

CONSEJO PERMANENTE



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ACTA

DE LA SESIÓN PROTOCOLAR

CELEBRADA

EL 13 DE SEPTIEMBRE DE 2002

En honor de la visita del excelentísimo doctor Denzil Llewellyn Douglas,
Primer Ministro de la Federación de Saint Kitts y Nevis

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CONSEJO PERMANENTE DE LA ORGANIZACIÓN DE LOS ESTADOS AMERICANOS

ACTA DE LA SESIÓN PROTOCOLAR CELEBRADA EL 13 DE SEPTIEMBRE DE 2002

En la ciudad de Washington, a las diez de la mañana del viernes 13 de septiembre de 2002, celebró sesión protocolar el Consejo Permanente de la Organización de los Estados Americanos para recibir al excelentísimo doctor Denzil Llewellyn Douglas, Primer Ministro de la Federación de Saint Kitts y Nevis. Presidió la sesión el Embajador Roger F. Noriega, Representante Permanente de los Estados Unidos y Presidente del Consejo Permanente. Asistieron los siguientes miembros:

Embajadora Margarita Escobar, Representante Permanente de El Salvador y Vicepresidenta del Consejo Permanente
Embajador Denis G. Antoine, Representante Permanente de Granada
Embajador Lionel Alexander Hurst, Representante Permanente de Antigua y Barbuda
Embajadora Sonia Merlyn Johnny, Representante Permanente de Santa Lucía
Embajador Marcelo Ostría Trigo, Representante Permanente de Bolivia
Embajador Joshua Sears, Representante Permanente del Commonwealth de las Bahamas
Embajador Valter Pecly Moreira, Representante Permanente del Brasil
Embajador Esteban Tomic Errázuriz, Representante Permanente de Chile
Embajador Juan Enrique Fischer, Representante Permanente del Uruguay
Embajador Juan Manuel Castulovich, Representante Permanente de Panamá
Embajador Miguel Ruíz Cabañas, Representante Permanente de México
Embajador Ellsworth I. A. John, Representante Permanente de San Vicente y las Granadinas
Embajador Izben C. Williams, Representante Permanente de Saint Kitts y Nevis
Embajador Ramón Quiñones, Representante Permanente de la República Dominicana
Embajador Paul D. Durand, Representante Permanente del Canadá
Embajador Seymour St. E. Mullings, O. J., Representante Permanente de Jamaica
Embajador Raymond Valcin, Representante Permanente de Haití
Embajador Rodolfo Hugo Gil, Representante Permanente de la Argentina
Embajador Luis Enrique Chase Plate, Representante Permanente del Paraguay
Embajador Salvador E. Rodezno Fuentes, Representante Permanente de Honduras
Embajador Leandro Marín Abaunza, Representante Permanente de Nicaragua
Consejero Mackisack Logie, Representante Interino de Trinidad y Tobago
Consejero David Bulbulia, Representante Interino de Barbados
Embajador Luis Guardia Mora, Representante Interino de Costa Rica
Ministro Consejero Nestor Mendez, Representante Interino de Belice
Embajador Felipe A. Pereira León, Representante Interino de Venezuela
Primera Secretaria Deborah Yaw, Representante Alterna de Guyana
Ministro Jaime Casabianca Perdomo, Representante Alterno de Colombia
Ministro Antonio García Revilla, Representante Alterno del Perú
Consejera Carla Anaité Aguilar, Representante Alterna de Guatemala
Primer Secretario Efraín Baus Palacios, Representante Alterno del Ecuador

También estuvieron presentes el Secretario General de la Organización, doctor César Gaviria, y el Secretario General Adjunto, Embajador Luigi R. Einaudi, Secretario del Consejo Permanente.

El PRESIDENTE: I call to order this protocolary meeting of the Permanent Council, which has been convoked to receive the Prime Minister of the Federation of Saint Kitts and Nevis, Dr. the Honorable Denzil Llewellyn Douglas. Ladies and gentlemen, please stand to receive Dr. the Honorable Denzil Llewellyn Douglas.

[El señor Primer Ministro de Saint Kitts y Nevis ingresa al salón, acompañado de su comitiva.] [Aplausos.]

Honorable Prime Minister, on behalf of the Permanent Council, I am pleased to extend to you a very warm welcome to this House of the Americas.

I have the honor at this time to give the floor to Dr. César Gaviria, Secretary General of the Organization. [Aplausos.]

PALABRAS DEL SECRETARIO GENERAL

El SECRETARIO GENERAL: Honorable Denzil Llewellyn Douglas, Prime Minister of Saint Kitts and Nevis and Minister of Finance, Development, Planning, and National Security; Ambassador Roger Noriega, Chairman of the Permanent Council and Permanent Representative of the United States to the Organization of American States; Ambassador Luigi Einaudi, Assistant Secretary General; ambassadors; ladies and gentlemen:

Today I have the honor of welcoming to the headquarters of the Organization of American States, for the second time during my term in office, the distinguished Prime Minister of the Federation of Saint Kitts and Nevis, the Honorable Denzil Douglas.

Prime Minister Douglas won his second term in office with an overwhelming majority during the March 2000 elections. That record is certainly a clear expression of the trust and confidence he commands among the people of the smallest independent nation in the Western Hemisphere.

Mr. Prime Minister, we appreciate your visit during a period that every year is critically important to the Caribbean. It reflects the importance you attach to the Organization and reiterates your longstanding commitment to its objectives and activities. It also gives us an opportunity to recognize your active and constructive participation in other regional, subregional, and international organizations; your efforts and initiatives in the fight against AIDS; and your leadership and dedication as the prime minister within the quasi-cabinet of the Caribbean Community (CARICOM) with responsibility for human resources and health, including HIV/AIDS. Your visit also coincides with the Organization's efforts to define a new concept of security for the Hemisphere, one that will take into account the interests and concerns of each subregional country. I am sure that the dialogue on this matter will be greatly enriched by your thoughts and perspectives.

The Caribbean is an important part of the Western Hemisphere and of this organization. Over the past years it has become more actively involved and it has made many substantial contributions to our activities and initiatives. Two such instances are the Inter-American Democratic Charter and Haiti. The Caribbean played a major role in shaping the Charter, the most important political instrument to promote and defend democracy in our hemisphere. It has also been a key factor in the process to solve Haiti's political problems.

Mr. Prime Minister, I take this opportunity to thank, through you, the Caribbean Community for its extensive efforts in facilitating a resolution to the political crisis in Haiti. The most recent Permanent Council resolution on Haiti, CP/RES. 822 (1331/02), was approved on September 4 and provides an opportunity for all involved parties—the Government of Haiti, *Fanmi Lavalas*, *Convergence démocratique*, the international community, the international financial institutions (IFIs), the OAS, and CARICOM—to contribute in a constructive way to end the crisis. At this point, I believe that the important task is to create favorable conditions for holding free and fair elections next year.

These are hard times for the Caribbean. The political, economic, and social conditions of the region have deteriorated, and these problems were compounded by the terrorist attacks of September 11 and the aftermath, which severely weakened the tourism industry. These are serious developments that demand the region's constant and urgent attention. We believe that your presence here can contribute to a better understanding of the current problems faced by the Caribbean and the small states.

Before I share with you some thoughts on these matters, allow me to congratulate you and the Government and people of the Federation of Saint Kitts and Nevis on your 19th anniversary of independence on September 19. In this regard, I must also express appreciation for your leadership and recent efforts in strengthening the policy dialogue between the Federal Cabinet and the Nevis Island Administration. History has taught us that cooperation and consultation ultimately remain the most effective means of resolving differences within and between countries.

Mr. Prime Minister, over the years the Government of Saint Kitts and Nevis has appointed able and intelligent diplomats to the OAS. We are grateful for Ambassador Williams' serious and professional interventions, his authority regarding Caribbean matters, and his important contributions to the Organization.

Inter-American relations these days are driven by consultation, dialogue, and cooperation. In the Western Hemisphere, especially through the OAS, we have established consensus as our goal, and certainly we have been able to put in place an impressive agenda and significant collective action.

The terrorist acts of September last year have led to an increased debate on security arrangements worldwide. Shortly after the attacks, the OAS responded with a concerted effort to develop the Inter-American Convention against Terrorism, a very comprehensive effort and a powerful tool of cooperation that was adopted at the thirty-second regular session of the General Assembly in Bridgetown, Barbados. It also gave a lot of work to the Inter-American Committee against Terrorism (CICTE), which emphasizes financial and border controls.

The Barbados General Assembly also mandated the OAS to start preparations for the Special Conference on Security, which will be held in early May next year in Mexico. This important conference will provide an opportunity for leaders of this hemisphere to strengthen existing security agreements, to put in place measures for new security arrangements, and to effectively widen the scope of the notion of security. Preparations for the conference have already started in the Committee on Hemispheric Security (CSH).

Also in Barbados, the "Declaration of Bridgetown: The Multidimensional Approach to Hemispheric Security" was adopted by OAS member states, and this declaration will form the basis

for discussions in the coming weeks and months. The Caribbean countries can play a critical role in determining the final outcome. In this regard, we look forward to the urgent convening of the Second High-Level Meeting on the Special Security Concerns of Small Island States. The deliberations during this high-level meeting will be important for the next steps in preparing the final documents for the conference in Mexico. I therefore invite Caribbean countries to participate intensely in this process, and I look forward to your guidance and initiative in this matter.

Mr. Prime Minister, ladies and gentlemen, I had the privilege of being invited by the current Chairman of CARICOM, President Bharrat Jagdeo of Guyana, to attend the Twenty-Third Regular Meeting of the Conference of Heads of Government of the Caribbean Community in Guyana in July this year. My discussions with CARICOM leaders convinced me that Caribbean political leaders, aware of the risk that serious problems will persist in many areas, were committed to putting in place the necessary measures to address some of those problems. The General Secretariat of the OAS stands ready to collaborate with the Caribbean Community in identifying areas of possible cooperation and assistance.

In recent months, the Caribbean has been confronted with serious political, financial, and economic challenges. CARICOM leaders recently agreed on a set of measures that may result in short- and medium-term solutions. In the final analysis, however, strategic decisions regarding financial and economic arrangements inside and outside the region will be required to provide long-term answers to the challenges. This will be the only way to overcome the phasing out of preferential treatment and advantages emanating from asymmetrical trading arrangements and the declining flow of development assistance to the subregion.

The creation of the CARICOM Single Market and Economy (CSME) is one first step to address the impact of globalization and trade liberalization and can certainly contribute to an increase in intraregional trade.

There is no doubt the establishment of the Caribbean Court of Justice is a major step forward in the integration process and that this institution will contribute to the necessary stability in this regard.

The Caribbean has taken another important step to become a more structured player in the global political scene. I refer to the establishment of strategic political and trade alliances beyond the subregion. The historic first summit of leaders from CARICOM and the Central American Integration System (SICA) in February this year is a clear demonstration of this new dimension in international relations, especially between subregions dealing with similar challenges.

It is also critical to build strategic alliances among social actors within countries. Modern governance and effective leadership require close collaboration and consultation between government and functional groups in society, such as the business community, trade unions, religious organizations, and nongovernmental organizations (NGOs). Some Caribbean countries have already achieved much in this area. I believe that Caribbean leaders should be congratulated for convening in July this year a unique encounter between Caribbean political leaders and key civil society persons to discuss the future of the subregion.

Mr. Prime Minister, we cannot say that we are satisfied with all the developments and trends in the Western Hemisphere. We have achieved many things, but we still face substantial problems.

Some of our democracies are still weak. Economic growth has eluded the region during this difficult transition. Poverty, the absence of basic services, illegal drug trafficking, HIV/AIDS, and corruption are among the many other problems threatening our goal of a more democratic and prosperous hemisphere.

To confront these threats, we need to mobilize political and financial resources and strengthen cooperation and consultation in many areas. I believe that every member of the OAS, big and small, can contribute in meaningful ways to find answers to these challenges. Ideas and initiatives matter, not only size and power.

We look forward to the contribution of the Caribbean nations to the work of the OAS, and especially from you, Mr. Prime Minister, and your country, the Federation of Saint Kitts and Nevis. Thank you. [Aplausos.]

El PRESIDENTE: Thank you, Mr. Secretary General, for your very insightful remarks.

PALABRAS DEL PRESIDENTE DEL CONSEJO PERMANENTE

El PRESIDENTE: Dr. the Honorable Denzil Llewellyn Douglas, Prime Minister of the Federation of Saint Kitts and Nevis; Mr. Secretary General; Mr. Assistant Secretary General; ambassadors, permanent representatives; permanent observers; members of the official delegation; distinguished ladies and gentlemen:

Prime Minister Douglas honors us again today by addressing this Permanent Council for the second time since assuming office. Before giving the floor to our distinguished guest, I wish to offer a brief summary of his impressive career.

The Prime Minister's desire to improve the lot of his countrymen and countrywomen was evident from an early age. He was an activist in the youth arm of the Saint Kitts and Nevis Labour Party (SKNLP) and became the first youth representative to sit on the party's national executive in 1979.

Dr. Douglas' analytical skills and aptitude won him a scholarship to the University of the West Indies (UWI), from which he graduated with an honors degree in biology and biochemistry in 1977, followed by the degree of Doctor of Medicine in 1984. Following a medical internship in Trinidad and Tobago, he returned to his country in 1986 and established a private practice as a family physician.

Dr. Douglas remained active in politics and in 1987 he was elected Deputy Chairman of the SKNLP. Following general elections in 1989, he was appointed leader of the opposition in Parliament. Later that year, he was elected national political leader of the 70-year-old SKNLP.

After victory at the polls for the SKNLP in 1995, Dr. Douglas assumed office as Prime Minister of the Federation of Saint Kitts and Nevis on July 4, 1995. He was reelected in March 2000.

Dr. Douglas is the second prime minister of the Federation since its independence in September 1983. He also holds the portfolios of Minister of Finance, Development, Planning, and National Security.

As Prime Minister, Dr. Douglas is particularly active in several regional and international organizations, including the Organisation of Eastern Caribbean States (OECS), the Commonwealth, the Eastern Caribbean Central Bank (ECCB), and the Caribbean Community (CARICOM). He chaired the Conference of Heads of Government of CARICOM in 2000.

Within the Caribbean Community, he is the head of government with lead responsibility for health and human resource development. He has been a determined spokesman on behalf of CARICOM in the fight against HIV/AIDS and is steady in his focus on bringing additional support for CARICOM's continuing efforts to fight that epidemic. In this regard, he has participated in a number of international conferences, including the XIV International AIDS Conference, held in Barcelona, Spain, in July 2002. Mr. Prime Minister, at a time when the health of our peoples is considered central to wider issues of human security, our efforts in this regard are of particular significance and your contribution is a very serious part of that effort.

Here at the OAS, your permanent mission's active and able involvement in the work of the Permanent Council and of the Permanent Executive Committee of the Inter-American Council for Integral Development (CEPCIDI) is absolutely noteworthy. In this respect, your mission's efforts in advancing the cause of human resource development, particularly in the smaller economies of the Hemisphere, reflect your own commitment to the importance of human resources to the socioeconomic development of small states.

I cannot help but remark that with a visiting prime minister as a medical doctor and your ambassador as a psychiatrist, the Permanent Council considers itself in very good hands today. [Risas.] As a matter of fact, I will say that in many ways, Ambassador Williams has demonstrated himself to be just what the doctor ordered for this Council—a psychiatrist. [Risas.]

I now have the honor to give the floor to Dr. Denzil Llewellyn Douglas, Prime Minister of Saint Kitts and Nevis. [Aplausos.]

PALABRAS DEL PRIMER MINISTRO DE SAINT KITTS Y NEVIS

EL PRIMER MINISTRO DE SAINT KITTS Y NEVIS: Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Mr. Secretary General, Mr. Assistant Secretary General, distinguished permanent representatives and alternates, other representatives, special guests, ladies and gentlemen:

Permit me to thank you all for so warmly welcoming me to the Organization of American States and for this special opportunity you have afforded me to address you here this morning in this historic Hall of the Americas.

Permit me also to commence my remarks here today, Mr. Chairman, by solemnly recognizing and identifying with the thoughts that doubtlessly have been preoccupying all of our minds, especially over the past few days. It was merely one year plus two days ago, on September 11, 2001, the very

day that the General Assembly of the OAS ratified the Inter-American Democratic Charter in Lima, Peru, that the United States of America and, indeed, this hemisphere and the world were set upon by brutish, heartless men who challenged our expressed resolve to defend the principles that this organization so boldly espouses. The events of that fateful morning transfixed this world and transformed it forever. That was, indeed, a defining moment in man's history.

The OAS was resolute in its commitment to stand firmly with the United States and with the civil world in combating all forms of terrorism. Saint Kitts and Nevis at that time placed on record its unequivocal condemnation of those who were responsible. I reaffirmed its solidarity with the Government and people of the United States of America and committed itself to cooperate fully with the efforts to rescue and reconstruct, as well as with the investigative, punitive, and preventative measures that were being put in place in the aftermath of this terrible tragedy. We in Saint Kitts and Nevis have lived up to our commitment.

In addition, shortly after the events of September 11, Saint Kitts and Nevis, as a gesture of goodwill and support, offered respite and rest to the September 11 firefighters and police officers in New York and other rescue officers and their immediate families. They were invited by my government to a vacation at one of several hotels in our beautiful Caribbean country, free of charge. Many took advantage of this offer, and some other countries followed our lead in short time.

Mr. Chairman, if at all it needs to be said, rest assured that Saint Kitts and Nevis is unswerving in its commitment to support the United States in this struggle. We stand solidly with the other member states of the OAS in their resolve to confront this pervasive conspiracy of subversion, which ultimately affects us all.

It is a known fact, Mr. Chairman, that small island states, such as Saint Kitts and Nevis, which are open and extremely vulnerable to global phenomena, suffer proportionately greater losses from terrorist incidents than the targets of such terrorist attacks. The events of September 11, for instance, dealt a very severe blow to the economies of the Caribbean countries. The economy of Saint Kitts and Nevis was still reeling under the impact of a number of hurricanes that had visited our shores when we found ourselves confronting the massive economic shock emanating from the September 11 crisis.

For many months after this crisis, our hotels in Saint Kitts and Nevis, which are the mainstay of our economy, remained empty and revenue collections declined dramatically. In fact, we were forced to revise our growth projections for 2002 from four percent to under two percent, and our revenue estimates missed their own targets by well over ten percent. Moreover, we continue to feel the reverberations of September 11, because over twelve months have elapsed since the crisis and the level of tourism arrivals is still well below our expectations.

I wish to stress, Mr. Chairman, that it is in such difficult crises that we look to the OAS to champion our cause, to bring our problems to the forefront of the international community, and to facilitate the transfer of technical and financial resources from the richer and more powerful member states to those that are in dire need. For us, the OAS must become the spirit, the vision, and the hopes of this hemisphere's brotherhood of nations. This is an important ideal towards which the OAS must consistently and vigorously strive, especially in times of crisis.

As we are exposed to new and different realities, we tend to develop the ability, nay, the strength of character, to tackle such challenges by adopting more pragmatic and appropriate attitudes and methodologies. On the other hand, when challenged, we could simply revert to the old patterns of thinking and the old ways of doing things. We must resist, however, this particular temptation. In this new and dynamic global environment in which we exist, there is very little room for the ways of old. We must relentlessly pursue and embrace new ideas and new systems of thought as we attempt to find solutions to the problems that confront us today.

Change, Mr. Chairman, is an inescapable constant of human progress, but change must be managed well for best outcomes. To change ourselves, we must first come to know ourselves. Likewise, to change the nature of our hemisphere, we must first come to know it and to know it well. We must accept, for example, that we live in a heterogeneous, culturally complex, and plural society of nations that is not rigidly amenable to any one formula. Hence, it seems critically important that the entire Hemisphere become even more aware of the peculiar problems of small and vulnerable states, such as Saint Kitts and Nevis, and enshrine in our Charter the need for special and differential treatment in respect of such states.

Small Caribbean island states comprise a significant proportion of the membership of the OAS, and we firmly believe that the OAS is well placed to play a lead role in promoting the interests of small states in global economic relations. The members of the OAS must advance the concerns and peculiarities of small member states in all trade and economic negotiations, including the Free Trade Area of the Americas (FTAA) and the World Trade Organization (WTO). This, I stress, is the essence of brotherhood.

As a family of nations, we must each become our brother's keeper. We have demonstrated this brotherhood, Mr. Chairman, in our quest to advance democracy in the Hemisphere and to ensure that citizens throughout this hemisphere enjoy the right of participation in the political processes of their respective countries. Certainly, we could not be blamed if we allowed ourselves a moment's boast, for owing to our efforts and commitment, democracy is relatively well entrenched in the Hemisphere. Good governance is now the watchword in every corner of our civil societies, thanks to initiatives such as the Inter-American Democratic Charter and the resolve of fellow governments to advance the cause of democratic institution building in this, our hemisphere.

Still, Mr. Chairman, there is more work to be done, as you heard the Secretary General himself say earlier. I look ahead with optimism to a time when all members of this hemispheric family can sit at the table of the esteemed OAS and share in the common experience of peace, democracy, prosperity, and respect for human rights. We have a charge to keep to the many millions of people of this hemisphere. I salute you here this morning at the OAS for your tremendous contributions in shoring up the foundations of democracy and working to ensure that our hemisphere is secure and free from aggression, uncivil acts, and any form of violation of the spirit and letter of the OAS Charter.

The OAS is one of our proudest and most successful institutions. Where others have faltered, the OAS has continued to make positive strides. That is why I am concerned, Mr. Chairman, and sincerely lament that even from within its membership may emanate many of the limitations that plague this organization. This is linked in some part to national politics, but in large measure it is symptomatic of the serious economic dislocations and social upheavals that bedevil our hemisphere. It seems to me, therefore, that even beyond the formulation of a democratic charter, we may need to

elaborate strategies to assure that economic deprivation and social dissonance do not continue to plague our member states. The OAS has some experience in development assistance; therefore, we must ensure, if we truly want to improve the human condition and guarantee security in this hemisphere, that we work to allow the OAS to continue to evolve in such a way that it gets better at delivering services and support to our various peoples.

In this regard, Mr. Chairman, the OAS must take an active interest in the issues that affect the development and progress of its developing member states. In particular, a number of small Caribbean member states suffered massive economic setbacks because of the very penal measures of the Financial Action Task Force (FATF). The decision of the FATF to blacklist a number of Caribbean states has seriously hampered the development of their respective financial services sectors and has disrupted the flow of direct foreign investments to these countries. As a result of the blacklisting, international banks were refusing to do business with these countries, and investors in the real sectors of these countries were afraid that the banks in their home countries would refuse to facilitate the repatriation of their profits and capital.

For countries in which foreign direct investment plays such a critical role, this particular situation was devastating and threatened to derail the whole development process within the Caribbean subregion. Fortunately, Saint Kitts and Nevis, through its diligent efforts in upgrading its regulatory systems, has now been removed from the FATF blacklist. It now seems, Mr. Chairman, that there is some doubt as to whether the FATF would continue to publish its list of what it deemed "uncooperative nations." Unfortunately, the voice of the OAS appeared muted during this whole unhappy episode that threatened to stifle the development of so many of its member states.

In the same vein, many of the smaller Caribbean member states have been facing immense economic and fiscal challenges related to worldwide recessionary tendencies, the impact of frequent natural disasters, trade liberalization, and globalization. Yet, the OAS seems relatively unresponsive to these problems and difficulties.

I fully appreciate that the OAS has always devoted much of its attention to political systems and democracy, but I am of the view that economic factors underpin the evolution and development of political systems, including democratic government and governance structures. In a world in which globalization could so radically shift the economic fortune of nations, the OAS must give greater weight to economic and social issues.

With the unsettling anticipation of new global challenges, Mr. Chairman, the OAS may need to review its mission in order to redefine the concept of hemispheric security so that it embraces and embodies ideas of hemispheric human security. Although democracy is undoubtedly an important ingredient for economic development, democracy without the wherewithal to implement relevant support measures and systems cannot feed hungry children, cannot provide healthcare for the aged and the infirm, cannot ensure the safety of our youth at risk, and cannot guarantee social stability.

Democracy must be made to work for the people who place their faith in it, and it works best when it delivers on its promises. The entrenchment and institutionalization of democracy throughout the Hemisphere have provided a very important and effective foundation for peace and a catalyst for globalization. Now is the time and the chance for us to make democracy and globalization work equitably, as they really should.

Globalization in its current forms seems to undermine prospects of equitable development of a human security framework in our hemisphere. We need to marshal our collective efforts at the OAS to help the impoverished, the oppressed, and the economically disenfranchised. Our job should be to ensure that they, too, do better than merely survive. We have played our part in liberating masses of people in this hemisphere from the inhumanity of dictatorships and the tyranny of human rights violations, and we have afforded them opportunities to participate freely in democracy. While this is most laudable, Mr. Chairman, we must confront the fact that we have measurably failed to translate these freedoms into the kinds of policies that challenge old economic edifices so that we may refurbish the social safety networks in many of our member states.

While we have provided greater opportunities for consumers to have access to more choices of goods and services, it has become increasingly difficult for them to even feed themselves, since many can ill afford the prices of these goods. Although we have opened the doors to mobile capital, which we said would bring new job security, we have neglected to build lines of defense to offset the fallout socioeconomic effects whenever this mobile capital arbitrarily migrates away from our more fragile economies. Indeed, I stress this morning that the streets of some capital cities are now scarred by the anguish of people whose entire livelihood has been washed away by floods of nebulous opportunities, ill-conceived policies, and other incongruities that appear to favor the strong and punish the weak.

If we are to heed the call of destiny, Mr. Chairman, we must champion the cause of the economically disadvantaged, especially those who merely exist well below the poverty line. Our hemispheric security agenda must reflect a reengagement with human security. This will require developing new techniques to translate concepts into tangible benefits for the poor who are masses among us. It will challenge us to think beyond accustomed norms. It will demand us to take bold and imaginative steps, sometimes into the unknown, and to establish strategic alliances and partnerships with governments and with civil society. I believe the OAS must rise—because it can rise—to these challenges.

Mr. Chairman, I urge this organization to further develop and promote the concept of hemispheric security that you have so insightfully endorsed so that it may be perceived by the many, not solely in terms of an incursion by a foreign army or acts of terrorism, but also in the context of the powerful invading forces of hunger, illegal drugs, small arms trafficking, inequitable global competition, and HIV/AIDS, which all wreak havoc on our societies on a daily basis. Let us think of it also in the context of environmental protection and preparedness to confront these threats—threats that are predictable, such as hurricanes, as well as those that are veiled but frighteningly real, such as the transshipment of nuclear waste through our vulnerable and fragile eco-space with its potential for unimaginable catastrophe.

These are but some of the uncivil forces that continue to threaten to significantly undermine any attempts at ensuring human security in our hemisphere. If by our action—or inaction—we allow these forces to take firmer roots, for all the hard work in bolstering democracy, unwittingly we would have allowed a Trojan horse within the hallowed precincts of our secure democracies. Then, and truly then, we would have missed the opportunity to marshal the forces of our nature in redefining the common destiny of this, our beautiful hemisphere.

Permit me, Mr. Chairman, as spokesman of the Caribbean Community on human resources and health issues, including HIV/AIDS, to once again reiterate a justifiable concern regarding one of

the colossal human security threats to our hemisphere—the HIV/AIDS pandemic. It is so ubiquitous and so deceptive a force that most people tend to think it could never affect their own daily lives. They arm themselves with the false belief that it is not a serious issue for them or for their respective countries. They think of it as someone else's problem.

But make no mistake here this morning; it is everyone's problem. HIV/AIDS is our hemispheric problem, just as it is our global problem. In much the same way that globalization has joined our economies and facilitated the ease of travel, so, too, has it accommodated the spread of HIV/AIDS, and it behooves this organization to become an active partner in finding solutions to this threat to our hemisphere's security and, indeed, to global security.

On this I stress, Mr. Chairman, that we must work together, because in saving the lives of our neighbor, we save our own lives. We must educate our young through every medium at our disposal. We must do all that we can to minimize the potential for spread of this infection, and we must ensure that we find ways to treat and to care for those who test positive and who are ill.

HIV/AIDS threatens humanity in its truest and most basic form. It deprives those who are infected of the ability to lead normal lives, and it denies them the opportunity to contribute fully to the development of society. We have an obligation, Mr. Chairman, to provide care for persons affected by this disease as much as we do for persons afflicted by other treatable diseases.

Our own Caribbean experience has brought into focus a number of strategies that must be carried out in a clear and integrated manner. We have determined that strategies and programs must be balanced and integrated to deal with issues of prevention, care, and support. The solutions must involve governments, nongovernmental organizations (NGOs), as well as individuals—those who are affected by the disease by having it and those whose families are affected as well. As leaders, we must ensure that we galvanize human, technical, and financial resources to take the fight forward and to shape the environment that is essential to a successful assault on the HIV/AIDS pandemic. We must move rapidly to implement all the multisectoral approaches that are required, and we must engage international agencies much more effectively, but at the same time, we have to be highly proactive in enhancing access to education, medicines, and health care.

Mr. Chairman, because of the obviously close links between the Caribbean and the United States of America and the migration pattern that has been established over the years, we are pleased that the U.S. Government, through its executive and legislative arms, has outlined its HIV/AIDS program of assistance and cooperation with Caribbean countries through what we call the Third Border Initiative. Only recently, at a high-level meeting in Guyana between the U.S. Government and governments of CARICOM, U.S. Secretary of Health and Human Services Tommy Thompson signed on as a member of the Pan Caribbean Partnership against HIV/AIDS (PANCAP).

The high incidence in the spread of HIV/AIDS places the Caribbean second only to sub-Saharan Africa in terms of this pandemic. In response, Caribbean heads of government endorsed PANCAP, an initiative against HIV/AIDS that is being coordinated by the CARICOM Secretariat in collaboration with core partners. These partners include:

- the Caribbean Epidemiology Center (CAREC);
- the Caribbean Health Research Council (CHRC);

- the Caribbean Regional Network for People Living with HIV/AIDS (CRN+);
- the Joint United Nations Program on HIV/AIDS (UNAIDS);
- the Pan American Health Organization (PAHO)/World Health Organization (WHO);
- NGOs and donor agencies; and
- national HIV/AIDS programs.

PANCAP involves territories outside the CARICOM states, such as the French, Dutch, and U.S. dependencies, including the Virgin Islands.

The operations of PANCAP are guided by a regional strategic plan. Just a few weeks ago, in Barcelona, Spain, it successfully negotiated and signed an agreement with the pharmaceutical companies for cheaper anti-retroviral drugs on a region-wide basis. PANCAP is also a leading regional alliance in developing a proposal to the Global Fund to Fight AIDS, Tuberculosis, and Malaria to seek assistance for the entire Caribbean in the areas of care, treatment, prevention, human rights, and the reduction of stigma for people living with HIV/AIDS and their families.

Mr. Chairman, PANCAP is an illustration of the veracity of regional cooperation in confronting a critical regional challenge, the HIV/AIDS pandemic. It seems appropriate that the OAS should likewise consider ways of assisting in the fight against this pandemic. It is ravaging the human resources of the Caribbean, particularly our youth and most of all our young women, all in their most productive years.

Mr. Chairman, for small states in this hemisphere, ensuring human security also means fighting not only an army of organized foreign soldiers, but smaller, money-hungry, vertically-integrated, well-armed, and technologically-adept bands of drug traffickers, all committed to making profits irrespective of the effects of their destructive practices on our vulnerable societies. We commend the work of the Inter-American Drug Abuse Control Commission (CICAD) and its leadership in coordinating a hemispheric understanding of and a cooperative approach to this unwelcome phenomenon.

I stress this morning that Saint Kitts and Nevis shall continue to do the best that we can to cooperate with this important process. It is critical to us, for example, that we find solutions to stem the influx of light arms into our backyards where they threaten the security of our playing children, our leaders of tomorrow, and put our erstwhile tranquil societies at severe risk.

In that same context, Mr. Chairman, we must endeavor to break the cycle of corruption that facilitates unhealthy alliances between legitimate and illegitimate forces in our societies. Such tendencies undermine our democracies and compromise human security.

In our global scheme, Mr. Chairman, we speak often of the divide between poor and rich, developing and developed, and small and large states. The objective truth is that the current global system is substantially weighted in favor of the large and wealthy states, and smaller states, such as those in the Caribbean, are perhaps unwittingly marginalized. However, I am not here today to speak

of the traditional “us versus them,” for though there is apparent truth and relevance in this, it is an old and worked paradigm.

Today, what we must face is a new construct of “we against us.” No one can afford the luxury of thinking that the problems in any corner of this hemisphere are cocooned in that corner alone. We are all interconnected, and if we fail to address one problem that threatens democracy, if we neglect the issue of economic deprivation in one island or overlook the effects of HIV/AIDS and of drug production and trafficking in any corner of this region, we do so at our own collective peril.

I have a deep interest in this hemisphere, Mr. Chairman, and I have been encouraged by what I have come to appreciate as the potential of its leadership to do good. However, I am also chastened by the disenchantment expressed by some and by their frustrations with our stewardship as leaders. They look to us for leadership and for guidance. We must give them that, and we must give them more. As leaders, we must give them hope. We must work together to minimize the myriad problems and to find ways to make sure that we can all sit at the hemispheric table, comforted by the knowledge that our people are indeed free, not just to vote, but to chart their own future and to earn so that they can feed, clothe, and educate their children and decently house their families. They must be free to prosper, free to create wealth, free to realize their fullest potential and to feel socially included, and free to rejoice in their own true freedom, knowing that their destiny is secure in the hands of their leaders.

Mr. Chairman, in closing, I wish to thank you and this most distinguished body for your time and your patient attention. May this organization be further emboldened to positively influence our people’s destiny, and may God bless us all in this endeavor.

May it please you, Mr. Chairman. [Aplausos.]

El PRESIDENTE: Thank you very much, Mr. Prime Minister, for that excellent presentation.

Mr. Prime Minister, the chairmanship of the Permanent Council rotates, and I have discovered that one of the benefits of that responsibility is that I have to listen to speeches. I have to admit that sometimes when I’m sitting here, my mind wanders, but your presentation certainly would have caught my attention, as it did. It was very thought-provoking.

It was very important that you reminded us all that as we look to prosper in this hemisphere, we must do so as a community, leaving no one behind, neither within our countries nor among them. Your very excellent presentation demonstrated the benefit that we all reap from the fact that in this body, we all speak with equal voice. The Secretary General made a similar reference earlier that the member states of the OAS, whether big or small, contribute in meaningful ways to the process of finding answers to these challenges. You’ve certainly demonstrated that he was correct in asserting that it is ideas and initiatives that matter, not size and power.

On behalf of my own country, I thank you for your statements of support and solidarity. On behalf of this Council and on my own behalf, I thank you for your visit. Please accept our best wishes as you commemorate your country’s 19th anniversary of independence next Thursday and for continued success in your work on behalf of the people of Saint Kitts and Nevis and of the Caribbean as a whole.

I ask distinguished representatives to remain at their places as the Prime Minister of Saint Kitts and Nevis departs the Hall. Thank you very much. [Aplausos.]

[El señor Primer Ministro de Saint Kitts y Nevis abandona la sala, acompañado de su comitiva.]

I thank my colleagues. The meeting is adjourned.

