

CONSEJO PERMANENTE



OEA/Ser.G  
CP/ACTA 1563/06  
27 septiembre 2006

ACTA  
DE LA SESIÓN PROTOCOLAR  
CELEBRADA  
EL 27 DE SEPTIEMBRE DE 2006

Para recibir al excelentísimo señor  
Patrick Manning, Primer Ministro de Trinidad y Tobago

## ÍNDICE

	<u>Página</u>
Nómina de los Representantes que asistieron a la sesión.....	1
Palabras del Secretario General.....	2
Palabras del Presidente del Consejo Permanente .....	3
Palabras del Primer Ministro de Trinidad y Tobago .....	4

## CONSEJO PERMANENTE DE LA ORGANIZACIÓN DE LOS ESTADOS AMERICANOS

### ACTA DE LA SESIÓN PROTOCOLAR CELEBRADA EL 27 DE ABRIL DE 2006

En la ciudad de Washington, a las diez y diez de la mañana del miércoles 27 de septiembre de 2006, celebró sesión protocolar el Consejo Permanente de la Organización de los Estados Americanos para recibir al excelentísimo señor Patrick Manning, Primer Ministro de Trinidad y Tobago. Presidió la sesión el Embajador Henry Lothar Illes, Representante Permanente de Suriname y Presidente del Consejo Permanente. Asistieron los siguientes miembros:

Embajador Ellsworth I. A. John, Representante Permanente de San Vicente y las Granadinas y Vicepresidente del Consejo Permanente  
Embajador Denis G. Antoine, Representante Permanente de Grenada  
Embajadora Sonia Merlyn Johnny, Representante Permanente de Santa Lucía  
Embajadora Lisa Shoman, Representante Permanente de Belice  
Embajador Michael I. King, Representante Permanente de Barbados  
Embajador Izben C. Williams, Representante Permanente de Saint Kitts y Nevis  
Embajadora Marina Valère, Representante Permanente de Trinidad y Tobago  
Embajador John F. Maisto, Representante Permanente de los Estados Unidos  
Embajadora Abigaíl Castro de Pérez, Representante Permanente de El Salvador  
Embajador Gordon V. Shirley, Representante Permanente de Jamaica  
Embajadora Deborah-Mae Lovell, Representante Permanente de Antigua y Barbuda  
Embajador Aristides Royo, Representante Permanente de Panamá  
Embajador Duly Brutus, Representante Permanente de Haití  
Embajador Javier Sancho Bonilla, Representante Permanente de Costa Rica  
Embajador Osmar Chohfi, Representante Permanente del Brasil  
Embajador Roberto Álvarez, Representante Permanente de la República Dominicana  
Embajador Alejandro García-Moreno Elizondo, Representante Permanente de México  
Embajador Pedro Oyarce, Representante Permanente de Chile  
Embajadora María del Luján Flores, Representante Permanente del Uruguay  
Embajador Graeme C. Clark, Representante Permanente del Canadá  
Consejera Patricia Bozo de Durán, Representante Interina de Bolivia  
Embajador Carlos Zapata López, Representante Interino del Perú  
Primer Secretario Eugene F. Torchon-Newry, Representante Interino del Commonwealth de las Bahamas  
Primer Secretario Henry Leonard Mac-Donald, Representante Alterno de Suriname  
Primera Secretaria Deborah Yaw, Representante Alterna de Guyana  
Ministra Elisa Ruiz Díaz, Representante Alterna del Paraguay  
Ministra María Clara Isaza Merchán, Representante Alterna de Colombia  
Embajador Nelson Pineda Prada, Representante Alterno de Venezuela  
Consejero Eduardo Acevedo Díaz, Representante Alterno de la Argentina  
Embajador Juan León Alvarado, Representante Alterno de Guatemala  
Tercera Secretaria Judith Anne Rolle, Representante Alterna del Commonwealth de Dominica  
Consejero José María Borja, Representante Alterno del Ecuador

También estuvieron presentes el Secretario General de la Organización, doctor José Miguel Insulza, y el Secretario General Adjunto, Embajador Albert R. Ramdin, Secretario del Consejo Permanente.

El PRESIDENTE: I am pleased to call to order this protocolary meeting of the Permanent Council, convened to receive His Excellency the Honorable Patrick Manning, Prime Minister and Minister of Finance of Trinidad and Tobago.

Ladies and gentlemen, please stand and receive the Prime Minister of Trinidad and Tobago, the Honorable Patrick Manning and give him a warm welcome.

[Aplausos.]

Secretary General José Miguel Insulza, Assistant Secretary General Ambassador Albert Ramdin, distinguished permanent and alternate representatives, permanent observers, ladies and gentlemen:

Let me extend a personal hearty welcome to His Excellency Mr. Patrick Manning, Prime Minister of Trinidad and Tobago, as he joins us today in this Hall of the Americas.

#### PALABRAS DEL SECRETARIO GENERAL

El PRESIDENTE: Let me now invite Secretary General José Miguel Insulza to welcome the Prime Minister of Trinidad and Tobago. Mr. Secretary General, you have the floor.

El SECRETARIO GENERAL: Thank you very much.

Your Excellency Prime Minister Patrick Manning, it is indeed an honor and a privilege for me and for the Permanent Council to welcome you to the House of the Americas, the Organization of American States.

I must begin by congratulating you on the Government of Trinidad and Tobago's ongoing commitment to deepening cooperation with the OAS and to promoting regional and hemispheric cooperation.

In 2005, you hosted the IV Inter-American Meeting of Ministers of Education, and your Minister of Education has subsequently taken the lead in the Hemisphere in improving the quality of teacher education. As you address us here today, teacher educators from across the Hemisphere are meeting in Port-of-Spain to address the professionalization of their activities. Your country recently hosted the XIII Annual Conference of the Social Network for Latin America and the Caribbean, and it has agreed to host the XV Inter-American Conference of Ministers of Labor (IACML) in 2007.

On September 12, your country took over the chairmanship of the Summit of the Americas process. We know that we will continue working very closely together until the beginning of 2009, when the presidential meeting is held. We hope that prime ministers and presidents all over the region will understand the importance of this process and value your leadership.

You have also shown unwavering leadership on the issue of security. Your country remains an important and valued supporter of our hemispheric security programs, and the OAS is pleased to know that Trinidad and Tobago now holds the number two position at the Inter-American Defense Board (IADB), which has just been incorporated as another entity within the OAS.

Your support for regional efforts goes hand in hand with your tireless support for the unity of the countries of the Caribbean Community (CARICOM) in the CARICOM Single Market and Economy (CSME). Trinidad and Tobago has given all its support and strength to joint efforts, first on economic and then on political integration. You have always shown outstanding regional leadership on energy issues, particularly with regard to the production and export of liquefied natural gas (LNG).

Mr. Prime Minister, your domestic reforms reflect the common recognition of the Hemisphere that democracy is not only about holding free and fair elections. Once elections have been held, governments must then go about the business of delivering the benefits of democracy to their people. Your initiation of the process of moving Trinidad and Tobago to developed nation status by the year 2020 through economic, social, and government reforms; the reinstatement of free university education; the implementation of measures aimed at increasing transparency in government operations; and the decisiveness with which you have struggled with domestic insecurity, including threats of terrorism and violent crime, are all further proof that you truly believe and know very well the priorities of democratic governance today.

We look forward to working with you, Mr. Prime Minister, and to hearing you speak today. Thank you very much.

El PRESIDENTE: Thank you very much, Mr. Secretary General.

#### PALABRAS DEL PRESIDENTE DEL CONSEJO PERMANENTE

El PRESIDENTE: Ladies and gentlemen, it is now my distinct privilege and honor to introduce the Honorable Patrick Augustus Mervyn Manning, Prime Minister and Minister of Finance of Trinidad and Tobago.

Prime Minister Manning has served as a Member of Parliament since 1971 and is currently the longest serving member of the House of Representatives of Trinidad and Tobago.

After graduating from the University of the West Indies in Mona, Jamaica, in 1969, he returned to Trinidad where he worked as a geologist for Texaco before turning his attention to politics and entering Parliament in 1971.

Between 1971 and 1978, Mr. Manning served as Parliamentary Secretary in various ministries before being appointed Junior Minister in the Ministry of Finance. In 1981, he was appointed Minister of Information and Minister of Industry and Commerce. He also served as Minister of Energy and Natural Resources, a critical ministry in Trinidad and Tobago's energy-based economy.

Mr. Manning served for the first time as Prime Minister of Trinidad and Tobago from 1991 to 1995. His party, the People's National Movement (PNM), again won elections in October 2002, and Prime Minister Manning started his second term as Head of Government.

Prime Minister Manning has been instrumental in raising the international profile of Trinidad and Tobago. Even though it has just 1.3 million people, Trinidad and Tobago is positioning itself to

become a major global player because of its gas and oil reserves and the stable investment relationships that it has developed.

Ladies and gentlemen, most recently we had a chance to see Trinidad and Tobago compete on the world stage when the internationally popular Soca Warriors competed in the 2006 International Federation of Association Football (FIFA) World Cup in Germany.

This Permanent Council is also pleased that due to his leadership, Trinidad and Tobago is poised to host the Summit of the Americas in 2009 and the XV Inter-American Conference of Ministers of Labor (IACML) in 2007.

Prime Minister Manning is well respected in the international community as a new-style Caribbean leader with a progressive vision to have Trinidad and Tobago achieve developed country status on or before 2020. Prime Minister Manning also has strong credentials as a leader who works closely with other regional leaders in developing a common and complementary economic agenda and for his political mediation and conflict resolution skills.

In December 2004, he was awarded the Caribbean-Central American Action's Star of the Caribbean Award for his unwavering support of his Caribbean neighbors in their time of distress. In 2003, Prime Minister Manning was awarded the Democracy Prize by the Caribbean-Guyana Institute for Democracy (CGID) for his outstanding work in upholding the principles of democracy in the Caribbean region.

Mr. Prime Minister, we applaud your vision and welcome your leadership. Once again, we welcome you to the House of the Americas.

#### PALABRAS DEL PRIMER MINISTRO DE TRINIDAD Y TOBAGO

El PRESIDENTE: It is my pleasure to offer you the floor now, sir.

[Pausa.]

El PRIMER MINISTRO DE TRINIDAD Y TOBAGO: Your Excellency Henry Illes, Chairman of the Permanent Council and Permanent Representative of Suriname to the Organization of American States; Your Excellency José Miguel Insulza, Secretary General; Your Excellency Albert Ramdin, Assistant Secretary General; distinguished permanent representatives to the OAS and other ambassadors; permanent observers to the OAS; other members of the diplomatic corps; very distinguished ladies and gentlemen:

It is indeed my pleasure to stand in these hallowed halls of the seat of the Americas today to address this distinguished gathering of representatives from countries with which Trinidad and Tobago has traditionally had warm, fraternal ties, and others with which it is our intention to strengthen the bonds of friendship and cooperation. Our objective, distinguished ladies and gentlemen, can only be one which I am certain is shared by all of us: the continued development of the citizens of our hemisphere, in particular, those who are most vulnerable.

In this regard, the Organization of American States provides a unique forum for our nations to foster closer collaboration on a plethora of areas, such as democracy, human rights, hemispheric security, sustainable development, education, health, information and communication technologies (ITCs), gender issues, labor, and local government. This hemispheric body must be commended for continuing to provide support for enhancing the institutional capacity of member states in these areas through its various programs and projects.

The focus of our efforts at development must be the welfare and productivity of our peoples. To ensure the optimum conditions for our societies to flourish, we must approach the development process in a comprehensive manner and continue to pursue an agenda that devotes sufficient attention to the multisectoral development of our member states. This organization must be commended for adopting such an approach in its efforts with other regional entities engaged in the broad spectrum of development activities. These include the Pan American Health Organization (PAHO), whose Directing Council is currently in session here in Washington, D.C., as well as the Inter-American Institute for Cooperation on Agriculture (IICA) and the Inter-American Development Bank (IDB), not to mention a long list of entities involved in trade, labor, culture, the environment, and disaster relief activities, to name a few.

It also cannot be overemphasized that the education of our citizenry is at the core of our hemispheric development program. It is imperative that we encourage the strengthening of early childhood, primary, secondary, and tertiary education institutions and the training of teachers to develop key competencies and skills. Only in this way will our populations acquire and maintain the required competitiveness and be imbued with those democratic and ethical values that promote good governance and secure a peaceful way of life.

In furtherance of this noble goal, Trinidad and Tobago is unyielding in its support for the expansion of trade flows, cognizant of the significant contribution that economic integration and trade liberalization can make to fighting poverty and helping to promote democracy. This hemispheric body must continue to take stock of the differences in the sizes and levels of development of our countries and, in particular, address the issue of special and differential treatment for small, vulnerable economies.

Our member states have made great strides in advancing our collective interests. We must not cease to celebrate our respective achievements, highlighting our best practices and sharing our expertise in all areas related to the economic, social, and cultural development of all our citizens. It is toward such ends, distinguished ladies and gentlemen, that our countries have worked since the inception of the OAS. It is toward similar ends that all heads of state and government have toiled since the First Summit of the Americas in 1994 until last November's successful meeting in Mar del Plata, Argentina.

In taking the mantle from last year's host of the Summit, Trinidad and Tobago considers it an honor and a privilege to work in the vein of, and together with, those illustrious countries that preceded us in this significant undertaking. We look forward to collaborating with all member states, as well as with regional institutions, civil society organizations, and other partners and stakeholders to ensure implementation of the Summit's decisions. The continued invaluable support of Secretary General Insulza and his dedicated, hardworking staff throughout the Secretariat remains, of course, pivotal to this process.

Your excellencies, at this juncture in our history, it is evident that there is need for closer collaboration and deeper cooperation among nations. Our classification as industrialized, developing, or small micro states assumes a measure of irrelevance in the face of the borderless movement of narcotics, small arms, and light weapons, and the destructive and pervasive ideas that breed increased gang violence and transnational organized crime. The spread of HIV/AIDS and external elements, such as natural disasters and the threat of Avian flu, which impact on the well-being of all or sections of our citizenry, make exceptions for none of our countries based on our political or economic standing.

In the face of these nondiscriminating threats we must, however, be aware of the parallel structural challenges to the collective security of the Americas. Our mixture of diverse societies and economies, ranging from those predominantly closed to those persistently open, has been both helpful and disadvantageous to the security of our hemisphere. Whereas closed models secure domestic interests, they often ignore the plight of neighboring societies. On the other hand, whereas open models contribute to the welfare of neighboring societies, this can sometimes be at the expense of domestic interests. To secure our hemisphere, we must all be our brother's keeper.

Arising from this, ladies and gentlemen, and in an effort to reconcile the structural differences of member states for the security and prosperity of the Americas, hemispheric initiatives such as the following emerged:

- The Summit of the Americas, 1994;
- The Inter-American Democratic Charter, 2001;
- The Declaration of Bridgetown: The Multidimensional Approach to Hemispheric Security, 2002;
- The Special Conference on Security in Mexico City and the Declaration on Security in the Americas, 2003.

As a consequence, declarations have been adopted and agreed to, and they continue to be implemented.

For member states, our best assurance for collective progress lies, as it must, in the commitment of a hemispheric body such as this to the ongoing process. Trinidad and Tobago therefore recognizes the necessity for all member states, large or small, to participate fully in the efforts being made through the OAS to strengthen the peace and security of the continent in keeping with the Organization's Charter. This lies at the root of our growing and focused involvement in the work of this organization.

Between 2001 and 2006, Trinidad and Tobago has contributed a steadily increasing amount of human and financial resources to the work of the Inter-American Committee against Terrorism (CICTE), over which our country presided from February 2005 to March 2006. During our tenure as Chair of CICTE, Trinidad and Tobago was pleased that consensus was achieved for the inclusion of tourism security on the CICTE work plan. For several of us, improving the security of our tourism infrastructure is intimately linked to future economic well-being.

Our commitment to the hemispheric security agenda is similarly demonstrated through an increased involvement in the work of the newest entity of the Organization of American States, the Inter-American Defense Board (IADB). We welcome the adoption of the new statutes of this body, which incorporate democratic principles regarding the structure and operations of the Board, the principles of civilian oversight, and the subordination of military institutions to civilian authority.

I take this opportunity, on behalf of the Government of Trinidad and Tobago, to thank all member states for their support for Trinidad and Tobago's candidature to fill the newly-established position of Director General of the Inter-American Defense Board.

Your excellencies, a dominant feature of the hemispheric security landscape is the transnational nature of organized crime. Trinidad and Tobago is fully committed to the work of the Organization through the Inter-American Convention against the Illicit Manufacturing of the Trafficking in Firearms, Ammunition, Explosives and Other Related Materials, and the Special Committee on Transnational Organized Crime.

Additionally, we participated in the First Meeting of National Authorities on Trafficking in Persons, and we have already designated our principal and alternate points of contact for matters related to transnational criminal youth gangs. We continue to participate actively in the Working Group on Mutual Legal Assistance in Criminal Matters and Extradition and in the Follow-up Mechanism for the Implementation of the Inter-American Convention against Corruption (MESICIC).

Another of these entities that confront the transnational nature of our security challenges is the Inter-American Drug Abuse Control Commission (CICAD), which Trinidad and Tobago chaired from 2000 to 2001. CICAD continues to be the channel through which the Organization confronts the scourge of narcotrafficking.

Narcotrafficking can be likened to a pestilence. It is pervasive in its reach, ubiquitous, its tentacles spreading out to every member state in this organization. On this issue, CARICOM member states have particular concerns. In my capacity as the CARICOM Prime Minister with responsibility for matters relating to crime and security, I wish to quote from the 2002 report of the CARICOM Regional Task Force on Crime and Security:

For the Caribbean today, guaranteeing public safety cannot be confined to military and police action. The dimensions of criminal activity are increasingly associated with the trafficking of illicit drugs, the increasing use of illegal firearms, the continuous flow of deportees, money laundering, corruption, and other forms of organized crime and terrorism. Such criminal activities combine to disrupt trade and pervert governance and change the dynamic of security, as it impacts negatively on the security and quality of life of CARICOM citizens.

The many criminal activities I have mentioned find their roots in the illegal drug trade. There is a large body of evidence to support the view that drug trafficking, trafficking in small arms and ammunition, and now, increasingly, terrorist financing, are all connected.

In recent years, the reallocation of resources from fighting drugs to other areas of concern has afforded traffickers an unprecedented opportunity to thrive. Our hemisphere is regrettably caught in

this web, with supply originating in a number of Latin American countries, transshipment occurring through the Caribbean and Central America, and the main markets in North America and Western Europe as the final destinations.

The challenge, distinguished ladies and gentlemen, is therefore hemispheric and needs to be addressed on a cooperative basis, with all the countries of the Hemisphere joining together to tackle these myriad problems. In this regard, I commend the initiative taken by my CARICOM colleague, His Excellency Ronald Venetiaan, President of the Republic of Suriname, in convening in late 2007 an international conference on the elimination of the trafficking in drugs and small arms.

Mr. Chairman, a report out of BBC Caribbean dated September 20, 2006, quoted experts at an International Criminal Police Organization (Interpol) convention in Brazil as positing that drug traffickers are now increasingly aiming at markets and routes in a number of Latin American countries. The analysis seems to be based on the premise that more effective policing in the Caribbean is forcing the traffickers to reduce their use of the region as a key transshipment point for drugs from Latin America headed for the United States and Europe. No figures have been produced to indicate the reported level of the shift away from the Caribbean. Our own information suggests that while trafficking patterns are showing some variation, this is certainly not significant enough to suggest a noticeable reduction in the impact on the level of criminality associated with the trade in our region.

Distinguished ladies and gentlemen, the point being made here is that the traffickers are creative, versatile, and given to finding ways to achieve their objectives. They will attempt to penetrate any perceived opening to facilitate their trade. Therefore, all the countries in the Hemisphere have to be eternally vigilant and be similarly creative and versatile to stem the flow.

In the Caribbean, we have arrayed a substantial portion of our resources to address this scourge. Recent decisions in CARICOM have given regional security a higher profile and are intended to foster greater functional cooperation in our region. Our efforts may well be showing signs of bearing fruit as, in particular, security services across our region have heightened their level of cooperation through greater sharing of intelligence and information in the coordination of drug interdiction operations. Our crop is as yet very small because overall, the resources are few, as generally the demands on these resources have their genesis in a wide range of other development issues and challenges.

Nevertheless, Trinidad and Tobago has undertaken a number of initiatives, including the installation of a state-of-the-art coastal radar system and the acquisition of the other assets required to provide the desired responses to the information obtained from this radar system. But this can have dire consequences for our neighbors in the Eastern Caribbean and, ultimately, Trinidad and Tobago, as drug-related activity can survive through return and circular migration, and it will affect us indirectly. We have therefore offered to extend this system to Grenada, Saint Vincent and the Grenadines, and Saint Lucia to our immediate north, and at our cost. However, there is a limit to what our resources can provide to our sister nations in CARICOM without placing our own urgent needs on the back burner.

There are, ladies and gentlemen, other aspects to our regional security challenge. All our countries are mindful, for example, of the need to address issues related to energy security, not least

of which is the need to ensure that there is unrestricted passage of energy supplies to and from our shores.

Trinidad and Tobago is, as an energy producer, very aware of our own security needs, given, in addition, the pivotal role our energy sector plays in the development of our region and even further afield. Geographically, we are a very small country, and in the global energy scenario we appear, somewhat deceptively, to be of no consequence if a broad-brush assessment is made simply by looking at the statistics.

And what are these statistics?

- Venezuela: 2.5 percent of global gas reserves, 6.17 percent of global oil reserves;
- Qatar: 14.9 percent of global gas reserves, 1.18 percent of global oil reserves;
- Malaysia: 1.2 percent of global gas reserves, 0.23 percent of global oil reserves;
- Russia: 27.5 percent of global gas reserves, 4.64 percent of global oil reserves;
- Trinidad and Tobago: less than 0.5 percent of global gas reserves, less than 0.1 percent of global oil reserves—insignificant.

Trinidad and Tobago is, however, the number one exporter of primary gas-based petrochemicals—methanol and ammonia—in the world. We are the world's number one producer of methanol at this time, and the number one exporter of liquefied natural gas (LNG) in the Western Hemisphere. We are, in fact, responsible for approximately seventy-three percent of LNG imports into the United States. Our country is the home of ten world-scale plants for ammonia and seven world-scale plants for methanol, the latest of which is also the largest of its kind in the world. Trinidad and Tobago is also the sixth largest producer of directly reduced iron (DRI) in the world. Given our complex geology, Trinidad and Tobago is sanguine in the view that we are possessed of additional reserves of oil and gas, and we are pursuing an aggressive exploration campaign.

Mr. Chairman, distinguished ladies and gentlemen, I share these thoughts with you only to underscore Trinidad and Tobago's commitment to bolstering the security of the Americas, and to explain the basis of that commitment and, of course, the implications for our region and even areas further afield if our countries were to ignore the multifaceted nature of security.

For the Caribbean, the security of the Americas is one of the cornerstones that must be strengthened to ensure that the foundation for the collective prosperity of our hemisphere remains solid. To all in our region, it is patently clear that the security challenge continues to threaten our development initiatives. There are many dimensions to this challenge, but the most critical aspect is narco-trafficking and the trade in illegal arms.

For some countries in our region, the number of lives destroyed socially is beginning to be approached by those lost entirely, through murder and gang-related violence, as the perpetrators of the drug trade battle, as they do worldwide, for empires and turfs. The financial spinoffs from this nefarious and deleterious industry remain alluring in the developed world. It is no less so among small developing countries. By virtue of their lack of certain kinds of resources, such countries are

recognizing that this industry constitutes an even more intractable instrument of social decadence. We must redouble our efforts to slay this hydra-headed monster so that the citizens of our hemisphere can pursue more meaningful and productive lives.

The way forward, my dear friends, is clear. Essentially, the blueprint for our actions is encompassed in the OAS Charter, but the battle is ongoing and has to be won. This always makes for greater pragmatism, dynamism, and flexibility.

We are, in fact, called upon to always refine our framework and strategy, to work out the details, and to focus more of our attention and resources on destroying this enemy of our progress. We must do no less. If we collaborate closely enough in this effort, we may well be able to eradicate this scourge and free our future generations to proceed unhindered along their chartered course of development.

Mr. Chairman, Mr. Secretary General, Mr. Assistant Secretary General, your excellencies, I thank you, and may God bless you all.

[Aplausos.]

El PRESIDENTE: Excellency, thank you very, very much for sharing your insights with us. It is a pleasure to hear from such a distinguished leader. Your remarks, sir, will be recorded in Indian ink in our minutes of this meeting, and they will remain with us as a source of lasting inspiration. Thank you.

I ask the distinguished representatives to remain in their places so that His Excellency Mr. Patrick Manning can greet them.

[El Presidente de Trinidad y Tobago saluda a los señores Representantes.]

Ladies and gentlemen, this meeting is adjourned. Thank you.

