

CONSEJO PERMANENTE



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30 junio 2008

ACTA
DE LA SESIÓN ORDINARIA
CELEBRADA
EL 30 DE JUNIO DE 2008

Aprobada en la sesión del 17 de marzo de 2010

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DOCUMENTOS CONSIDERADOS EN LA SESIÓN
(SE PUBLICAN POR SEPARADO)

CP/doc.4325/08, Distribución de mandatos encomendados por el trigésimo octavo período ordinario de sesiones de la Asamblea General

CP/doc.4323/08, Solicitud del Gobierno de Vanuatu para que se le otorgue la condición de Observador Permanente ante la Organización de los Estados Americanos

CONSEJO PERMANENTE DE LA ORGANIZACIÓN DE LOS ESTADOS AMERICANOS

ACTA DE LA SESIÓN ORDINARIA CELEBRADA EL 30 DE JUNIO DE 2008

En la ciudad de Washington, a las diez y cuarenta y cinco de la tarde del lunes 30 de junio de 2008, celebró sesión ordinaria el Consejo Permanente de la Organización de los Estados Americanos. Presidió la sesión el Embajador Michael I. King, Representante Permanente de Barbados y Presidente del Consejo Permanente. Asistieron los siguientes miembros:

Embajador Denis Ronaldo Moncada Colindres, Representante Permanente de Nicaragua y Vicepresidente del Consejo Permanente
Embajador Denis G. Antoine, Representante Permanente de Grenada
Embajador Izben C. Williams, Representante Permanente de Saint Kitts y Nevis
Embajador Bayney R. Karran, Representante Permanente de Guyana
Embajador Aristides Royo, Representante Permanente de Panamá
Embajador Osmar Chohfi, Representante Permanente del Brasil
Embajador Carlos Sosa, Representante Permanente de Honduras
Embajadora María del Luján Flores, Representante Permanente del Uruguay
Embajador Reynaldo Cuadros Anaya, Representante Permanente de Bolivia
Embajador Jacques R. C. Kross, Representante Permanente de Suriname
Embajador Efrén A. Cocíos, Representante Permanente del Ecuador
Embajador Cornelius A. Smith, Representante Permanente del Commonwealth de las Bahamas
Embajadora María Zavala Valladares, Representante Permanente del Perú
Embajador Héctor Morales, Representante Permanente de los Estados Unidos
Embajadora La Celia A. Prince, Representante Permanente de San Vicente y las Granadinas
Embajador Antonio Rodrigue, Representante Interino de Haití
Embajador Luis Menéndez-Castro, Representante Alterno de El Salvador
Ministra Consejera Mayerlyn Cordero Díaz, Representante Alterna de la República Dominicana
Consejero Paul Byam, Representante Alterno de Trinidad y Tobago
Ministro Eduardo Acevedo Díaz, Representante Alterno de la Argentina
Consejero Otto Pérez, Representante Alterno de Guatemala
Tercera Secretaria Carla Poletti Serafini, Representante Alterna del Paraguay
Ministra Consejera Maritza Chan Valverde, Representante Alterna de Costa Rica
Ministra L. Ann Scott, Representante Alterna de Jamaica
Primer Secretario Ricardo Kellman, Representante Alterno de Barbados
Ministra Consejera Carmen Luisa Velásquez de Visbal, Representante Alterna de Venezuela
Ministro Luis Javier Campuzano Piña, Representante Alterno de México
Segunda Secretaria Swathi Kappagantula, Representante Alterna del Canadá
Primera Secretaria Joy-Dee Davis-Lake, Representante Alterna de Antigua y Barbuda
Ministra Consejera Clenie Greer-Lacascade, Representante Alterna de Santa Lucía
Ministro Carlos Iván Plazas, Representante Alterno de Colombia
Primer Secretario Joseph Aguilar, Representante Alterno de Belize
Ministro Consejero Christian Rehren, Representante Alterno de Chile

También estuvo presente el Secretario General Adjunto, Embajador Albert R. Ramdin, Secretario del Consejo Permanente.

APROBACIÓN DEL PROYECTO DE ORDEN DEL DÍA

El PRESIDENTE: *!Muy buenos días!* I am pleased to call to order this meeting of the Permanent Council, which has been convened to consider the items on the draft order of business, document CP/OD.1655/08.

[El proyecto de orden del día contiene los siguientes puntos:

1. Aprobación del orden del día (CP/OD-1655/08)
2. Informe del Secretario General Adjunto sobre el trigésimo octavo período ordinario de sesiones de la Asamblea General
3. Distribución de mandatos encomendados por el trigésimo octavo período ordinario de sesiones de la Asamblea General (CP/doc.4325/08)
4. Elección de expertos gubernamentales encargados de analizar los informes de progreso de los Estados Parte al Protocolo de San Salvador
5. Solicitud de la República de Vanuatu para obtener la condición de Observador Permanente ante la OEA. (CP/doc.4323/08)
6. Otros asuntos.]

If there are no objections from the floor, the draft order of business is approved.

INFORME DEL SECRETARIO GENERAL ADJUNTO SOBRE EL TRIGÉSIMO OCTAVO PERÍODO ORDINARIO DE SESIONES DE LA ASAMBLEA GENERAL

El PRESIDENTE: For the next item on the order of business, I wish to give the floor to the Assistant Secretary General, Ambassador Albert Ramdín, who will report on the thirty-eighth regular session of the General Assembly, which was held in Medellín, Colombia, earlier this month.

El SECRETARIO GENERAL ADJUNTO: Thank you very much, Mr. Chairman. Good morning, distinguished permanent and alternate representatives and distinguished permanent observers.

Mr. Chairman, as Secretary of the Permanent Council and of the General Assembly, I had indicated to the Permanent Council that I would report after the General Assembly session on how the session and the preparatory process went. I thank you very much for allowing the General Secretariat to present a preliminary report on the preparatory process and the meetings on the day before and on the days of the session. I also want to look forward to the schedule for the rest of 2008 and early 2009, and I do so for very specific reasons that I will come back to.

One of the key principles applied in preparing for this year's Assembly session was to start early. I would like to thank the Permanent Mission of Colombia for its very strong, intensive

engagement with the Office of the Assistant Secretary General and the General Secretariat in preparing for the Assembly session.

We were able to sign the hosting agreement with the Government of Colombia on December 13, 2007. This was very critical because it allowed the General Secretariat to start logistical and organizational preparations far earlier than in previous years, when we would start in February and March. We hope to continue this trend because it provides the best environment for a successful General Assembly session from the logistical and administrative perspectives.

The Chairman of the Permanent Council and the member states helped us so that the Preparatory Committee could meet on January 23 this year and the Subcommittee on Agenda and Procedure and the Subcommittee on Administrative and Budgetary Matters could be installed. Both steps were critical in the lead-up to the Assembly session.

The Preparatory Committee held six meetings between January 23 and May 21. The Subcommittee on Agenda and Procedure held three meetings, and the Subcommittee on Administrative and Budgetary Matters held four meetings—all very effective meetings. I commend Ambassador Camilo Ospina for his leadership in this regard.

The process of negotiation and consensus building with regard to the Declaration of Medellín on Youth and Democratic Values, under the leadership of Ambassador Ospina, proved to be very successful. As we did last year, we also entered the General Assembly session with an approved, consensus document on this year's theme.

We must thank the chairpersons of the permanent committees, working groups, and specialized committees for facilitating a process of consultation, dialogue, and negotiation with regard to the resolutions that were presented to the General Assembly. In 2006, the General Assembly produced 101 resolutions and six declarations; in 2007, the General Assembly adopted 96 resolutions and five declarations; and this year, in response to the request for efficiency and clustering of resolutions, the Medellín General Assembly adopted 84 resolutions and three declarations—a very important improvement to the image of the Organization in the outside world. This would not have been possible without the strong engagement of member states and the leadership of the chairpersons.

The organization of the General Assembly session was also supported by a process of efficiency within the General Secretariat, much of which you would not have seen, but we have been able to use technology to make our preparation much more effective.

One of the key elements was the new registration/accreditation system, which made it possible to hold early accreditation and lessened the last-minute accreditation of representatives during the General Assembly session. We registered 1216 representatives in the new system and 900 members of the print, radio and television media. Although we had not anticipated that number, we have heard very few complaints from the media in terms of the facilities and support provided by the Government of Colombia and the General Secretariat. We believe that we were able to handle the logistical, administrative, and organizational capacity, as well as the substantive preparation, with enormous assistance from the member states.

Although the General Assembly session starts officially on Sunday evening with the inaugural session, it really starts the week before with the almost institutionalized meetings of the

Young Americas Business Trust (YABT) and the Private Sector Forum on Wednesday, Thursday, and Friday. Those meetings are being held every year now.

This year, in the context of the theme of “Youth and Democratic Values” selected by the Government of Colombia, a Model OAS Assembly (MOEA) was held in Medellín during the week of May 23, with strong participation by the universities in Medellín and in the province of Antioquia. It provided an additional opportunity to engage with the youth on that theme.

Also, we had the unique opportunity this year to celebrate the 60th anniversary of the OAS on the Saturday at EAFIT University. Several former secretaries general of the Organization attended, and in the debate that unfolded there, they talked about the OAS’s past achievements and its future role in the Hemisphere.

The traditional dialogues between heads of delegation and the Secretary General and the dialogues with civil society, the private sector, the labor sector, and the permanent observers continue to be a challenge for the General Secretariat in terms of time allocation and format. I’ll be very frank: we would like to hear your views on how to do better on these dialogues. They last from 9:00 a.m. until 1:00 p.m. on the Sunday, but it has always been insufficient time for each group to have a substantive dialogue.

I must say that the General Secretariat embarked on a very intensive preparatory process with all of the dialogue partners so that the dialogues would be more focused, more structured, and much more oriented toward time management. Still, the final outcome and the satisfaction of all the partners proved to be a great challenge.

Secretary General Insulza took the opportunity on Saturday afternoon to have consultations and discussions with youth organizations and civil society. Beyond the private dialogue, there was an opportunity for other groups to engage on policy matters and to share perspectives with the leadership of this organization. I think that this is a very important addition to the schedule of the General Assembly session.

On the Sunday, there are opportunities for bilateral meetings between member states, and those opportunities will continue in future General Assembly sessions. The timelines of this year’s session had to be reformatted because of the mandate received on March 17 to continue the Meeting of Consultation of Ministers of Foreign Affairs in Medellín on the situation between Ecuador and Colombia. That’s why the third plenary session was shortened on the Tuesday to facilitate the Meeting of Consultation.

We believe, in general, that all went well. The meeting ended when it was scheduled to. There are questions with regard to the format, structure, timelines, and duration of the General Assembly session, and perhaps member states would like to share their opinions through an informal consultative process. The goal is to make the General Assembly, the only annual meeting of ministers of foreign affairs of the Western Hemisphere, and the dialogues with the private sector, civil society, the labor movement, and the permanent observers much more effective. These issues need to be given due consideration, Mr. Chairman.

I would like to focus now on the schedule for the rest of 2008 and 2009. You will receive shortly the proposed distribution of mandates to the committees and working groups, which relates to

the substantive work plan to be designed in preparation for the 2009 General Assembly session. However, between now and that session, the schedule of activities in the Hemisphere is quite intense.

For instance, the discussion on funding the budget would need to be started as soon as possible in preparation for the special session of the General Assembly that is mandated to be held before September 30. That's the first major event following the regular session of the General Assembly.

Second, the host government of the Summit of the Americas has indicated that at least three Summit Implementation Review Group (SIRG) meetings will be held this year, possibly in September, October, and November. Then, the Fifth Summit of the Americas will be held from April 17 to 19, 2009, in Port of Spain, Trinidad. In preparation for the Summit, we will have further SIRG meetings early next year to discuss the Declaration of Commitment and other arrangements for the Summit.

On top of that, we will have a couple of special meetings of the Permanent Council that are mandated through the resolutions adopted this year.

So, as you can see, in the lead-up to June next year, we will have a couple of critical moments, and the General Secretariat and my office intend to share with you a timeline of activities.

I would like to ask for your support in starting even earlier than last year to prepare for the 2009 General Assembly session. The expectation is that April 2009 will be quite hectic with preparations for the Summit of the Americas. Also, some of the permanent representatives to the OAS are the national coordinators of the Summit process. After April, we only have May left to prepare for the General Assembly session in Honduras. Our intention is to start as soon as possible and, in collaboration with Ambassador Sosa, we have already started discussions with the Government of Honduras. Our first mission will visit Honduras later this month.

The intention, if permanent representatives agree, is that on July 16, at the next regular meeting of the Permanent Council, we will officially install the permanent committees. We hope that member states would be ready to elect the authorities of those permanent committees and working groups, as that would allow us to start dealing with the resolutions and approving the work plans of the permanent committees early.

We also would like to install the Preparatory Committee, its two subcommittees, and a working group on the Declaration of San Pedro Sula in November so that we can have ample time to negotiate and prepare the agenda for the 2009 Assembly session.

Mr. Chairman, once we have outlined the specific items on the agenda for 2008-2009, member states would agree that it will require very strong discipline and rigid implementation in order to satisfactorily conclude the preparations for the Honduras General Assembly session and prepare ourselves for the Fifth Summit of the Americas.

This concludes my verbal report. In the coming weeks, we will share with you documentation on the calendar of activities, and the proposed distribution of the mandates that you received today will form the basis for drafting the work plans of the permanent committees and working groups.

I thank you very much, and I count on your assistance in the coming months.

El PRESIDENTE: Thank you very much, Ambassador Ramdin, for your report. I now offer the floor to delegations for comments. Colombia, you have the floor.

El REPRESENTANTE ALTERNO DE COLOMBIA: Gracias, señor Presidente.

En nombre del Gobierno de Colombia, en nombre del Embajador Ospina y de mi Delegación, queremos agradecer las palabras que en el día de hoy ha manifestado el señor Secretario General Adjunto sobre el éxito alcanzado en la Asamblea General llevada a cabo al principio de este mes en la ciudad de Medellín.

Sea esta la oportunidad para expresar nuestro agradecimiento a los miembros de la Secretaría General, de los que recibimos todo el apoyo necesario para alcanzar estos resultados en la Asamblea. Quiero resaltar, en nombre de mi Delegación, la disposición permanente que tuvieron el Embajador Albert Ramdin, Sherry Tross y todo su equipo. Y ruego que me disculpen los miembros de la Secretaría General que no nombre en este momento, pero la verdad es que es general el agradecimiento para todos y cada uno de ellos.

La voluntad mostrada por ellos en absolver todas nuestras inquietudes y la disposición de dar una respuesta ágil y positiva a nuestras solicitudes permitió ese éxito alcanzado en la Asamblea.

De igual forma queremos agradecer de manera muy especial a todos los Representantes Permanentes y Alternos de las diferentes delegaciones. Sin su valiosa colaboración hubiera sido imposible alcanzar los resultados obtenidos. Sus aportes, tanto en las negociaciones que antecedieron a la Asamblea General como los aportes presentados ya en el seno de la misma, permitieron esos magníficos resultados. Sin ustedes, queridos colegas, ese éxito no se hubiera logrado. Les reitero nuevamente el agradecimiento del Gobierno de Colombia.

Por último, también queremos destacar la ayuda y colaboración prestada por el Presidente del Consejo, el Embajador King, concretamente en todo lo que tuvo que ver con las negociaciones finales y también, ya en la Asamblea, lo relacionado con los puntos que nos quedaron pendientes y que finalmente se lograron llevar a un feliz término.

Reitero nuevamente el agradecimiento a la Secretaría General, a los colegas, al Embajador King. De verdad que ya va a sonar un poco reiterativo, pero sin ustedes hubiera sido imposible haber alcanzado ese éxito.

Muchas gracias, señor Presidente.

El PRESIDENTE: Thank you, Colombia, for your very kind comments. I also wish to thank you, on behalf of the members of the Council, and your government, in particular, for the outstanding preparations and reception that the member states received in Medellín. My only regret was that I could not stay longer to enjoy the delights of Medellín.

I give the floor to the Ambassador of Honduras.

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

Voy a hacer referencia a que, como país sede de la próxima Asamblea General, Honduras ha recibido con satisfacción las palabras del Secretario General Adjunto en el sentido de que ha solicitado comentarios a los diferentes Estados sobre la manera como se desempeñan las tareas de las Asambleas Generales.

Obviamente, señor Secretario General Adjunto, esto va a requerir de un tiempo, que nosotros sedimentemos esa idea y empecemos a pensar si realmente estamos aprovechando a plenitud el tiempo y el esfuerzo de todos. Por eso, es muy posible, señor Secretario General Adjunto, que hoy no tengamos muchas iniciativas, pero, sin duda, en el próximo futuro las habrá.

Hay una tradición de Asambleas Generales sana, positiva y hay como una tendencia a abarcar cada vez más temas. Honduras, en este momento, sin perjuicio de que más tarde puntalicemos más, quiere manifestar dos inquietudes. La primera es con respecto a la relación que quisiéramos llamar dialéctica y no antagónica entre la cantidad de mandatos que las Asambleas dan a la Secretaría General y a este Consejo Permanente y a las limitaciones presupuestarias. No deja de ser contradictorio que entre más mandatos emanen de las Asambleas hacia los organismos permanentes de la Organización, más difícil empieza a ser el financiamiento de las actividades de la Organización y de la Secretaría General.

Esta inquietud la ha manifestado México en un par de ocasiones y yo la comparto. Si estamos emitiendo cada vez más mandatos, si estamos recibiendo cada vez más iniciativas, tenemos que contar con las posibilidades reales de que estas iniciativas aterricen en algún lugar de la realidad. Y esto implica recursos, recursos humanos, recursos financieros.

Esa es la primera inquietud que Honduras tiene. Es decir, que guardemos cierta armonía entre iniciativas y financiamiento de la Secretaría General y de la Organización.

La otra preocupación que asiste a Honduras es en el sentido de que la Asamblea General es una reunión de treinta y cuatro Cancilleres que, en más o menos noventa y seis horas, van a tratar una serie de asuntos, una agenda que va desde asuntos de seguridad hemisférica, tráfico de drogas, pueblos indígenas hasta asuntos que tienen que ver con la cultura, la educación, la equidad de género. Entonces, la agenda que venimos llevando a cabo, propia de la Organización, y algunas de cuyas resoluciones siempre permanecen abiertas, más los asuntos que coyunturalmente asisten a la Asamblea, de acuerdo con lo que ha sucedido en el Hemisferio durante el último año, más las inquietudes del Gobierno sede que aprovecha esa oportunidad para manifestarlas de la manera más resonante posible aprovechando el excelente foro que una Asamblea General provoca, es como una agenda bastante cargada.

Entonces, Honduras tiene la inquietud de si no será el momento de abarcar menos para apretar más, en el sentido de que hay una serie de eventos que se dan paralelos a las Asambleas Generales y no necesariamente asisten al mejor interés de la Organización y de los treinta y cuatro Cancilleres representados en la Asamblea General.

Quizás sea el momento de meditar acerca de si no tenemos que centrarnos más en los temas de la Organización y menos en agendas y temas paralelos. Ojalá pudiésemos tratar todo y hablar con

todo el mundo, pero no estoy tan seguro de que tengamos la capacidad humana en una Asamblea General, contados los Cancilleres y sus delegaciones, para abarcar tantos temas en tan poco tiempo y hacerlo con la debida seriedad. Si vamos a tratar todos los temas es muy posible que lo que hagamos sea una enumeración porque el tiempo no da para más. Para discutir y profundizar, tendríamos que recortar la cantidad de cosas que requieren nuestra atención. Es un motivo de reflexión únicamente.

Muchas gracias, señor Presidente.

El PRESIDENTE: Thank you very much, Ambassador. I want to reassure you and the Council that many years ago, when the regular session of the General Assembly lasted for 12 days, there were only about 32 items on the agenda. Maybe we should start listening to your concerns and see how we can streamline the items on the agenda, even for the Preparatory Committee.

Maybe we should also consider the words of Ambassador Ramdin with regard to scheduling General Assembly activities, many of which, I think, have taken precedence over the work the foreign ministers should be doing on the structural problems in the Organization of American States. I have heard your words, and I am sure that the other members of the Council will consider the matter in due course.

Since there are no further requests for the floor, the Chair suggests that the Council take due note of the verbal report presented by Ambassador Ramdin and the comments of the representatives of Colombia and Honduras. So agreed.

DISTRIBUCIÓN DE MANDATOS ENCOMENDADOS
POR EL TRIGÉSIMO OCTAVO PERÍODO ORDINARIO DE SESIONES
DE LA ASAMBLEA GENERAL

El PRESIDENTE: The next item on the order of business refers to the distribution of mandates assigned by the General Assembly at its thirty-eighth regular session, document CP/doc.4325/08. This document has been prepared by the General Secretariat and contains the mandates approved by the General Assembly and a suggested distribution of said mandates to the corresponding committees and working groups of the Permanent Council. We have an additional page on the mandates assigned to the Committee on Inter-American Summits Management and Civil Society Participation in OAS Activities (CISC), which was inadvertently left out of the aforementioned document.

I am pleased to offer the floor to delegations for their suggestions and/or comments. The Delegation of Argentina has requested the floor. You have the floor, sir.

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

Con relación a este documento, queremos agradecer a la Secretaría General su preparación. Puntualmente queremos señalar que tenemos interés en que la resolución AG/RES. 2372 (XXXVIII-O/08), que está correctamente asignada al Consejo Permanente y a la Comisión Ejecutiva Permanente del Consejo Interamericano para el Desarrollo Integral (CEPCIDI), también sea contemplada en el

plan de trabajo de la Comisión de Seguridad Hemisférica porque hay allí unos mandatos que quisiéramos que esa Comisión tenga en cuenta.

Muchas gracias, señor Presidente.

El PRESIDENTE: Thank you very much, Argentina; your request has been noted. Are there any other requests for the floor from delegations? The Delegation of Mexico has requested the floor. You have the floor, Mexico.

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

Simplemente quería recordar que hay una resolución que fue aprobada, no en el trigésimo octavo período de sesiones de la Asamblea General, sino en el anterior, el trigésimo séptimo, celebrado en Panamá, y es la de los derechos de los trabajadores migratorios. Perdón, veo que ya está ubicada correctamente bajo la Comisión de Asuntos Jurídicos y Políticos. Le agradezco mucho.

El PRESIDENTE: Thank you, Mexico. There being no further requests for the floor, the Chair suggests that the Council approve, with the amendment from Argentina, the document entitled "Distribution of mandates assigned by the General Assembly at its thirty-eighth regular session held in Medellín, Colombia." Approved.

ELECCIÓN DE EXPERTOS GUBERNAMENTALES ENCARGADOS DE ANALIZAR LOS INFORMES DE PROGRESO DE LOS ESTADOS PARTE DEL PROTOCOLO DE SAN SALVADOR

El PRESIDENTE: The next item refers to the election of governmental experts to examine the periodic reports of the states parties pursuant to the Protocol of San Salvador of the American Convention on Human Rights in the area of economic, social, and cultural rights.

At the thirty-eighth regular session of the General Assembly, through resolution AG/RES. 2430 (XXXVIII-O/08), entitled "Protocol of San Salvador: Composition and Functioning of the Working Group to Examine the Periodic Reports of the States Parties," the General Assembly resolved:

3. To delegate to the Permanent Council the election of the government experts to make up the aforementioned Working Group and to authorize the Secretary General to appoint the independent expert and his or her alternate at the same time.

I wish to encourage delegations to present their candidacies for governmental experts to examine the periodic reports of the states parties pursuant to the Protocol of San Salvador as soon as possible. The Secretariat should receive those recommendations.

As such, the Chair wishes to suggest that the deadline for the presentation of such candidacies be September 30, 2008. If there are no objections, it is so agreed.

Sorry, Argentina, you have the floor.

El REPRESENTANTE ALTERNO DE LA ARGENTINA: Gracias, señor Presidente.

Estábamos aguardando que se aprobara este punto del orden del día para hacer un comentario.

Simplemente queríamos reafirmar que la Argentina había presentado y mantiene la candidatura de la experta independiente María Sondereguer para aportar, como país, al listado que los Estados Parte debemos presentar al Secretario General para la designación tanto de un experto o experta independiente como su suplente. Esa candidatura permanece firme. Queríamos adherir a la exhortación hecha por el señor Presidente del Consejo a todos los Estados Parte a que presenten candidatos tanto para los expertos gubernamentales y suplentes, así como para el experto o experta independiente para la lista del Secretario General que él debe entonces decidir.

Creemos que es muy importante que este mecanismo que hemos venido negociando durante todos estos últimos años pueda finalmente ponerse en práctica. Tiene ciertamente tareas que cumplir, empezando por su propio reglamento. La Comisión Interamericana de Derechos Humanos ya ha hecho lo propio y ha designado a un comisionado. Creo que es nuestra obligación hacerlo funcionar para que nuestras declaraciones y las resoluciones que firman nuestros Cancilleres sean acompañadas realmente demostrando la voluntad política de hacerlo.

Muchísimas gracias.

El PRESIDENTE: Thank you very much, Argentina. Your intervention has been duly noted. I repeat that the deadline for the presentation for candidatures will be September 30, and I do hope that other delegations will move swiftly to nominate their candidates or alternates for this important working group.

SOLICITUD DE LA REPÚBLICA DE VANUATU PARA OBTENER LA CONDICIÓN DE OBSERVADOR PERMANENTE ANTE LA OEA.

El PRESIDENTE: The next item refers to the request by the Republic of Vanuatu to be granted the status of permanent observer to the Organization of American States, document CP/doc.4323/08. For the benefit of member states, Vanuatu is a grouping of small islands in the Pacific that was formerly a territory with very close ties to Australia, as well as part of the Commonwealth of nations.

The Chair wishes to follow the normal procedure and to suggest that the Council send the request by the Republic of Vanuatu to the Committee on Juridical and Political Affairs (CAJP) for its consideration. If there are no objections, it is so agreed.

DISTRIBUCIÓN DE LA PUBLICACIÓN TITULADA “VALERIE THEODORE MCCOMIE, 1920 – 2007: UN GRAN ACADÉMICO, DIPLOMÁTICO Y SERVIDOR PÚBLICO AMERICANO”

El PRESIDENTE: We now come to “Other business.” Before I offer the floor to delegations, I am asking the Secretariat to circulate a little booklet entitled *Valerie Theodore*

McComie, 1920-2007: A Great American Scholar, Diplomat, and Public Servant. You may recall that Ambassador McComie, who served as Assistant Secretary General of the Organization of American States from 1980 until 1990, passed away last year in May, and a special tribute was paid to him at the Permanent Council meeting on the day of his funeral, May 9, 2007. This booklet is being circulated for your information and for transmittal to your governments.

HOMENAJE A LA MEMORIA DEL SEÑOR ARTHUR CHUNG,
EX PRESIDENTE DE GUYANA

El PRESIDENTE: The floor is open, and there are two requests for the floor. I give the floor to Ambassador Morales of the United States.

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

I have two points that I would like to raise. The first one is to express our condolences to the people and Government of Guyana on the death of former President Arthur Chung. President Chung was Guyana's first head of state after that country gained its independence and will be remembered for leading it in its earliest days of transition from colony to republic. His personal integrity and devotion to Guyana were important symbols in that country's quest to achieve the ideals of ethnic unity and democracy, and he shall be missed.

PALABRAS DE RECONOCIMIENTO AL SEÑOR ROBERT MANZANARES,
REPRESENTANTE ALTERNO DE LOS ESTADOS UNIDOS, EN OCASIÓN DE SU
ALEJAMIENTO DEL CONSEJO PERMANENTE

El REPRESENTANTE PERMANENTE DE LOS ESTADOS UNIDOS: The second point, Mr. Chairman, is that it is with some sadness that I have to report that my deputy, Bob Manzanares, will be leaving. Today is his last day. But he has not died. [Risas.]

He is, as all of you know, someone who I believe has served with great distinction when the position of Ambassador in our permanent mission was not filled. In the time that we had a chance to work together, he has been a terrific colleague, and I know that he was a very good colleague to all of you. His friendship, his humility, his leadership style, and his character will be sorely missed. I believe that the mission that I inherited is all the stronger because of the work that he has done. But with your indulgence, I wanted to give him an opportunity to say a few words to all of you before he leaves for New Mexico.

El REPRESENTANTE ALTERNO DE LOS ESTADOS UNIDOS: Thank you Mr. Chair. I will be very, very brief. I was never a long speaker when I was sitting in this chair, so I do not want to break that record.

I want to say thank you for all of your support and to express my appreciation to everybody for the time that I spent here, starting with Assistant Secretary General Ramdin; his staff; Sherry Tross; Secretary General Insulza; his staff, led by Ricardo Domínguez; and all of the Secretariat folks, from Alfonso Quiñónez to Ambassador Almaguer to the Secretariat led by Ambassador Addor-Neto.

If I missed anybody, it's not because I do not think highly of you; it is because I am having senior hours instead of senior moments. But I want to express deep appreciation and thanks to the staff of the Secretariat who supported me while I was here.

I also want to thank the ambassadors and alternate representatives. First, to the ambassadors: I very, very much appreciate the respect and the attention that you gave me. You treated me as an equal. I hope I reciprocated in kind. I tried to push the U.S. agenda, as I understood the U.S. agenda, in an honest, fair, and open manner. Sometimes we agreed; sometimes we did not, but I go away with a deep appreciation of multilateral diplomacy because I think that dialogue and respect for other positions is the only way that we, as public servants and diplomats, will be able to make this world work better. Having come from the world of bilateral diplomacy, I thought multilateral was going to be maybe easier, but I found it more complex.

I go off to be a diplomat in residence. I would have to take more time to explain what that is, but I am going to go talk to university students about the benefits of working for the State Department and the benefits of the Organization of American States. I will be able to speak with firsthand experience about the importance of this organization to the Hemisphere, and for that, again, I thank all of you for enlightening and enriching my background of the OAS.

I also have to express deep appreciation and thanks to the staff of the US/OAS Mission. There are too many heroes in my book that I can mention, but I will always, always appreciate the wisdom, background, knowledge, and candor of Margarita Riva, who was my acting deputy while I was sitting in this chair, in articulating our positions in a straightforward manner. Of course, I thank all our staff: Fernando Rojas, Ricardo Zuñiga, Dan Cento, Andrew Stevenson, Sarah Hankins, Carla Menendez, and Melissa Kopolow. All of them were outstanding, and they never once let me come here and make a fool of myself because I always had my books very well prepared, and hopefully I did them proud.

So, thank you again, and I wish you well. I hope to see you in New Mexico. It is a great state—not as great as the great state of Colorado, but it is close [risas.]. Thank you again for your time.

[Aplausos.]

El PRESIDENTE: Mr. Manzanares, there was a famous calypso in the Caribbean about a quarter of a century ago that said that “a deputy is essential,” but it is not necessarily talking about a Deputy Permanent Representative. I can assure you that your role as Deputy Permanent Representative and Interim Representative was greatly appreciated by us all in the Permanent Council. You will be missed as the quintessential professional, a distinguished colleague, and, most important, as a friend of all of us here.

I know that what you are about to do is very important. It is important to mentor young people who wish to build international careers so that they understand the practice of cultural understanding and the need for people to engage and to agree to disagree. Your experience in the Organization of American States will be very useful to your country.

On behalf of the members of the Council and on my own behalf and that of my delegation, I wish you the very best in your future endeavors.

Before I close this tribute, I give the floor to Ambassador Ramdin, who would like to share a few words to you.

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

Bob Manzanares joined the Organization of American States, as he just mentioned, from a bilateral diplomatic tradition and came into a multilateral environment. He has done well because he joined us at a very interesting time in the Hemisphere when the OAS was increasing its relevance, but also when we needed strong representation after the previous Permanent Representative of the United States had demitted office.

We always felt that Bob was very candid, but at the same time he was a good listener, even willing to consider positions from the other side. That was a very important basis for the success of his tenure at the OAS: a willingness to build bridges where bridges could be built and to build alliances where they were needed. So we want to thank you very much for your professional and very fair approach to multilateral diplomacy. Although you did not come from that area, you became quite a professional at it.

I must say that there is a lot of appreciation in the Secretariat for Finance and Administration (SAF) for your co-chairmanship of the Working Group to Prepare the Draft Resolution on the Program-Budget for 2009 of the Committee on Administrative and Budgetary Affairs (CAAP). We felt very strongly that you had certain views, but you were always ready and willing to find practical solutions to the problems, which we still have. But the SAF wanted for me to say specifically how much the staff appreciated working with you and the results you achieved.

On behalf of the General Secretariat, Secretary General Insulza, my own staff, and on my own behalf, thank you very much for your friendship and your professionalism. We wish you all the best in your future endeavors, and I am sure we will see you at some point again.

El PRESIDENTE: Thank you, Ambassador Ramdin. I give the floor to the Ambassador of Guyana.

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

I wish to begin on the note where Ambassador Ramdin left off and to recognize the energy, tenacity, collegiality, and willingness to consult that Bob Manzanares brought to the Council. I take the liberty to speak on behalf of my colleagues from the Caribbean Community (CARICOM) in commending him for the distinction with which he served. He brought credit to his country, and we wish to thank him for his service among us and to wish him well in his future endeavors.

CONDOLENCIA AL PUEBLO Y GOBIERNO DE GUATEMALA
POR LA TRAGEDIA AÉREA EN LA QUE PERDIERON LA VIDA
EL MINISTRO Y EL VICEMINISTRO DE GOBERNACIÓN

El REPRESENTANTE PERMANENTE DE GUYANA: I also wish to take the opportunity to express condolences to the Delegation of Guatemala, because I understand that over the weekend,

there was a tragic incident in which the Minister and Vice Minister of the Interior perished in an aviation disaster. We offer them our sympathies and condolences.

HOMENAJE A LA MEMORIA DEL SEÑOR ARTHUR CHUNG,
EX PRESIDENTE DE GUYANA (CONTINUACIÓN)

El REPRESENTANTE PERMANENTE DE GUYANA: Finally, Mr. Chairman, I would like to thank the Delegation of the United States for the condolences expressed on the passing of the former President of Guyana, Mr. Arthur Chung. Mr. Chung served as President of Guyana from March 1970 until October 1980, when the promulgation of a new constitution made provision for an executive president. Prior to that, he had enjoyed a distinguished career as a jurist. Even though he served as a titular and not an executive president, he was recognized for the dignity, humility, and conviction that he displayed in his service to the state. He presided over the significant political, economic, and social transformations that occurred during Guyana's first decade as a republic.

On behalf of the Government and people of Guyana, I wish to express our appreciation to the Delegation of the United States. We highly value the condolences, and it will be my delegation's pleasure to transmit them.

Thank you.

El PRESIDENTE: Thank you very much, Ambassador Karran. I also wish, on behalf of the Council, to extend the Council's sincerest sympathy to the Government and people of the Cooperative Republic of Guyana, and, indeed, to the family of the late President Arthur Chung.

CONDOLENCIA AL PUEBLO Y GOBIERNO DE GUATEMALA POR LA
TRAGEDIA AÉREA EN LA QUE PERDIERON LA VIDA EL
MINISTRO Y EL VICEMINISTRO DE GOBERNACIÓN (CONTINUACIÓN)

El PRESIDENTE: I also wish, on behalf of the Council, to express to the Government and people of Guatemala our sincere condolences on the unfortunate helicopter accident a few days ago that took the lives of the Minister of the Interior and other officials of the Government of Guatemala. The Council will appropriately deal with those two expressions of condolences.

I now give the floor to Ambassador Royo of Panama.

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

Quisiera expresar mi condolencia, también la de Panamá, por la desaparición del Ministro y Viceministro de Gobernación de Guatemala.

PALABRAS DE RECONOCIMIENTO AL SEÑOR ROBERT MANZANARES,
REPRESENTANTE ALTERNO DE LOS ESTADOS, EN OCASIÓN DE SU
ALEJAMIENTO DEL CONSEJO PERMANENTE (CONTINUACIÓN)

El REPRESENTANTE PERMANENTE DE PANAMÁ: Quisiera unirme, además, a las expresiones que aquí se han manifestado sobre Bob Manzanares, a quien considero un gran amigo y espero que lo sigamos siendo a pesar de que ya no vamos a estar por aquí. Quiero decirle también que fue un honor y un privilegio haber trabajado con una persona como Bob Manzanares. Debo señalar que es verdad que aquí hay el principio de que todos somos iguales y que cada país es igual a los demás. Sin embargo, debo decirles que en mis relaciones con Bob jamás sentí que yo estaba hablando frente a una potencia; más bien él me hacía sentir de vez en cuando que nosotros éramos la potencia por su simpatía, su cordialidad, su sentido del humor y, además, los grandes conocimientos de que hizo despliegue en esta Organización.

DONACIÓN DEL ECUADOR A LA BIBLIOTECA COLÓN

El REPRESENTANTE PERMANENTE DE PANAMÁ: También quisiera decirles que ojalá todos los que puedan nos acompañen mañana en la Biblioteca Colón a las tres de la tarde. El Embajador Efrén Cocíos, en nombre de su país, el Ecuador, va a hacer una donación a la Biblioteca Colón de la OEA. Así que mañana 1 de julio, a las tres de la tarde, ojalá que nos puedan acompañar a esta generosa donación que nos hará el Embajador Cocíos.

El PRESIDENTE: Thank you very much for your kind invitation, Ambassador Royo. I now give the floor to the Delegation of Venezuela.

La REPRESENTANTE ALTERNA DE VENEZUELA: Buenos días. Muchas gracias, señor Presidente.

Nuestro Gobierno quiere transmitir a Guatemala nuestra condolencia, pero en este momento, no obstante haber oído esa noticia triste, sería egoísta de parte de la Delegación de Venezuela no reconocer el trabajo del Embajador Manzanares.

Efectivamente, como dijo el Embajador Ramdin, parte del gran logro del Embajador Manzanares ha sido tender puentes. Como señalaba el Embajador de los Estados Unidos la semana pasada con motivo de la despedida del Embajador Jorge Valero, entre las delegaciones de ambos Gobiernos ha existido una relación de mucho respeto, de mucho apoyo, y hasta ahora este ha sido el gran logro del Embajador Manzanares. Así que nosotros también lo felicitamos, le deseamos lo mejor y aquí nos tiene a nosotros como amigos siempre. Gracias.

El PRESIDENTE: Thank you very much. I give the floor to the Ambassador of Peru. You have the floor, Madam.

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

Me sumo también a las expresiones de condolencia para los Estados de Guyana y Guatemala. También quisiera agradecer al Embajador Bob Manzanares todo el apoyo y el haber compartido sus conocimientos y experiencia.

Recuerdo que apenas llegué a este foro internacional tuve la oportunidad de viajar con él y un grupo de Embajadores y Representantes Permanentes a Haití. Era mi primera experiencia y él me enseñó mucho. Uno enseña mucho con el ejemplo. Algunos somos buenos o malos o muy buenos o excelentes alumnos, pero creo que con un profesor como él no va a haber malos alumnos.

Creo que la juventud en su país gana mucho con él. De repente dejamos un tiempo de vernos, de compartir con él momentos profesionales, pero no podemos ser egoístas y la juventud estadounidense va a tener un excelente orientador en el tema en que él va a cumplir.

Bob, quiero que sepas que el Perú reconoce tu profesionalismo. Nos diste cátedra en la última reunión que tuvimos. Gracias a ti se pudo sacar sin problema alguno la resolución que estuvimos viendo con la Unión Europea.

Felicitaciones en tu nuevo cargo. Todo nuestro cariño peruano. Gracias.

El PRESIDENTE: Thank you very much. I give the floor to the Ambassador of Saint Kitts and Nevis.

El REPRESENTANTE PERMANENTE DE SAINT KITTS Y NEVIS: I thank you, Chair.

Chair, I express condolences to the Ambassador of Guatemala on the passing of the Minister and Vice Minister and the families of the many others who perished. To the Ambassador of Guyana, I express condolence on the passing of the former President of Guyana.

The distinguished Ambassador of the United States could possibly fit into the role of sensational journalist when he leaves the diplomatic corps because he started with: "It is with sadness that I ...," and we all wondered who had passed away. It reminds me much of a newspaper in Trinidad and Tobago; I think it's called *The Bomb*. The editor used to be a man called Chookolingo, and the paper used to have headlines like "Dr. Williams Dead"—not this Dr. Williams [risas.]—and would continue that Dr. Williams was dead to the ongoing assault from the opposition. So sensationalism is useful.

On a more serious note, Chair, my delegation joins the sentiments expressed by the distinguished Ambassador of Guyana on behalf of the delegations of the Caribbean Community (CARICOM), but I wanted to say that I have come to consider Bob a friend. I have found him to be very warm, honest, engaging, unassuming, and respectful. As the distinguished Ambassador of Panama said, he made you feel that your country was a superpower because of the way he engaged and embraced you, and in that regard, I certainly consider him a friend.

I never lament when someone moves on because for those of us who are seeing that person move on and saying "there he goes," there usually is someone on the other side saying "here he comes." I rejoice with the youth, who will benefit from the experience and knowledge that you will bring to them. I envy you, because I have a particular inclination toward working with youth. I know that you will make good of it and that they will benefit immensely from your wisdom, and I wish you all the best.

Thank you, Chair.

El PRESIDENTE: Thank you, Ambassador Williams. I give the floor to the Delegation of Canada.

La REPRESENTANTE ALTERNA DEL CANADÁ: Thank you, Mr. Chair. We would like to express our condolences to the delegations of Guatemala and Guyana on their respective losses, and we would like to echo all the sentiments expressed by other countries on the departure of Mr. Manzanares.

Although Ambassador Graeme Clark isn't here this week, I know I can speak on his behalf in expressing gratitude for the very positive relationship that we have shared with the United States in working through the leadership of Mr. Manzanares. We wish you all the best in your future endeavors.

Thank you.

El PRESIDENTE: Thank you very much. I give the floor to the Delegation of Mexico.

El REPRESENTANTE ALTERNO DE MÉXICO: Muchísimas gracias, señor Presidente.

Mi Delegación se suma a las delegaciones que me precedieron en el uso de la palabra en expresar su condolencia a la Delegación de Guyana por la muerte del ex Presidente Arthur Chung. De igual manera expresa su condolencia al Gobierno de Guatemala por la defunción en el accidente aéreo del Ministro y el Viceministro de Gobernación y también los otros acompañantes.

Finalmente, nos unimos a las delegaciones que hicieron un agradecimiento muy especial a la gestión y a la labor del Embajador Bob Manzanares, quien, como se ha señalado, se desempeñó con gran altruismo, con gran compañerismo, y con quien se pudieron tratar temas muy profundos en la relación hemisférica y también en la relación que afecta a todos nuestros países. Por ello le agradecemos mucho. Fue, al igual que un compañero, un genuino ejemplo de buena voluntad para llegar a buen puerto en temas difíciles que tratamos en ocasiones en esta Organización.

Finalmente, un reconocimiento personal porque también fue quien me introdujo a jugar golf, que ha sido una cuestión maravillosa. Muchas gracias.

El PRESIDENTE: Thank you very much. I give the floor to the Ambassador of Brazil.

El REPRESENTANTE PERMANENTE DEL BRASIL: Muito obrigado, Senhor Presidente.

Como a nossa querida Coordenadora não mencionou que tinha falado em nome do Grupo da Associação Latino-Americana de Integração (ALADI), não estou sendo indisciplinado no momento e queria referir-me a dois temas. Em primeiro lugar, as condolências da Delegação do Brasil aos Governos da Guatemala e da Guiana e queria também me referir especialmente à despedida do Embaixador Robert Manzanares.

A presença dele à frente da Delegação dos Estados Unidos da América durante um longo período foi muito importante. Ele trouxe uma grande contribuição aos trabalhos da Organização por sua capacidade, por seu conhecimento dos temas e, sobre tudo também, como foi aqui assinalado, por sua personalidade tão aberta e tão propensa ao diálogo.

Embaixador Manzanares, em diferentes momentos dessa sua presença à frente da Delegação dos Estados Unidos, defendeu muito bem os interesses do seu país, como devia, mas ao mesmo tempo ele não deixou de estar sempre aberto às posições de todos os países membros. E foi muito importante que, em diferentes circunstâncias e temas importantes que nós tratamos no seio do Conselho Permanente, e mesmo na preparação da Assembléia Geral, poder contar com essa disposição do Embaixador Manzanares para contribuir construtivamente para que alcançássemos consenso. Realmente é uma perda grande para este nosso Conselho a partida do Embaixador Manzanares, mas estamos certos de que ele dará ainda, nas novas atividades acadêmicas que vai empreender, uma grande contribuição ao seu país e, sobre tudo, como disse a nossa Coordenadora, na orientação que vai dar aos jovens estudantes em relações internacionais.

Embaixador Manzanares, querido amigo Bob, desejamos o melhor para você na sua nova etapa profissional e também na sua vida pessoal.

Muito obrigado, Senhor Presidente.

El PRESIDENTE: Thank you very much. I give the floor to the Delegation of Argentina.

El REPRESENTANTE ALTERNO DE LA ARGENTINA: Gracias, señor Presidente.

Muy brevemente, mi Delegación también quiere sumarse a lo dicho ya por otras delegaciones en cuanto a las expresiones de condolencia a los Estados de Guyana y de Guatemala por las tristes noticias que hemos escuchado el día de hoy. Además, queremos tomar la palabra en nombre del Embajador Rodolfo Gil –que no se encuentra en este momento en la sala–, como Decano del grupo de países miembros de la Asociación Latinoamericana de Integración (ALADI), haciendo suyas las palabras de la Embajadora del Perú, coordinadora del grupo, y de los restantes miembros del grupo que hemos escuchado el día de hoy.

Embajador Manzanares, se lleva usted no solo todas las muestras de respeto profesional de todas nuestras delegaciones, estoy seguro, sino también las expresiones de simpatía y reconocimiento por todo lo que usted ha aportado continuamente a esta Organización y por lo cual le estamos realmente muy agradecidos. Desde ya le deseamos todo lo mejor y hasta pronto.

Gracias, señor Presidente.

El PRESIDENTE: Thank you very much. I give the floor to the Ambassador of Uruguay.

La REPRESENTANTE PERMANENTE DEL URUGUAY: Muchas gracias, señor Presidente.

Mi Delegación también quiere sumarse a las expresiones de condolencia por las pérdidas a los Estados de Guyana y Guatemala.

Vemos que hay intervenciones individuales de las delegaciones, por lo que queremos sumarnos a las expresiones de reconocimiento al Embajador Bob Manzanares. Es un diplomático con quien siempre sabíamos que podíamos contar en las distintas circunstancias que requirieran el apoyo, siempre con su conocimiento, su espíritu de compromiso y de esa manera poder alcanzar acuerdo. Por lo tanto, lamentamos su partida, pero le deseamos el mayor de los éxitos.

El PRESIDENTE: Thank you very much, Ambassador. I give the floor to the Delegation of Colombia.

El REPRESENTANTE ALTERNO DE COLOMBIA: Gracias, señor Presidente.

La Delegación de Colombia se suma a las expresiones de condolencia manifestadas al pueblo de Guyana y el pueblo de Guatemala por los hechos lamentables ya conocidos por todos.

Por otro lado, en nombre del Embajador Camilo Ospina y de la Delegación, queremos agradecerle y desearle el mejor de los éxitos al Embajador Manzanares, un funcionario que no solamente se mostró en todo momento como el mejor profesional, sino que hizo gala de su habilidad como persona, siempre dispuesto a colaborar, siempre dispuesto a brindar el apoyo y, como siempre, abierto al diálogo.

Embajador Manzanares, la verdad es que va a dejar usted un vacío muy grande, pero estamos seguros de que volverá, muy posiblemente, a acompañarnos. Esperamos estar cuando usted regrese. Aquí, por parte de la Delegación de Colombia, cuente con unos amigos de manera permanente.

Mil gracias, Presidente.

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

El REPRESENTANTE ALTERNO DE CHILE: Gracias, señor Presidente.

En nombre de la Delegación de Chile y del Embajador Pedro Oyarce, que no pudo estar presente hoy, quisiéramos sumarnos a lo ya expresado por el resto de las delegaciones y por la coordinadora de nuestro grupo en el sentido de hacer llegar nuestra más sentida condolencia a los Gobiernos y pueblos de Guyana y Guatemala por estas irreparables pérdidas.

Con respecto al Embajador Manzanares, la verdad es que se podrían decir muchas cosas. Simplemente, quisiera agradecerle muy sinceramente todo el apoyo que, en lo personal, a mí me brindó en estos últimos cuatro meses, particularmente en temas a veces muy sensibles, muy importantes no solo para la Organización, sino también para todos y cada uno de nuestros Estados.

Creo que hay aquí una serie de condiciones que se podrían destacar del Embajador Manzanares, pero, por cierto, hay una que me gustaría relevar, que es el hecho de su excepcional calidad humana. Eso no solo se demostró en su trato diario y ameno, así como en la defensa de los intereses de su país, con la cual enfrentaba a veces no pocas dificultades.

Le deseamos lo mejor al Embajador Manzanares. Estamos seguros de que en su nueva designación en Nuevo México él sabrá desplegar todas las dotes y cualidades que lo hicieron acreedor y merecedor de este reconocimiento. Estamos seguros también de que en la formación de recursos humanos él sabrá poner el mejor empeño para la mejor opinión que se tiene, entre otros, de esta Organización y de la comunidad internacional respecto a la labor que él va a desarrollar.

De tal manera, Bob, muchas gracias nuevamente. Puedes contar con la Delegación de Chile y tus amigos en Chile.

Gracias.

El PRESIDENTE: Thank you very much. I give the floor to the Ambassador of Ecuador.

El REPRESENTANTE PERMANENTE DEL ECUADOR: Gracias, señor Presidente.

La Delegación del Ecuador quiere expresar su sentida nota de pesar a los Estados de Guatemala y Guyana por el fallecimiento de distinguidas y prestantes personalidades de esos países, sumándose de este modo a lo que ya han expresado en este foro las diferentes delegaciones.

Por otro lado, no quería la Delegación del Ecuador dejar de intervenir ahora para expresar al Embajador Manzanares su amistad y su consideración ahora que él se despide de la Organización de los Estados Americanos para cumplir otra responsabilidad que le encomienda su Gobierno.

El Embajador Manzanares ha sido un buen amigo, un excelente profesional, un hombre democrático y plural con una gran sencillez, con gran don de gentes que realmente le ha hecho acreedor y merecedor del respeto y de la consideración de todos los que lo hemos conocido y lo hemos tratado, no solamente desde el punto de vista personal, sino también desde el punto de vista diplomático.

De manera que, en nombre del Ecuador, de su Gobierno y en el mío propio, quiero expresarle mis mejores deseos por que en su nuevo destino logre y coseche los éxitos que corresponden.

Muchas gracias.

El PRESIDENTE: Thank you very much. I give the floor to the Delegation of El Salvador.

El REPRESENTANTE ALTERNO DE EL SALVADOR: Gracias, señor Presidente.

La Delegación de El Salvador se suma a las expresiones de solidaridad hacia las Delegaciones de Guyana y Guatemala por las pérdidas respectivas que han sido referidas.

Asimismo, agradecemos la distribución del material relativo al Embajador McComie.

Mi Delegación, de manera muy excepcional, hace uso de una licencia de indisciplina en tanto y por cuanto, por una complicidad alfabética únicamente atribuible a Maquiavelo, hemos ubicado a la Delegación de los Estados Unidos a la diestra nuestra. Ciertamente las delegaciones comprenderán que, así como respecto a la Delegación del Ecuador, durante las largas jornadas de las comisiones y del Consejo Permanente se desarrolla, sí, un afecto especial, una complicidad con las delegaciones vecinas. Es el caso para todos y eso es lo que explica únicamente la licencia de la cual no pretendemos abusar.

Subscribimos los conceptos que han sido manifestados en relación con el Embajador Manzanares, le hacen justicia, los merece, es la caracterización de él: su caballerosidad, don de gentes, vocación de diálogo, sentido de la coyuntura, olfato político, únicamente atribuibles a una trayectoria profesional que le permite colocar en perspectiva los desarrollos que él ha observado y de los que ha sido protagonista durante su paso por la gestión multilateral del Hemisferio. Más de una

broma, más de algún comentario o reflexión hemos compartido con él respecto a ausentes o presentes en ciertas reuniones.

Enhorabuena para los jóvenes norteamericanos. Él parte con este doble homenaje de aprecio personal y de admiración profesional. Se torna ahora un embajador de las causas interamericanas y como tal parte ungido.

Gracias.

El PRESIDENTE: Thank you very much.

ANUNCIO DEL REPRESENTANTE DE LOS ESTADOS UNIDOS

El PRESIDENTE: Ambassador Morales of the United States has the floor.

El REPRESENTANTE PERMANENTE DE LOS ESTADOS UNIDOS: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I apologize for taking the floor again. I wanted to make two announcements that I did not make earlier.

One is to join the expressions of condolence to the Government of Guatemala, and the second is a reminder to join us here on Wednesday from noon until 2:00 p.m. for our Independence Day celebration. Hopefully everybody can come: you are more than welcome!

Thank you.

El PRESIDENTE: Thank you very much.

PALABRAS DEL PRESIDENTE DEL CONSEJO PERMANENTE AL LLEGAR AL TÉRMINO DE SU MANDATO

El PRESIDENTE: We have come to the end of our order of business, and also, may I add, the end of my tenure as Chair of the Permanent Council. This three-month period was quite hectic for the Organization of American States and for my delegation.

I want to express my sincerest gratitude to all members of staff of the Secretariat—including the interpreters and other people who had to put up with me during the past three months—for their professional work in support of the Chair and the preparatory work, in particular, for the thirty-eighth regular session of the General Assembly in Colombia.

I also wish to thank you all for your patience and apologize for my absence last week, as I had an assignment in California on the bilateral side.

This chairmanship of the Council has been a very rewarding experience. At times, I was very frustrated by the lack of discipline when I had difficulty getting a quorum for the important work of the General Committee as we prepared for the General Assembly session. I do hope that the spirit

with which we worked together to overcome some very difficult periods during the preparatory work of the General Assembly and at the General Assembly session itself can continue.

Like my distinguished colleague from Honduras, I, too, have difficulty in accepting that we shall continue our work at the General Assembly along the lines that have seemingly been prescribed over the last eight to 10 years. We should seriously consider either extending the Assembly session or getting the ministers more involved in discussing the structural needs of the Organization, especially the budgetary needs. The budget will always be my pet peeve, since I am not sure that we have done a good job at the highest decision-making level in assessing the needs of this organization in the area of the bases of financing.

But I want to thank you all for your support and to let you know that it has been a very rewarding three months, which I thoroughly enjoyed.

This meeting is adjourned. Thank you.

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