobel laureates, leaders of the Americas, ambassadors, senators, politicians, and officials.

Children are dependent as a population group, and they quickly feel the impact of civil strife and socioeconomic and political crises in the Americas. Children are dependent, neither holding power nor official representation. They remain, however, a universal concern of the people of the Americas, and friends of children have opportunities this year to make a real difference.

On behalf of Alejandro Bonasso, who is the Director General of the Inter-American Children's Institute, the IACI Directing Council, and myself, I would like to express my appreciation for this opportunity to address the Permanent Council for the third time.

At our first presentation to the Permanent Council in September 1998, we emphasized that childhood and youth are permanent features of our societies. Approximately 40 percent of the population of our region is composed of people under the age of 18. We outlined for you the status of the health and well-being of children in the Hemisphere.

Some facts inspire hope and promise, some are of serious concern, and, frankly, some are tragic reminders that the most disadvantaged of our societies are children under the age of 18 and those who care for them. We link the success of the goals of the OAS, such as democracy, respect for human rights, the eradication of poverty and discrimination, and expanded economic integration to the health, well-being, and participation of children and youth. We stress that good policies for children define the future for societies as a whole.

In our second presentation to the Permanent Council, one year ago today, we analyzed the Plan of Action of the Santiago Summit of the Americas and the implicit mandates important to children and youth, and we described how the IACI was able to implement initiatives in support of these mandates. For example, under the section "The Preservation and Strengthening of Justice, Democracy, and Human Rights," the IACI introduced initiatives to combat the commercial and sexual exploitation of children and adolescents and then implemented the regional information systems. For the eradication of poverty and discrimination, the IACI encouraged reforms to eliminate all forms of domestic violence against women and children. In all of these areas, the Institute took action.

At the conclusion of our presentation last year, the Permanent Council asked the Institute to examine how the issues that affect children and youth cut across broader socioeconomic and political issues that are relevant to strengthening democracy, promoting prosperity, eradicating poverty and discrimination, and guaranteeing sustainable development and human security. The Permanent Council suggested that it would be appropriate to have children and youth issues incorporated horizontally in a multisectoral theme into the Summit of the Americas.

The General Assembly in Windsor asked the Institute to examine specific issues and recommend practical courses of action for members in the OAS.

Today, we have come to tell you the accomplishments of the Institute over the past year, as described in our annual report, and to describe the input we have provided to the OAS Special Committee on Inter-American Summits Management (CEGCI) regarding the inclusion of children in its deliberations.

In February 2000 we had the honor of inaugurating Mr. Alejandro Bonasso as the new Director General of the Institute. Mr. Bonasso had been President of the National Institute for Minors in Uruguay since 1995 and has a long-time commitment to the IACI as the Uruguayan Delegate on the Directing Council. Mr. Bonasso will be taking the opportunity of his stay here in Washington to meet with ambassadors of the OAS early next week.

In June 2000, Canada was pleased to host the Seventy-sixth Regular Meeting of the Institute's Directing Council in Ottawa. The Director General presented his strategic plan for 2000-2004 to the directors and it was approved. The Plan emphasizes five categories of necessary attention: political, technical, organizational, communications, and budget. The Director General also highlighted the importance of finding external funding, improving communications, and increasing the profile of the Institute here in Washington.

This meeting also had significant participation of civil society organizations working in the Americas on children's issues. Representatives from Central, North, and South America and the

Caribbean were invited to give presentations and to engage in debate with the directors of the Institute and other civil society organizations. We intend to make civil society participation a regular feature of future Directing Council meetings.

At the end of August the IACI and the First Lady of El Salvador hosted the Meeting for Children of the First Ladies of Central America, Belize, the Dominican Republic, and Panama in San Salvador. The Meeting's objective included the creation of a regional information system based on the IACI systems that will offer query services on documents, organizations, projects, laws, child-related Internet sites, and other references of interest on this subject. The Meeting concluded with an important declaration by the First Ladies of Central America on the need to cooperate regionally to permit access to quality information.

Also in August, the Institute actively participated in a regional meeting on child's rights in the Americas at Canada's University of Victoria International Child Rights Education Institute. Here, respected international and national experts, professionals, and policy makers influential to the realization of children's rights determined the need for regional capacity-building on the Convention on the Rights of the Child.

In October we participated in the Fifth Ministerial Meeting on Children and Social Policy in the Americas, in Kingston, Jamaica. The Meeting was hosted by the Caribbean subregion and the United Nations Children's Fund (UNICEF) and chaired by Jamaica's Special Children Ambassador, Marjorie Taylor, who is the Vice Chair of the IACI. The meeting served as an important event because it outlined and set the agenda for the Special Session of the UN General Assembly in 2001 for follow-up to the World Summit for Children (WSC + 10). The Special Session will take place in New York in September this year. One hundred and twenty children and adolescents from governments across the Americas participated as full partners in this meeting. Many of your representatives on the IACI Directing Council were in attendance, demonstrating their expertise and excellence in the field.

The heads of state of the governments of the 21 Ibero-American countries met in Panama City, Panama, this November to promote programs and actions that guarantee children's rights, well-being, and integral development. Many of the representatives to the IACI Directing Council were in attendance, as was our Director General. We have been active in strengthening relationships in many countries with regard to the signing of cooperative agreements throughout the Americas. We established the Inter-American Preparatory Committee for Children's Issues for the 2001 Summit. It is an interactive and virtual policy development initiative as mandated by the Windsor General Assembly.

A number of events in the coming year are of great importance to us and to you as representatives of your national governments. The OAS General Assembly has declared 2001 the Inter-American Year of the Child and the Adolescent, and the IACI is facilitating this process.

This week, members of the Summit Implementation Review Group (SIRG) discussed the content of the Plan of Action of the Third Summit of the Americas as it pertains to children and youth. For the first time, the Summit will explicitly include directions and actions that speak to children's and youth issues, and I will speak more about this in a moment.

The next IACI Directing Council meeting will be held in Montevideo, Uruguay, in May. Many of your representatives on the Directing Council will be involved in the 10-year review of the World Summit for Children in September that I referred to earlier.

Let me move to more immediate issues. Last year the Permanent Council recommended that the IACI examine the issues of children and youth in a multisectoral manner and asked us to advise on the best way in which to address them. With the approval of our Directing Council, a two-pronged approach was recommended. The IACI set up the Inter-American Preparatory Committee that I mentioned as a tool for directors and others to advise governments on the means of realizing children's rights. It is an instrument that synthesizes the key issues before children and youth in the Americas and provides possible policies to address them. It is a tool to advise governments regarding the Third Summit of the Americas. We anticipate the release of the final report of the Inter-American Preparatory Committee shortly.

We also developed a document, with the assistance of academics, researchers, civil society organizations, inter-American officials, and agencies, that mapped children's issues according to the framework of the Americas in a multisectoral way. We are specially grateful to the Pan American Health Organization (PAHO), the Red Cross, and the OAS's Unit for Social Development and Education (USDE) for their assistance in producing this paper.

The document, entitled "Advancing the Issues of Children in the Americas: Framework in Preparation for the Third Summit of the Americas," is available for your information today. You will note that the issues are analyzed according to the three baskets and their subsets for the Third Summit.

The document makes specific recommendations in its "Children and Youth" section, D.6. These recommendations have contributed to the development of the Third Summit's Declaration and Plan of Action. Yesterday, at the invitation of the OAS Special Committee on Inter-American Summits Management (CEGCI) and following up on a good discussion that we held there, it was determined that the Institute, in cooperation with others, will draw together some of the conversations and provide them to the SIRG before the end of December.

I would just like to point out a couple of examples of the content. The document outlines and maps the main opportunities for children relative to the framework of the Summit of the Americas. For example, the culture of democracy will be strengthened by creating opportunities for leadership and participation of children and young people in our institutions, societies, and events. Prosperity is created by investing in early childhood development that provides children with a strong start in life and ensures a safe environment that permits them to survive and be physically healthy, mentally alert, emotionally secure, and socially competent. Human potential is realized by ensuring the promotion of gender equality, the eradication of domestic violence, and the active participation of men in their families.

The recommendations of this contribution are part of the discussion for the Third Summit's Declaration and Plan of Action. We believe that the final recommendations on Section VI, "Children and Youth," should be focused and capable of implementation and should require limited resources of the OAS. We intend to bring that perspective to the task that we were assigned at the meeting yesterday, in consultation with others with expertise in children and youth issues.

I would like now to turn to one important insert to this discussion. In a recent document provided by UNICEF's Regional Office, they canvassed the opinions of children and youth about their expectations of governments, and this is what we found. Young people want:

- greater efficiency in government;
- more follow-through on electoral promises;
- an end to corruption;
- the prohibition of the use of drugs;
- the combat of crime;
- the dedication of greater resources for education and recreation; and
- more supportive help for the needy.

These views expressed by the young people of our region also reflect the priorities of the OAS, the Summit the Americas, and our member governments.

For your consideration, we would specifically ask your support for the recommendation to the SIRG that the IACI, your technical instrument of the OAS, and PAHO be appointed as technical advisors on children and youth for this and future summits of the Americas. We also ask you to recognize that the connectivity between inter-American agencies, researchers, civil society organizations, and international organizations, which is a mandate of the Institute, will enhance our capacity to share quality information and develop strong partnerships among sectors. As the OAS develops the next Strategic Plan for Partnership for Development, we ask you to recognize the horizontal, cross-cutting nature of children's issues, as pointed out by the OAS Permanent Council last year and as reflected in the IACI's paper to the SIRG.

For your own governments, as our job is partially to provide useful and helpful information, we would like to ask you to consider the following.

The first is really a note of appreciation to all of you, because the experts who have joined the Institute over the last four years have been of exceptionally high quality, and the Council has been considerably strengthened by the appointments that you have been making to it. We ask you to continue this and to work with them.

Second, the experts are very capable and in touch with the major issues. We hope that you will seek their counsel as you brief your heads of state in preparation for the Special Session of the General Assembly in 2001 for follow-up to the World Summit for Children. They have good contributions to make to you.

Third, at the next regular session of the General Assembly we would like to suggest that you support a proposal to establish a standing committee of the OAS on children and youth to facilitate further multisectoral planning and collaboration on activities that will impact children. We have had ad hoc groups here in Washington, but we think now is the time to establish a permanent subgroup on children to keep you in touch with our actions.

In summary and review: Children do have friends in high places. At the closing of the Ministerial Meeting in Jamaica, the Honorable John Junor put it this way:

May it be said 10 years of now that the generation born in the first decade of the 21st century found a world more generous in meeting their developmental needs, more skilled in providing them opportunities for their fulfillment, and more ready to listen and to improve them in shaping the world they will inherit.

Throughout these years, it has been demonstrated that in the Americas children, indeed, have friends in high places. Those friends have opportunities to help children and youth in these coming years.

The last slide is just for you to see what you may want to focus on in terms of the discussion. With that, Mr. Chairman, I thank you for this opportunity.

El PRESIDENTE: Thank you very much, Brian Ward, Chairman of the Directing Council of the Inter-American Children's Institute, whose day job is Director of the Childhood and Youth Division of Health Canada in Ottawa.

The floor is open to delegations who may wish to make comments. The Representative of the United States has the floor.

El REPRESENTANTE PERMANENTE DE LOS ESTADOS UNIDOS: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I want to start by thanking Dr. Ward for his excellent presentation. It is very useful to receive a firsthand view of a significant budget item that we examine here at headquarters. I encourage you to keep us informed. I am particularly happy that you were here for the previous discussion, as we struggled, as I hope you did, with the budget of this organization and the need to streamline and develop new tests of efficiency and relevancy.

The United States has a very strong and substantial financial commitment to children's issues throughout this hemisphere and the world. I have a special interest myself in the issues of children. In fact, that led to me to visit your headquarters in Montevideo recently while on a trip to South America.

Mr. Chairman, I have a question on procedure, and perhaps it is more appropriately addressed to you. I'm a stickler for discipline to make sure that all our organizations are working in some degree of cohesiveness. The proposal that was addressed to the meeting of the Summit Implementation Review Group (SIRG) yesterday, which I had the honor of co-chairing with you and Chile, had some sort of political foundation within the Organization of American States or, at the minimum, within the Directing Council of the Institute. It draws to my attention, for example, the elaborate proceedings before the SIRG meeting by the Inter-American Commission of Women (CIM) when our national representative presented the paper.

I am a little bit confused about the procedures of subsidiary organizations of the OAS, if one can call them that for this purpose, and their going directly to the SIRG to therein get specific mandates.

It's not that we oppose those mandates, but as a question of discipline, we're a little bit confused as to how we can correct that as we move forward towards April. I thought I heard you say that you would propose that this be forwarded to the Committee that you chair within the OAS.

El PRESIDENTE: Thank you, Ambassador. In fact, I did not propose that. This item was put on the order of business today as an information item. I indicated that in the letter that I sent to permanent representatives, and it also refers to a resolution adopted in Windsor regarding the Inter-American Children's Institute (IACI), so I thought that it would be for the benefit of the Council. In terms of the way the substantive decisions and recommendations were made, I would ask Mr. Ward to respond to that question briefly, please.

El PRESIDENTE DEL CONSEJO DIRECTIVO DEL INSTITUTO INTERAMERICANO DEL NIÑO: Thank you. I appreciate the opportunity to review how we proceed with our work.

The decision to provide information to the Summit process was taken here a year ago. When I finished the presentation, we asked for that mandate. The Directing Council then dealt with this issue in Canada in June. We were then conscious of the procedures of the SIRG team and the OAS Committee that represents the OAS before the SIRG process. We developed a paper that was finally vetted by the Executive Committee in Jamaica. The Executive Committee is made up of regional representatives chosen by the regions within the Directing Council.

On the invitation—which I understand was a general invitation—of the Special Committee on Inter-American Summits Management (CEGCI), we forwarded a copy, following an opportunity for all of those who had expressed an interest in our work to deal with it. That was submitted to a number of delegations on October 17. We did get some feedback, and then we were prepared to speak with the Committee, which had requested an October 31 deadline, I believe, for the information.

Had this been a perfectly timed environment, Ambassador, we would have been here today, as we are, and we would have made the presentation to the SIRG in February at basket 3. However, schedules do change, and priorities and timing have taken an accelerated step.

Consequently, yesterday we had the opportunity to raise these issues, among others, at the SIRG meeting. Today we are discussing it with the Permanent Council, which can send such instructions as it wishes to the Special Committee on Inter-American Summits Management.

El PRESIDENTE: Thank you, Mr. Ward, for your answer. I do not want to get into the specifics of what Ambassador Laredo is suggesting regarding the various authorities involved here. I think that puts Mr. Ward in a bit of an unfair position, because he has not been privy to some of our internal debate on that, but I think that clarifies the question that you had asked, Ambassador.

El REPRESENTANTE PERMANENTE DE LOS ESTADOS UNIDOS: It does clarify it very well, and I thank you for it.

El PRESIDENTE: I recognize the distinguished Representative of Grenada.

El REPRESENTANTE PERMANENTE DE GRENADA: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. The initiative to advance children's issues in the Third Summit of the Americas could prove to be one of the most important initiatives of the Summit.

My delegation wishes to express its appreciation to the Inter-American Children's Institute (IACI) for the meaningful activities conducted in the past to the benefit of all children of our hemisphere, especially with reference to democracy education and drug avoidance. Children and youth remain the most universal concern of all peoples of the Americas. Grenada is pleased to reaffirm its support to the work of the Institute.

Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

El PRESIDENTE: Thank you very much. I give the floor to the Representative of Jamaica.

La REPRESENTANTE ALTERNA DE JAMAICA: Thank you very much, Mr. Chairman. My delegation would like to thank Dr. Brian Ward for his presentation on advancing the issues of children in the Americas.

On behalf of the Vice Chair of the Directing Council of the Inter-American Children's Institute (IACI), Ambassador Marjorie Taylor of Jamaica, I express our appreciation for the efforts and initiatives of the Institute in showing the feasibility of issues related to the rights of the child and inserting them into the Summit process. The inclusion of the category of children and youth in the third basket, "Realizing Human Potential," is certainly a testimony that children must receive priority attention by our leaders. We are also gratified that the issue is recognized as a horizontal and cross-cutting theme and is therefore reflected in other pertinent sections of the Plan of Action.

During the recently concluded meeting of the Summit Implementation Review Group (SIRG), CARICOM member states presented a comprehensive package of recommendations relating to children and youth for inclusion in the Plan of Action of the Summit. I should point out that these recommendations were the product of consultations with children and youth in the region, who are very assertive in making their views known. Indeed, many of the proposals emerged from a youth summit held a few months ago in Nassau, The Bahamas.

We are particularly pleased that the draft Plan of Action makes reference to and endorses the Kingston Consensus of the Fifth Ministerial Meeting on Children and Social Policy in the Americas, which was held in Jamaica in October. The Government of Jamaica was very pleased to welcome ministers and government officials from all member states of the OAS, along with representatives of nongovernmental organizations. At that meeting children had an opportunity to have their voice heard once again, as over 150 children representing each member state of the Organization were present.

The Kingston Consensus expressed the political will of hemispheric governments to develop and implement long-term integrated and sustainable policies and programs to benefit children and youth. The Consensus, as Dr. Ward indicated, will be submitted as a regional contribution to the United Nations Special Session on Children, which will be held next year.

Mr. Chairman, the Government of Jamaica intends to collaborate with the Institute, as well as with other relevant agencies, in the promotion of children's issues. In this regard, my delegation wishes to indicate that our government will give careful and serious consideration to the proposal by Dr. Ward that the IACI and the Pan American Health Organization (PAHO) be appointed as official technical advisors on children for this and future Summits of the Americas.

Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

El PRESIDENTE: Thank you. The distinguished Representative of Paraguay has the floor.

El REPRESENTANTE PERMANENTE DEL PARAGUAY: Gracias, señor Presidente. No he pedido la palabra. Ha sido un error.

El PRESIDENTE: *Disculpe. Usted estaba en la pantalla.*

If there are no other comments, I would like to reiterate the Council's thanks to Brian Ward, to Alejandro Bonasso, and to the staff of the Inter-American Children's Institute (IACI). We have taken note of their report and we will send it on to the Special Committee on Inter-American Summits Management (CEGCI) for further consideration, as appropriate. It is so agreed.

We now move to item 8 on our order of business today, and this is "Other business." I propose the following approach to the order of business.

I have received a request from the Delegation of Haiti to take the floor on the issue of elections in Haiti, which I touched upon in my preliminary remarks. We are also saying farewell to two of our colleagues. The hour is also very late, so I would suggest that we follow our discipline as much as we can so that we can conclude "Other business" in a professional and businesslike way, and that includes the *despedidas* to our colleagues. I know everyone would wish to speak on the issue of the departure of our colleagues, but we do have a decision by this Council that the Chair should do that. We will see how our discussions proceed.

ELECCIONES EN HAITÍ (CONTINUACIÓN)

El PRESIDENTE: At this point I give the floor to the distinguished Representative of Haiti.

El REPRESENTANTE INTERINO DE HAITÍ: Merci, Monsieur le Président. J'ai l'honneur d'informer le Conseil permanent que conformément aux articles 134.2 de la Constitution de la République d'Haïti stipulant que les élections présidentielles ont lieu le dernier dimanche de novembre de la cinquième année du mandat présidentiel et 95.1, le peuple haïtien a été convoqué en ses comices le dimanche 26 novembre dernier pour élire un président de la République, neuf sénateurs, ainsi qu'un député et une commission municipale pour la commune de Lancelet. Treize mille bureaux de vote ont accueilli les électeurs et selon les données fournies par le Conseil électoral provisoire, instance chargée de l'organisation du scrutin, le taux de participation avoisinait 60%.

Les opérations électorales se sont déroulées pratiquement sans incident. Elles permettent d'assurer une solution de continuité dans l'application de la Constitution en établissant l'alternance

démocratique et une transition paisible et ordonnée. Les résultats officiels donnent l'ex-Président, Jean-Bertrand Aristide, chef du parti La Famille Lavalas, gagnant avec 91.69% des voix.

Dans sa première déclaration à la Presse, Monsieur Aristide a souligné qu'il y avait de la place pour tous dans son gouvernement, que l'opposition était indispensable à un Haïti en paix et qu'elle faisait partie du destin démocratique du pays. Ceci constitue la confirmation que le prochain gouvernement restera ouvert pour poursuivre le dialogue avec l'opposition et réussir à surmonter les difficultés émanant du processus antérieur.

Le Président élu prendra ses fonctions le 7 février 2001 selon les vœux de la Constitution de la République. Mon gouvernement est heureux que l'OEA, par sa déclaration suite au déroulement du scrutin, préserve l'option du dialogue qui conduit nécessairement au rétablissement de l'harmonie politique en Haïti et s'engage à poursuivre sa coopération avec tous les secteurs intéressés en vue de dégager toutes les voies du renforcement de la démocratie. Merci, Monsieur le Président.

El PRESIDENTE: Thank you very much for your statement. I reiterate that I had received and agreed to a previous request by the Delegation of Haiti, as I had indicated in my preliminary remarks. I ask for the indulgence of those delegations who had indicated a desire to speak—I believe they were the representatives of El Salvador and Paraguay.

CONTRIBUCIÓN DEL GOBIERNO DE EL SALVADOR AL FONDO ESPECÍFICO VOLUNTARIO DE APOYO A LA MISIÓN DE ALTO NIVEL AL PERÚ

El PRESIDENTE: The Representative of El Salvador has the floor.

La REPRESENTANTE PERMANENTE DE EL SALVADOR: Gracias, señor Presidente.

He tomado la palabra para hacer un anuncio en consonancia con la convicción de mi país con los principios que rigen nuestra Organización, y su inquebrantable fe en la democracia, la paz, el desarrollo, la integración y la solidaridad, que debe existir entre la gran familia interamericana.

En ese sentido, quisiera anunciar que mi Gobierno ha decidido hacer una contribución financiera al Fondo Específico Voluntario de Apoyo a la Misión de Alto Nivel al Perú, conforme lo decidieron nuestros cancilleres en Windsor. Quisiéramos expresar a todos los peruanos, a través de su Delegación y de la Embajadora Ramacciotti, quien ha luchado tanto por la democracia en su país y a quien estaremos despidiendo próximamente, la solidaridad de El Salvador, la formulación de nuestros mejores votos para que el Perú alcance el bienestar, el progreso, la prosperidad y la consolidación de la democracia.

Muchísimas gracias, señor Presidente.

El PRESIDENTE: Thank you, Ambassador, for that very welcome announcement.

SESIÓN ESPECIAL DEL GRUPO DE TRABAJO
SOBRE DEMOCRACIA REPRESENTATIVA

El PRESIDENTE: The distinguished Chairman of the Working Group on Representative Democracy has the floor.

El PRESIDENTE DEL GRUPO DE TRABAJO SOBRE DEMOCRACIA REPRESENTATIVA: Muchas gracias, señor Presidente.

Quiero aprovechar esta oportunidad para informar al Consejo Permanente que, en cumplimiento del mandato contenido en la resolución AG/RES. 1721 (XXX-O/00) emanada de la pasada Asamblea General de Windsor, el Grupo de Trabajo sobre Democracia Representativa realizará una sesión especial el próximo martes 5 de diciembre a las diez de la mañana, en el Salón Padilha Vidal. Allí se considerará el tema "La problemática de la representación: Partidos políticos, sistemas electorales y participación ciudadana". La sesión especial contará con la participación del distinguido doctor Luis Alberto Lacalle Herrera, ex Presidente de la República Oriental del Uruguay, quien compartirá la mesa de expertos con el profesor Eduardo Pizarro León-Gómez, quien es miembro del claustro de investigadores del Kellogg Institute for International Studies de la Universidad de Notre Dame.

Señor Presidente, a esa sesión hemos invitado también a representantes de organizaciones no gubernamentales y miembros de la comunidad académica. Quiero hacer una invitación muy especial a los señores representantes permanentes, así como a los observadores permanentes, para participar en esta sesión que nos dará la oportunidad de intercambiar opiniones y puntos de vista sobre un tema de gran importancia, que estoy seguro contribuirá al desarrollo de los trabajos de la Organización en materia del fortalecimiento de nuestras democracias. Muchas gracias, señor Presidente.

El PRESIDENTE: Thank you very much, Ambassador Abente, for bringing to the attention of the Council this very important meeting of the Working Group. I would reiterate the call made by our distinguished colleague from Paraguay that we be well represented at this very important meeting and seminar. I thank you for that.

ELECCIONES EN HAITÍ (CONTINUACIÓN)

El PRESIDENTE: The Representative of Canada has the floor.

El REPRESENTANTE ALTERNO DEL CANADÁ: Merci, Monsieur le Président. La Délégation du Canada remercie le distingué Représentant d'Haïti d'avoir bien voulu informer le Conseil permanent sur le déroulement des élections dans son pays. Cependant, le Gouvernement canadien déplore les actes de violence qui ont précédé ces élections occasionnant blessures et pertes de vie.

Nous nous inquiétons également des menaces qui pèsent toujours contre certains journalistes haïtiens. La démocratie saura-t-elle se développer dans un climat où la violence a libre cours et où la liberté d'expression est en doute? Le Canada invite les autorités haïtiennes à assumer leurs

responsabilités afin de garantir un climat permettant aux Haïtiens et Haïtiennes de vaquer à leurs occupations en toute sécurité.

L'engagement du Canada à soutenir le développement d'Haïti est sincère et profond. C'est donc avec une grande déception que nous prenons note que les élections présidentielles haïtiennes ont eu lieu à la fin de la semaine dernière sans que des réponses constructives aient été apportées aux préoccupations des observateurs nationaux et internationaux sur les élections du 21 mai et sans que des mesures concrètes aient été prises pour éviter des problèmes similaires dans le futur.

Nous souhaitons souligner le dévouement et l'habileté avec lesquelles le Secrétaire général adjoint, Luigi Einaudi, a dirigé la Mission d'observation de l'OEA qui a précédé la tenue des élections. Nous regrettons, toutefois, que cette mission n'ait pu permettre le consensus souhaité. Nous croyons que l'OEA peut continuer de jouer un rôle important au cours de cette période post-électorale afin de continuer à encourager le Président élu et son gouvernement à renforcer la démocratie en Haïti.

Le Canada reste convaincu que le peuple haïtien a le désir et la volonté de continuer à travailler au développement démocratique de son pays. Le Canada souhaite continuer à appuyer les Haïtiens dans leurs efforts, mais les circonstances de l'entrée en fonction du Parlement et Gouvernement haïtiens auront inévitablement un impact sur notre façon de le faire. Merci, Monsieur le Président.

El PRESIDENTE: Merci. Je donne la parole au Représentant permanent des Etats-Unis.

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

The United States has welcomed the dedicated and continuing commitment of the Organization of American States, along with the United Nations, the European Community, particularly the Caribbean Community (CARICOM), and others to build democracy and respect for the rule of law in Haiti. This commitment recognizes our common interest in meeting the difficult challenges outlined in our own Permanent Council resolution of August 4 of this year [CP/RES. 772 (1247/00)], in which we seek to redress the deficiencies in Haiti's May 2000 legislative and local elections and strengthen democratic institutions.

Haiti's November 26 elections underscore these challenges. The elections did not benefit from the full participation of Haiti's diverse political society. Voter turnout was, by most credible accounts, very low. These factors, coupled with preelection violence, indicate that Haiti has considerable ground to cover in developing an effective and inclusive electoral process.

The United States did not send official observers to Haiti nor provide electoral assistance on November 26 because the country's leaders failed to address the serious concerns raised by this organization and others regarding the May elections. These concerns remain.

We concur with the OAS's assessment that holding the elections on November 26 did not supplant the need to ensure the broad political representation and citizen participation that are critical to Haitian democracy. More than at any time in Haiti's recent history, there is a vital need for Haiti's

people and government to build democracy and ensure national reconciliation. Only truly representative government institutions, including a national parliament chosen in a free and fair elections, can facilitate this cooperation.

We urge the Haitian authorities to take tangible and immediate steps to restore the confidence of the Haitian people and the international community. As these steps are taken, the United States stands ready to help the Haitian people in their pursuit of prosperity, dignity, and democracy.

Mr. Chairman, I find it ironic that a matter as serious as the elections in Haiti, to which we as an organization have dedicated so much time, energy, effort, and resources, should be ever so briefly treated under "Other business." I trust and expect that we will have a much fuller hearing on this matter.

El PRESIDENTE: Thank you, Ambassador. I give the floor to the distinguished Representative of Saint Vincent and the Grenadines.

El REPRESENTANTE PERMANENTE DE SAN VICENTE Y LAS GRANADINAS: Thank you very much, Mr. Chairman. I seek the floor on behalf of the countries of the Caribbean Community (CARICOM), and I thank the Delegation of Haiti for the statement made to the Permanent Council on the recent elections in that country.

The position of CARICOM has been expressed in this august body on several occasions. CARICOM's engagement with Haiti is a matter of great importance to the region. It is in this context that our heads of government agreed to dispatch a small mission to be present at this critical political moment in Haiti. That mission will report directly to the heads.

We recognize and share the concerns expressed here today by the delegations of Canada and the United States. CARICOM is aware that this presence in Haiti during the elections engendered many questions beyond the Community.

The Community, for its part, is also aware that other entities from outside the region were present at this most recent electoral event in Haiti. We laud the continued efforts of the Organization of American States in assisting the Government and the social and political forces of Haiti in their efforts to strengthen democratic institutions and to contribute to an environment of peace and security in the country. CARICOM appreciates the efforts of the Secretary General, the Assistant Secretary General, and the representatives of the Group of Friends of the Secretary-General of the United Nations on Haiti in facilitating dialogue among the political forces in Haiti. They should not be discouraged because no consensus has emerged so far that is good enough to achieve national accord to resolve the political crisis in a manner that will elicit the support of the international community.

CARICOM agrees with the OAS that the decision of the Haitian authorities to proceed with the election on November 26, despite the absence of such an accord, avoids an interruption in the timetable for presidential succession established by the Constitution of Haiti, but does not alter the need to ensure the broad political representation and citizen participation critical to the development of Haitian democracy. The governments and peoples of the Caribbean Community, fully conscious of the gravitas of the socioeconomic situation in Haiti, call upon the political forces in that country to

demonstrate the goodwill and commitment necessary to create an environment conducive to the effective utilization of assistance from the regional and international communities.

Thank you very much, Mr. Chairman.

El PRESIDENTE: Thank you, Ambassador Layne, for that important statement on behalf of CARICOM. The Chair recognizes the distinguished Permanent Observer of France.

La OBSERVADORA PERMANENTE DE FRANCIA: Monsieur le Président, la France qui fait partie du groupe des amis d'Haïti ne peut qu'exprimer le vœu que ce pays et sa population connaissent une période durable de paix et de stabilité. Je voudrais rendre hommage aux efforts diplomatiques tenaces déployés par le Secrétaire général adjoint de l'OEA, l'Ambassadeur Luigi Einaudi.

En tant que Représentante de la Présidence du Conseil européen assumée par la France, je souhaiterais, Monsieur le Président, lire la Déclaration de la Présidence au nom de l'Union européenne qui a été adoptée à Bruxelles aujourd'hui même sur les élections présidentielles et sénatoriales en Haïti. Le texte est le suivant :

L'Union Européenne prend note de la proclamation par le Conseil électoral provisoire de l'élection de Monsieur Jean-Bertrand Aristide au scrutin présidentiel qui s'est déroulé en Haïti le 26 novembre. Elle déplore que les élections présidentielles et sénatoriales du 26 novembre aient été précédées d'une vague de violence et, notamment d'une série d'explosions qui ont fait de nombreuses victimes et ont, en particulier, occasionné la mort de deux enfants. L'Union regrette que les efforts entrepris par l'Organisation des Etats Américains n'aient pas abouti à un accord, notamment sur deux questions essentielles : la mise en place d'un conseil électoral provisoire indépendant et représentatif des diverses tendances du pays et le traitement et la résolution des contentieux issus des élections contestées du 21 mai 2000. L'opposition a refusé dans ces conditions de présenter des candidats et aucune observation internationale n'a pu être organisée.

L'Union européenne insiste sur la nécessité de respecter les droits de l'homme et la pluralité démocratique. Elle encourage la reprise du dialogue entre toutes les composantes de la société haïtienne.

L'Union européenne rappelle qu'à la suite du refus des autorités haïtiennes de tenir compte des observations de l'Organisation des Etats Américains sur les élections du 21 mai, elle a engagé la procédure de consultations prévue à l'article 96 de l'Accord de Cotonou en vue de trouver des mesures pour remédier à la situation, mais elle n'exclut pas de réorienter sa coopération avec Haïti si aucune solution acceptable ne pouvait être trouvée.

Les pays d'Europe centrale et orientale associés à l'Union européenne, Chypre, Malte et la Turquie – pays également associés – ainsi que l'Islande, le Liechtenstein et la Norvège – pays de l'AELE et membres de l'espace économique européen – se rallient à cette déclaration. [Fin de citation].

Je vous remercie, Monsieur le Président. Je voudrais remercier également l'Ambassadeur du Paraguay de m'avoir offert le bord de sa délégation. Merci.

El PRESIDENTE: Thank you very much, Ambassador, for your statement on behalf of France and the European Union. The distinguished Representative of Argentina has the floor.

El REPRESENTANTE PERMANENTE DE LA ARGENTINA: Muchas gracias, señor Presidente.

Señor Presidente, sería reiterativo indicar que esta Organización, y en particular este Consejo, le ha dedicado mucho tiempo, energía y recursos a la cuestión vinculada al fortalecimiento y la construcción de las instituciones democráticas en Haití.

Definitivamente, lo que ha guiado nuestros esfuerzos, por lo menos en el pasado reciente, ha sido una resolución que adoptamos en este Consejo Permanente en el mes de agosto pasado en donde se señalaban una serie de cuestiones que estaban en el origen del interés y la preocupación de este Consejo.

Como todos sabemos, a través de las misiones, lideradas primero por el señor Secretario General y después por las incansables y trajinadas gestiones del señor Secretario General Adjunto, esas preocupaciones lamentablemente no han sido objeto de algún tipo de respuesta visible. En particular, cuando se hacían señalamientos concretos con respecto al ejercicio electoral llevado a cabo el 21 de mayo pasado que, a nuestro juicio, continúa afectando por lo menos la calidad de todo el proceso que se ha producido durante el último año en Haití.

En ese sentido, el simple cumplimiento de plazos constitucionales, sin referirnos a las circunstancias en que ellos se llevan a cabo, no aseguran, lamentablemente, el pleno ejercicio de lo que consideramos una democracia plena.

Esta Organización no puede desentenderse automáticamente de aquello, porque no se obtienen los resultados o porque, en última instancia, no ve el fruto de sus esfuerzos de una manera como probablemente hubiera sido la deseable. Por ello estamos dispuestos a apoyar la moción adelantada por el distinguido Representante Permanente de los Estados Unidos, conducente a que este Consejo Permanente aborde, dentro de un punto específico en alguna próxima reunión que se celebre, la cuestión derivada del cumplimiento de la resolución adoptada por este Consejo en el mes de agosto y, eventualmente, las acciones que pueda seguir desarrollando esta Organización en favor del pueblo haitiano y, fundamentalmente, de la consolidación de una democracia cuya calidad no esté en tela de juicio y que no ponga, por carácter transitivo, en igual condición los esfuerzos, el interés y el prestigio de esta Organización para la consecución de ese fin.

Muchas gracias, señor Presidente.

El PRESIDENTE: Thank you, Ambassador Arcuri.

I give the floor to the Assistant Secretary General on this subject.

El SECRETARIO GENERAL ADJUNTO: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I take the floor simply to say that I appreciate very much the references to my person in the context of the work undertaken by the Secretariat in attempting to fulfill resolution CP/RES. 772 (1247/00) of the Permanent Council of August 4, 2000. I can only regret very deeply that those efforts have not been crowned with appreciable success to date.

I would like to explicitly recognize the support that our efforts have received from member states, Argentina, Chile, Venezuela, Canada, and the United States; from CARICOM; from observer states, particularly France; and from the representatives of the Group of Friends of the Secretary-General of the United Nations on Haiti.

I have taken note of this discussion. I had thought that overall, we had made an effort to keep the Council informed. The second report contained exhaustive information on our dialogues in Haiti, as well as documents arising from them. As you know, the Secretary General and I issued a statement this past Monday.

I have taken careful note of the statements made by Jean-Bertrand Aristide on Monday and by the Representative of Haiti to this Council today, and I certainly welcome the desire expressed therein to maintain open the path of dialogue. I think that the OAS does have a responsibility to seek to support members states in efforts to strengthen democracy and to improve conditions of security for their peoples.

In this connection, I would like to make one very simple statement and a suggestion. The statement is that we do have unfinished business before us. Several of the statements have pointed out—and it is implicit in the position of the Government of Haiti—that the basic problems of political representation and participation that arose sharply in the period since the May 21 elections have not been resolved and remain very much on the agenda.

My suggestion in that context is that building on the dialogue that we did succeed in opening in Haiti before the elections of November 26, it is perhaps good for everyone to keep in mind some basic points about security in Haiti. These four points were contained in the document “*Éléments de Réflexion*” that I presented to the parties in Haiti, and the parties agreed to the points in the course of that dialogue. I believe that these four points constitute an important conditioning element for any future effort, and they are:

- The Executive shall ensure the professional conduct of the police;
- The political parties should contribute to the climate of security by cultivating tolerance, peace, and mutual respect;
- The political parties pledge to refrain from inciting violence and to discipline their supporters if they resort to violence; and
- The Executive shall establish a mechanism for allowing the political parties to cooperate in helping the police to maintain their neutrality.

Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

El PRESIDENTE: Thank you, Ambassador Einaudi, for your very clear statement. The Chair would like to thank the delegations that have intervened on this item, which was initially raised by the Delegation of Haiti. The Council notes the comments made by delegations, some of which have been circulated; remains seized, as per resolution CP/RES. 772 (1247/00), of the situation in Haiti; and may revisit it.

CREACIÓN DE UN NUEVO GRUPO DE TRABAJO SOBRE EL TEMA DE LA DESCENTRALIZACIÓN

El PRESIDENTE: I give the floor to the Representative of Bolivia.

El REPRESENTANTE ALTERNO DE BOLIVIA: Gracias, señor Presidente.

Con un criterio de oportunidad, no tanto en tiempo u horario como temático, nos tomamos la libertad de utilizar unos minutos de este Consejo para referirnos a un aspecto que fue postergado por decisión del Consejo en su última sesión, el cual se refiere al tema de la descentralización.

La Delegación de Bolivia le dio mucha importancia a este tema. Es de conocimiento de este cuerpo y de su Presidencia el esfuerzo que hicimos por que esta resolución fuera efectiva en Windsor. Nuestro concepto fue, no solamente premonitorio sino acertado, y se ha visto reflejado de modo muy particular con ocasión del último ejercicio de la XX Reunión del GRIC, en donde se incluye en el proyecto de plan de acción una referencia específica a la resolución AG/RES. 1760 (XXX-O/00) adoptada en Canadá.

En esa oportunidad también se presentaron otros aspectos concomitantes que han dado mayor valor a la resolución referida, como el aporte de la CARICOM y la posibilidad de enmarcar dentro del mismo criterio las resoluciones que se adoptaron en la reunión de alcaldes realizada en Miami en el mes de abril pasado. Es por ello que la Delegación de Bolivia, a fin de no postergar más una decisión en relación con el cumplimiento del mandato de Windsor y la resolución 1760, sugiere que se forme un grupo de trabajo dentro de la Comisión de Seguimiento de Cumbres, por existir elementos concomitantes que hacen relación con ese tema.

Gracias, señor Presidente.

El PRESIDENTE: Thank you very much. The Chair suggests, based on the intervention by our colleague from Bolivia, that the resolution be forwarded to the Special Committee on Inter-American Summits Management (CEGCI), which would create a working group on this subject. The working group could be chaired by Bolivia, if this is agreeable to the Council.

ACUERDO DE LIBRE COMERCIO ENTRE CHILE Y LOS ESTADOS UNIDOS

El PRESIDENTE: I recognize the Representative of the United States.

El REPRESENTANTE PERMANENTE DE LOS ESTADOS UNIDOS: Mr. Chairman, ending on a good note, I have the honor of reading the following statement that was released yesterday by the President of the United States, Bill Clinton:

The United States of America and Chile have agreed to start negotiations on a comprehensive bilateral Free Trade Agreement (FTA). The FTA will build on the progress that has been made by the United States-Chile Joint Commission on Trade and Investment that was established during President Clinton's state visit to Chile in April of 1998. This endeavor reflects our mutual commitment to advancing free and open trade and investment in the Americas and around the world.

The United States of America and Chile are both strong supporters of the Free Trade Area of the Americas negotiations, the FTAA. The negotiation of a bilateral Free Trade Agreement between us will provide further impetus for the FTAA negotiations.

The United States and Chile reaffirm their strong commitment to the multilateral trading system and the launch of a new round in 2001.

The FTA will include labor and environmental provisions along the lines of the United States-Jordan FTA.

I have directed Ambassador Charlene Barshefsky to assign a high priority to advancing negotiations for an FTA.

Mr. Chairman, I wanted to share that with you. The high priority assigned by both countries to negotiating this agreement is reflected in the fact that the Foreign Minister Alvear of Chile will be visiting Washington in the next few days to begin the negotiations.

Thank you.

El PRESIDENTE: Thank you, Ambassador, for that piece of good news. The Representative of Chile has the floor.

El REPRESENTANTE PERMANENTE DE CHILE: Gracias, señor Presidente. Quiero expresar una satisfacción equivalente a la manifestada por el señor Representante de los Estados Unidos frente a la noticia que hemos conocido recientemente.

Efectivamente, esa noticia viene a llenar un deseo chileno largamente contenido. Es para nosotros muy satisfactorio que esta resolución se haya tomado. Muchas gracias.

PALABRAS DE RECONOCIMIENTO A LA
EX REPRESENTANTE PERMANENTE DEL PERÚ EN OCASIÓN DE
SU ALEJAMIENTO DEL CONSEJO PERMANENTE

El PRESIDENTE: Thank you, Ambassador. As I had indicated at the beginning of "Other business," we are bidding farewell to two of our colleagues today. With the indulgence of the

Council, and as per the rules that we have adopted, the Chair would speak and then offer the floor to those departing. If agreeable, I would strongly suggest that we then repair upstairs to bid farewell to our colleagues. There, the Assistant Secretary General will address us and others may as well, given the lateness of the hour.

Allow me first to say a few words of farewell to Ambassador Beatriz Ramacciotti, who resigned as Permanent Representative of Peru to the OAS on November 22. A diplomat par excellence and a esteemed friend of us all, our dear friend Beatriz Ramacciotti has had a long and distinguished record as the representative of her country since November 1994.

She served with distinction as Chair of the Permanent Council from October to December of 1996 and of the Committee on Juridical and Political Affairs (CAJP) from 1996 to 1997. She also chaired the Special Group to Implement the Recommendations of the Meeting of Ministers of Justice or Ministers or Attorneys General of the Americas with outstanding results and great efficiency. It would be very remiss of me if I did not recall her dedication to the status of women in the Americas and to gender equity and equality.

On behalf of the Permanent Council and on my behalf, I wish to thank our colleague and friend Beatriz Ramacciotti for her enthusiasm and industry and for her contribution to this organization. I also reiterate the friendship of all of her colleagues in this Council and in the General Secretariat and join them in wishing her every success in her future endeavors. Beatriz, to you and your family, our very best wishes. You have the floor.

La EX REPRESENTANTE PERMANENTE DEL PERÚ: Muchas gracias, señor Presidente.

Quiero agradecer al encargado de negocios del Perú, Ministro Antonio García, por la deferencia de poder hacer uso de la palabra en este Consejo.

En primer lugar, señor Presidente, mil gracias a usted por sus palabras y las de todos los integrantes de este Consejo Permanente. Todas esas palabras tan sentidas, tan especiales, las acepto con emoción porque sé que provienen de la generosidad y sincera amistad de todos ustedes en este acto de despedida.

Deseo tomar unos breves minutos, porque sé que esta sesión ha sido sumamente larga, para expresar solo algunos pensamientos personales sobre mi gestión como Representante Permanente del Perú ante esta Organización.

En estos ya largos seis años en que he tenido el privilegio de representar a mi país en la OEA y de participar en las más diversas actividades que nuestro organismo conoce, quisiera destacar algunos de los asuntos que tuvieron especial significación. La defensa de los intereses soberanos de mi país en este foro que, no obstante en aquella oportunidad fueron momentos muy difíciles y azarosos para dos pueblos hermanos, hoy en día, con gran beneplácito y regocijo, puede destacarse el reencuentro y la paz existentes entre el Perú y el Ecuador. Ello es una digna muestra de que cuando hay voluntad política puede hacerse realidad la solución pacífica de los conflictos y el respeto al derecho internacional.

En los prioritarios principios de la defensa y promoción de la democracia y de los derechos humanos, tuvimos la oportunidad de participar activamente en el diálogo para fortalecer y perfeccionar estas dos bases fundamentales del sistema interamericano, en beneficio de la plena vigencia de todos los derechos y libertades ciudadanas para todos.

En la actualidad, con la presencia de la OEA en algunos países, con misiones de observación electoral y otros mecanismos como la Misión de Alto Nivel y la Mesa de Diálogo en el Perú, se está comprobando que podemos armonizar la defensa de la democracia representativa con el principio de no intervención. Ello es muy alentador y representa una garantía para todos nuestros pueblos.

En el complejo y debatido tema del terrorismo se alcanzó a plasmar, gracias a la realización de dos conferencias especializadas y a la creación del Comité Interamericano Contra el Terrorismo (CICTE), una conciencia regional frente a lo que representa este flagelo, que constituye un delito común grave que lesiona a nuestras democracias.

Hay otro tema en el que estuve siempre muy comprometida, como usted lo ha señalado con toda generosidad, señor Presidente, porque lógicamente he visto y veo a la OEA con ojos de mujer, de mujer peruana y latinoamericana, y ése es el tema de la equidad de género. En este ámbito se aprecian alentadores avances que se expresan en los más diversos niveles. En la CIM, y en general en toda la Organización, hay estrategias, políticas y programas para lograr que las mujeres participen en los espacios de poder y dirección, a nivel nacional e internacional.

Estoy convencida de que solo así podremos ir cerrando la brecha de género, aún muy vasta, aún pendiente y que resulta ser inaceptable en una sociedad democrática.

Por otro lado, la modernización de los sistemas de justicia y la lucha contra la corrupción para asentar en nuestros pueblos la probidad, la ética cívica y la aplicación de la ley con equidad, también fueron temas a los que les entregamos nuestra mejor dedicación y energías, lográndose resultados bastante positivos. Ahí están la Convención Interamericana Contra la Corrupción y las bases para un mecanismo de seguimiento de dicho tratado. Ahí están las reuniones periódicas de los ministros de justicia, una de ellas realizada en Lima, y la creación del Centro de Estudios de Justicia de las Américas.

Por cierto que habría que mencionar muchas otras áreas fundamentales. Pero sería sumamente extenso hacerlo con propiedad en estos momentos. Sin embargo, hay una temática a la que necesariamente debo hacer referencia y es la modernización de la OEA y la renovación del sistema interamericano, tarea en la cual estuvimos trabajando en muchas y muy intensas jornadas. En esto nos felicitamos de que se haya logrado, por ejemplo, un formato nuevo, más ágil y dinámico, de las Asambleas Generales; la avanzada modernización de la Secretaría General, aún incompleta en algunos aspectos y pendiente en otros; la creación y proyecciones de la Agencia Interamericana para la Cooperación y el Desarrollo; la incorporación de la sociedad civil en muchos de nuestros trabajos; y la creciente coordinación y complementación entre la OEA y el proceso de las Cumbres de las Américas.

Como ustedes comprenderán, son muchos y muy significativos los momentos que pude compartir con ustedes y con otros apreciados colegas que ya partieron. Ellos ayudaron, en alguna medida, a escribir diversas páginas de la historia de la OEA.

Señor Presidente, a través de este brevísimo recuento he querido, de alguna manera, expresar el privilegio de haber sido partícipe de este resurgimiento de la OEA, que se ha orientado hacia un multilateralismo creativo y flexible que permite compatibilizar, poco a poco, los intereses nacionales con los valores compartidos de la comunidad internacional.

A todos ustedes, Embajadoras y Embajadores; a los Representantes Alternos; a los funcionarios y a todos aquellos que hoy nos acompañan en esta sesión, con su presencia o con su recuerdo, quiero agradecerles su amistad y valiosa colaboración, no solo en nombre propio sino también en nombre de mi país.

Asimismo, al doctor César Gaviria, nuestro Secretario General, quien desde el primer momento me extendió su amistad, confianza y también su comprensión en momentos difíciles, particularmente aquéllos en que estuvo a prueba la paz, la seguridad o la democracia en mi país. A él mis felicitaciones por su elevada y destacada gestión, y también a su distinguida esposa y familia mi gratitud y afecto, al igual que a todos y cada uno de sus colaboradores en la Secretaría General.

No puedo, lamentablemente, por la brevedad del tiempo, hacer menciones personales, pero quiero extender este agradecimiento a todas y todos los funcionarios, sin distinciones de cargo o responsabilidad. De cada uno de ellos recibí siempre un gran apoyo y su mejor disposición de servicio.

Quiero expresar también mi gratitud al distinguido Embajador Luigi Einaudi, admirado y querido amigo del Perú, con mis mejores votos para una fructífera gestión al frente de la Secretaría General Adjunta.

Asimismo, deseo dejar testimonio de que, en gran medida, los logros que pudieran haberse alcanzado durante mi gestión al frente de la Misión del Perú son también resultado del profesionalismo, espíritu de servicio, responsabilidad y excelencia del equipo de funcionarios diplomáticos que me acompañaron a lo largo de estos seis años. A todos ellos mi gratitud, amistad y reconocimiento.

Señor Presidente, señor Secretario General Adjunto, queridas amigas y amigos: no puedo ocultar que será difícil para mí estar lejos de este Consejo Permanente, será difícil estar lejos de todos ustedes, porque aprendí mucho en esta Casa de las Américas.

Me voy con el optimismo y la confianza que confiere haber sido protagonista y testigo de una nueva visión. Me voy con la esperanza de que la OEA seguirá avanzando con paso firme en el nuevo camino que hemos venido construyendo en estos últimos años para trascender en sus propósitos y principios, que sí perduran, más allá de los que llegamos y partimos. Por ello, conservaré entre mis mejores recuerdos las valiosas vivencias, los debates, los momentos gratos y los menos gratos también.

Puedo asegurarles que todos estos años, en que tuve el privilegio de trabajar en la OEA al servicio de mi país, estarán siempre muy presentes en mi memoria y en mis afectos.

Gracias a usted, señor Presidente, por sus generosas palabras. Mil gracias a todos.
[Aplausos.]

El PRESIDENTE: Thank you, Ambassador.

PALABRAS DE RECONOCIMIENTO AL REPRESENTANTE PERMANENTE
DE NICARAGUA EN OCASIÓN DE SU ALEJAMIENTO
DEL CONSEJO PERMANENTE

El PRESIDENTE: I would also like to take this opportunity to bid farewell to our distinguished colleague and friend, Ambassador Álvaro Sevilla Siero, Permanent Representative of Nicaragua.

Ambassador Sevilla Siero has been with us since April 14, 1999. In August of that year he was elected Vice Chair of the Committee on Juridical and Political Affairs (CAJP), bringing to the deliberations of that committee his highly developed juridical skills.

Ambassador Sevilla has a well-recognized diplomatic career in representation of his country since 1962. As Permanent Representative to the OAS, he always defended the interests of Nicaragua with fervor and passion and worked tirelessly in all of the committees and working groups of the Permanent Council.

Ambassador, in the relatively short time that you have been with us, we have been witness to your valuable contributions to the consideration of matters on the hemispheric agenda. On behalf of the Permanent Council, I wish you and your family all the very best in your future endeavors. You have the floor.

El REPRESENTANTE PERMANENTE DE NICARAGUA: Señor Presidente, gracias por sus palabras y gracias a todos aquellos que han participado en este acto de despedida.

Me incorporé a este Consejo Permanente en la sesión ordinaria que tuvo lugar el 28 de abril de 1999 y el lapso transcurrido me ha proporcionado importantes elementos de juicio para comprender mejor y valorar la labor institucional y la de todos ustedes, señoras Embajadoras y señores Embajadores, funcionarios de las misiones permanentes y del personal en conjunto de la Organización de los Estados Americanos, en sus diferentes instancias de especialización.

He tenido la gran satisfacción de haber representado a un Presidente, el doctor Arnoldo Alemán, cuyas acciones han permitido el progresivo fortalecimiento y consolidación del estado de derecho y la democracia en Nicaragua.

Me considero afortunado al haber tenido el privilegio de compartir con ustedes importantes jornadas, lo cual me ha permitido, en representación de mi país, apoyar los esfuerzos que han tenido como principal finalidad el fiel cumplimiento de los propósitos de esta Organización, por conducto de este Consejo Permanente y demás órganos del sistema interamericano.

Antes de asumir mi cargo conocí bastante el accionar de nuestro organismo regional por excelencia, y observé en situaciones diferentes sus momentos de crisis y los de regocijo por los avances registrados en el Continente. Pienso que la OEA es el foro más importante de reflexión y debate político en América, siendo en consecuencia una necesidad de primer orden la difusión de sus logros e inquietudes.

No hace mucho tiempo se celebraron los cincuenta años de la OEA, habiéndose evidenciado que cada vez se reconocen más sus méritos, lo que la hace interesante a los ojos del mundo, y muestra de ello es que los países observadores superan en número a los Estados Miembros de la Organización.

Las transformaciones sucedidas en el universo político durante los últimos años deben ser utilizadas para reforzar el papel protagónico de la Organización y, como parte de ello, el que le corresponde a los países miembros.

La Organización de los Estados Americanos cuenta con los mecanismos necesarios requeridos a la hora de honrar sus compromisos y su razón de ser, constituyendo según el artículo 1 de su Carta, la Organización Internacional que han desarrollado los Estados americanos para lograr un orden de paz y de justicia, fomentar su solidaridad, robustecer su colaboración y defender su soberanía, su integridad territorial y su independencia.

Nos encontramos al inicio de un nuevo milenio y los retos son muchos, complejos todos, y las metas a alcanzar difíciles pero no imposibles. Los temas no son nuevos, pero sí es necesario con respecto a los mismos que las prioridades que definamos se orienten en función de realidades.

La Organización de los Estados Americanos es el foro político de más alto nivel del Continente y es así que las agendas políticas de los Estados que la forman revisten importancia transnacional, y asuntos que por tradición eran del orden interno de los países hoy van más allá de sus fronteras y su dimensión es internacional.

La Cumbre de Miami de 1994 permitió a los Jefes de Estado y de Gobierno de las Américas diseñar lo que se ha llamado una nueva agenda interamericana, existiendo coincidencia en el sentido de que la OEA debe apoyar su desarrollo. Prueba de ello son los mandatos derivados de los planes de acción de las cumbres y resoluciones adoptadas por las Asambleas Generales de nuestro organismo regional.

Como antes expresé, los retos son muchos y uno de ellos es el fortalecimiento de la democracia, contándose hoy con una auténtica doctrina interamericana de apoyo y solidaridad con la democracia. La democracia hay que cuidarla y para ello debemos, entre otras acciones, reforzar el principio de la independencia y el equilibrio de los poderes, optimizar la administración de justicia e incrementar la eficiencia estatal. Los espacios de participación de la ciudadanía en la toma de decisiones deben ser ensanchados, los mecanismos de vigilancia del funcionamiento de los poderes públicos se deben fortalecer y la ciudadanía debe tener garantizado el acceso a la información sobre el desempeño de sus gobernantes.

La consolidación de la democracia en el Hemisferio es una tarea permanente y sin descanso, y su solidez será mayor cuando nuestros países alcancen un desarrollo económico similar y un alto nivel de justicia social.

Son también parte de los desafíos que enfrentamos, y por cierto no menos importantes que el fortalecimiento de la democracia, la seguridad hemisférica, el combate contra el terrorismo y la violencia, los derechos humanos, la lucha contra el tráfico de drogas, la lucha contra la corrupción, el desarrollo sostenible y el medio ambiente, la participación de la sociedad civil, el perfeccionamiento de la administración de justicia, el desarrollo jurídico y otros.

Un paso trascendental para la OEA ha sido la aprobación del Estatuto de la Agencia Interamericana para la Cooperación y el Desarrollo (AICD) como órgano subsidiario del Consejo Interamericano para el Desarrollo Integral (CIDI), ya que su principal objetivo es promover, coordinar, gestionar y facilitar la planificación y ejecución de programas, proyectos y actividades de cooperación solidaria.

Antes de terminar deseo referirme a la norma contenida en la Carta de la OEA, específicamente en su artículo 3, la cual establece que las controversias de carácter internacional que surjan entre dos o más Estados americanos deben ser resueltas por medio de procedimientos pacíficos, disposición que es uno de los pilares en que descansa el sistema interamericano y cuya estricta aplicación debe ser siempre observada.

Hacerle frente a los desafíos de forma exitosa, es posible, ya que entre nosotros existen denominadores comunes y decisión para superar los escollos que se presenten.

Señor Presidente, quiero dejar expresa constancia de mi sincero agradecimiento por la colaboración recibida de muchas personas durante mi gestión como Embajador Representante Permanente de Nicaragua ante la Organización, cargo cuyo ejercicio me dio la oportunidad de servir a mi patria, Nicaragua, con legítimo orgullo:

Al doctor César Gaviria, Secretario General y al Embajador Luigi R. Einaudi, Secretario General Adjunto, por el apoyo que me han brindado siempre, lo cual facilitó grandemente el desempeño de mis labores a todos los niveles de la Organización. Mi reconocimiento al personal de la Secretaría del Consejo Permanente, de la Secretaría General y de todas las dependencias de la Organización, por la oportuna asistencia que siempre me brindó.

Igualmente, en nombre de mi esposa y en el mío, nuestro agradecimiento a la señora Ana Colomar O'Brien, Jefa de la Oficina de Protocolo de la OEA, quien desde nuestra llegada a Washington nos dispuso su entera cooperación, extensivo al personal de su oficina.

Agradezco a todos y cada uno de los integrantes de la Misión Permanente de Nicaragua quienes hicieron posible la realización de mi trabajo, y de manera especial al Embajador Víctor Silva, Representante Alterno.

Para concluir, mi profundo reconocimiento a todos ustedes, mis colegas y funcionarios de las misiones, por la amistad y cooperación con que me han distinguido y quienes contribuyeron a enriquecer mi experiencia personal y profesional como Embajador Representante Permanente de Nicaragua ante esta Organización.

Muchas gracias, señor Presidente, y hasta pronto. [Aplausos.]

El PRESIDENTE: Thank you, Ambassador.

As delegations have no other issues to bring to the floor, this meeting is adjourned.

ANEXOS

RESOLUCIONES APROBADAS

OEA/Ser.G
CP/RES. 780 (1257/00)
1 diciembre 2000
Original: español

CP/RES. 780 (1257/00)

APOYO AL PROCESO DE NEGOCIACIÓN ENTRE
LOS GOBIERNOS DE BELICE Y GUATEMALA

EL CONSEJO PERMANENTE DE LA ORGANIZACIÓN DE LOS ESTADOS
AMERICANOS,

TENIENDO EN CUENTA:

Que en la Carta de la Organización de los Estados Americanos, los Estados Miembros reafirman el principio de que “las controversias de carácter internacional que surjan entre dos o más Estados americanos deben ser resueltas por medio de procedimientos pacíficos”;

Que entre los propósitos esenciales de la Carta de la OEA se encuentran “afianzar la paz y la seguridad en el Continente” y “asegurar la solución pacífica de controversias que surjan entre los Estados Miembros”;

RECONOCIENDO:

Que los Gobiernos de Belice y Guatemala han iniciado un proceso de conciliación bilateral para buscar una solución definitiva al diferendo territorial existente entre ambos Estados;

Que ambos Gobiernos han designado respectivamente Conciliadores para ayudar a los Gobiernos de Belice y Guatemala a encontrar fórmulas para la resolución pacífica y definitiva del diferendo territorial entre estos dos países;

Que dichos Gobiernos han acudido a la Organización para que apoye sus esfuerzos, y han solicitado al Secretario General que sirva de Testigo de Honor y apoye el proceso con los servicios de la Secretaría;

Que ambos Gobiernos han acordado que todo asunto relacionado con el diferendo territorial deberá ser abordado por ambas Partes, únicamente dentro del marco de este proceso, excluyendo, mientras el mismo dure, cualquier otro foro político, diplomático o jurídico; y

Que dichos Gobiernos han acordado también que en aras de proteger y consolidar este proceso, ambas Partes actuarán con cautela y prudencia en el tratamiento de cualquier asunto relacionado con el diferendo, y, especialmente cooperarán para evitar incidentes en el terreno que produzcan tensión entre ellas,

RESUELVE:

1. Saludar y apoyar la decisión de los Gobiernos de Belice y Guatemala de buscar por la vía del diálogo una solución a sus diferencias, lo cual demuestra sus respectivas voluntades de paz y compromisos con los principios de la Carta de la Organización.

2. Establecer, dentro del Fondo de Paz constituido de conformidad con la resolución AG/RES. 1756 (XXX-O/00), un subfondo específico titulado “Apoyo a las Negociaciones entre Belice y Guatemala”, destinado a financiar los costos relacionados con el funcionamiento del Panel de Conciliadores en el diálogo entre Belice y Guatemala. Este subfondo específico será administrado únicamente de conformidad con las disposiciones contenidas en esta resolución y los Artículos 69 al 77 de las Normas Generales para el Funcionamiento de la Secretaría General y otras disposiciones para la administración de recursos encomendados a la Secretaría General de la OEA.

3. Solicitar al Secretario General que siga prestando su ayuda para facilitar y promover el proceso iniciado entre los dos Gobiernos y que solicite a los Estados Miembros y Observadores Permanentes, contribuciones para el subfondo específico destinadas a financiar los costos relacionados con esta actividad.

4. Invitar a todos los Estados Miembros, Observadores Permanentes, instituciones multilaterales y otros donantes potenciales, como se definen en el artículo 69 de las Normas Generales para el Funcionamiento de la Secretaría General y de conformidad con otras normas y reglamentos de la Organización, a que contribuyan al mencionado subfondo específico.

5. Invitar al Secretario General a que administre este subfondo específico de conformidad con las Normas Generales para el Funcionamiento de la Secretaría General y otras disposiciones para la administración de recursos encomendados a la Secretaría General de la OEA y que informe al Consejo Permanente sobre el cumplimiento de la presente resolución.

OEA/Ser.G
CP/RES. 781 (1257/00)
1 diciembre 2000
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CP/RES. 781 (1257/00)

LINEAMIENTOS PARA EL FUNCIONAMIENTO DEL
FONDO DE PAZ: SOLUCIÓN PACÍFICA DE CONTROVERSIAS TERRITORIALES

EL CONSEJO PERMANENTE DE LA ORGANIZACIÓN DE LOS ESTADOS AMERICANOS,

VISTA la resolución AG/RES. 1756 (XXX-O/00) Fondo de Paz: Solución Pacífica de Controversias;

CONSIDERANDO:

Que la Asamblea General, mediante la citada resolución AG/RES. 1756 (XXX-O/00), estableció un fondo específico permanente "con la finalidad de proveer recursos financieros a los Estados Miembros de la Organización, que así lo soliciten, para asistir a cubrir costos inherentes a los procedimientos previamente acordados por las partes en la solución pacífica de controversias territoriales entre los Estados Miembros"; y,

Que la referida resolución encomendó al Consejo Permanente la elaboración y aprobación de los lineamientos de funcionamiento del fondo,

RESUELVE:

Aprobar los siguientes lineamientos para el funcionamiento del Fondo de Paz: Solución Pacífica de Controversias Territoriales:

ARTÍCULO 1 - PROPÓSITO

1.1 El propósito del Fondo de Paz, (en adelante "el Fondo"), creado por la Asamblea General de la Organización de los Estados Americanos mediante la resolución AG/RES. 1756 (XXX-O/00), es proveer recursos financieros a los Estados Miembros de la Organización, que así lo soliciten, para asistir a cubrir costos inherentes a los procedimientos previamente acordados por las partes en la solución pacífica de controversias territoriales entre Estados Miembros, coadyuvando con ello al fortalecimiento de la paz y la seguridad en el Hemisferio.

ARTÍCULO 2 - COMPOSICIÓN

2.1 El Fondo estará compuesto por un Fondo General y por subfondos destinados a contribuir en el financiamiento de la solución pacífica de controversias específicas.

ARTÍCULO 3 - RECURSOS

3.1 El Fondo se integrará con:

- a. Contribuciones voluntarias de los Estados Miembros de la Organización de los Estados Americanos (en adelante la OEA), Estados Observadores Permanentes ante la OEA, otros Estados, organismos financieros internacionales, organizaciones nacionales e internacionales, y otras entidades y personas; y,
- b. Intereses acumulados y otros ingresos por concepto de inversiones obtenidos por el Fondo.

ARTÍCULO 4 - DISTRIBUCIONES

4.1 El Secretario General examinará cada solicitud de asignación de recursos del Fondo General y de los subfondos. El Secretario General, en consulta con los Estados concernidos en la controversia, adoptará la decisión correspondiente en conformidad con el propósito y la finalidad del Fondo General o del subfondo en concordancia con los propósitos y principios establecidos en la Carta de la Organización, y de conformidad con estos lineamientos, y cuando sean aplicables, con las normas contenidas en las resoluciones o acuerdos constitutivos de los subfondos. El Secretario General informará al Consejo Permanente sobre sus decisiones al respecto en la brevedad posible.

ARTÍCULO 5 - ADMINISTRACIÓN Y GESTIÓN FINANCIERA

5.1 La Secretaría General se encargará de la administración del Fondo y de la ejecución de las decisiones sobre la distribución de recursos.

5.2 Asimismo, la Secretaría General:

- a. aceptará contribuciones de conformidad con el propósito y la finalidad del Fondo y en concordancia con los propósitos y principios establecidos en la Carta de la Organización;
- b. negociará con los donantes, cuando corresponda, los términos y condiciones de las donaciones, en consonancia con el propósito del Fondo y con los objetivos y propósitos de la Organización;
- c. promoverá la captación y movilización de recursos para el Fondo e informará periódicamente al Consejo Permanente sobre el resultado de sus gestiones;

- d. pagará los gastos administrativos del Fondo con los recursos del Fondo;
- e. mantendrá registros contables financieros separados para el Fondo General y cada uno de los subfondos específicos;
- f. presentará informes anuales al Consejo Permanente sobre las actividades del Fondo y las contribuciones recibidas durante el año correspondiente, así como sobre sus activos y situación financiera.

5.3 Las cuentas del Fondo serán objeto de la auditoría anual que realiza la Secretaría General y los resultados se presentarán en el informe anual de la Junta de Auditores Externos.

- 5.4
- a. Salvo disposición en contrario en éstas directrices, el Fondo General se administrará de conformidad con los artículos 69 a 77 de las Normas Generales para el Funcionamiento de la Secretaría General y otras disposiciones para la administración de recursos confiados a la Secretaría General de la OEA.
 - b. Los subfondos se administrarán de conformidad con las normas contenidas en las resoluciones o acuerdos constitutivos de los mismos y en conformidad con los artículos 69 a 77 de las Normas Generales para el Funcionamiento de la Secretaría General y otras disposiciones para la administración de recursos confiados a la Secretaría General de la OEA.

ARTÍCULO 6 - MODIFICACIÓN

6.1 Estas directrices podrán ser revocadas o modificadas por el Consejo Permanente a iniciativa propia o por recomendación del Secretario General.

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