

CONSEJO PERMANENTE



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ACTA
DE LA SESIÓN EXTRAORDINARIA
CELEBRADA

EL 16 DE MARZO DE 2011

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ÍNDICE

	<u>Página</u>
Nómina de los Representantes que asistieron a la sesión.....	1
Palabras del Ministro de Relaciones Exteriores, Comercio Exterior, Medio Ambiente y Fomento de Exportaciones de Grenada	2

CONSEJO PERMANENTE DE LA ORGANIZACIÓN DE LOS ESTADOS AMERICANOS

ACTA DE LA SESIÓN EXTRAORDINARIA CELEBRADA EL 16 DE MARZO DE 2011

En la ciudad de Washington, a las nueve y cincuenta y cinco de la mañana del miércoles 16 de marzo de 2011, celebró sesión extraordinaria el Consejo Permanente de la Organización de los Estados Americanos en honor del excelentísimo señor Karl I. J. Hood, Ministro de Relaciones Exteriores, Comercio Exterior, Medio Ambiente y Fomento de Exportaciones de Grenada. Presidió la sesión la Embajadora Carmen Lomellin, Representante Permanente de los Estados Unidos y Presidenta del Consejo Permanente. Asistieron los siguientes miembros:

Embajador Hubert J. Charles, Representante Permanente del Commonwealth de Dominica
y Vicepresidente del Consejo Permanente
Embajador Bayney R. Karran, Representante Permanente de Guyana
Embajador Duly Brutus, Representante Permanente de Haití
Embajadora María del Luján Flores, Representante Permanente del Uruguay
Embajador Gustavo Albin, Representante Permanente de México
Embajador Cornelius A. Smith, Representante Permanente del Commonwealth de las Bahamas
Embajador José Enrique Castillo Barrantes, Representante Permanente de Costa Rica
Embajador Jorge Skinner-Klée, Representante Permanente de Guatemala
Embajador Michael Louis, Representante Permanente de Santa Lucía
Embajador Nestor Mendez, Representante Permanente de Belize
Embajador John E. Beale, Representante Permanente de Barbados
Embajador Ruy Casaes, Representante Permanente del Brasil
Embajador Guillermo Cochez, Representante Permanente de Panamá
Embajadora Gillian M. S. Bristol, Representante Permanente de Grenada
Embajador Hugo de Zela, Representante Permanente del Perú
Embajador Darío Paya, Representante Permanente de Chile
Embajadora María Isabel Salvador, Representante Permanente del Ecuador
Embajador Allan Culham, Representante Permanente del Canadá
Embajador Subhas-Chandra Mungra, Representante Permanente de Suriname
Embajadora Jacinth Lorna Henry-Martin, Representante Permanente de Saint Kitts y Nevis
Embajador Neil Parsan, Representante Permanente de Trinidad y Tobago
Ministro Martín Gómez Bustillo, Representante Interino de la Argentina
Primera Secretaria Aylin Luisa Oropeza Bleichner, Representante Interina de Bolivia
Embajador Luis Menéndez-Castro, Representante Interino de El Salvador
Ministra Consejera Mayerlyn Cordero Díaz, Representante Interina de la República Dominicana
Ministra Consejera Ann-Marie Layne Campbell, Representante Alterna de Antigua y Barbuda
Primer Secretario Carlos Alberto Rodríguez, Representante Alterno de Venezuela
Lynen Ann Scott, Representante Alterna de Jamaica
Ministro Consejero Luís Exequiel Alvarado Ramírez, Representante Alterno de Nicaragua
Ministro Carlos Iván Plazas, Representante Alterno de Colombia
Ministro Consejero Omari Seitu Williams, Representante Alterno de San Vicente y las Granadinas
Ministro Juan Miguel González Bibolini, Representante Alterno del Paraguay
Milton K. Drucker, Representante Alterno de los Estados Unidos

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.

La PRESIDENTA: Good morning! I am pleased to call to order this special meeting of the Permanent Council, convened to receive His Excellency the Honorable Karl I. J. Hood, Minister of Foreign Affairs, Foreign Trade, Environment, and Export Development of Grenada.

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

I have the honor, as Chair of the Permanent Council, to welcome today to the Organization of American States the Honorable Karl I. J. Hood. As many of you know, Grenada will assume, very shortly, the chairmanships of the Permanent Council and of the Inter-American Committee against Terrorism (CICTE). Taken together with its current chairmanship of the Caribbean Community (CARICOM), Grenada is demonstrating leadership in the region and its commitment to this organization and its ideals. The Minister's visit today is a most timely occasion to speak to the very important issues on the agenda of this organization.

PALABRAS DEL MINISTRO DE RELACIONES EXTERIORES, COMERCIO EXTERIOR,
MEDIO AMBIENTE Y FOMENTO DE EXPORTACIONES DE GRENADA

La PRESIDENTA: Minister Hood, welcome to this meeting of the Permanent Council of the Organization of American States. The floor is yours, sir.

El MINISTRO DE RELACIONES EXTERIORES, COMERCIO EXTERIOR, MEDIO AMBIENTE Y FOMENTO DE EXPORTACIONES DE GRENADA: Thank you, Madam Chair.

Mr. Secretary General; Mr. Assistant Secretary General; distinguished permanent and alternate representatives; excellencies; ladies and gentlemen:

It is an honor for me to join you today at this esteemed Permanent Council of the Organization of American States. For more than six decades, these halls have witnessed the birth and nurturing of the noble ideal of hemispheric integration for the advancement of all the peoples of the Americas.

Indeed, when Grenada assumed its independence in 1973, the OAS was one of the first international organizations in which we sought membership. The Government of Grenada, led by Prime Minister Tillman Thomas, remains true to the conviction that led us to join the OAS some 36 years ago: that the interests of our individual countries and the aspirations of our citizens are better served by a hemisphere united in its determination to pursue a common agenda of socioeconomic development, security, democracy, and human rights.

The importance of this collective mission of the Organization of American States, unanimously adopted by all of our countries, cannot be overstated. This hemispheric mission finds reflection in subregional arrangements that seek, in their own right, the common good of their respective constituents. The Caribbean Community of nations, better known by its acronym, CARICOM, is one such arrangement that harnesses our region's expertise, capacity, and resources and fashions them into mechanisms that deliver on a shared vision of self-determination, development, security, and prosperity for all.

Grenada is convinced that CARICOM and the OAS must continue as strategies for regional integration. As members of both CARICOM and the OAS, we must all remain resolute in ensuring that these institutions stay faithful to their founding objectives, continue to seek the collective good of all the citizens of this Hemisphere, and evolve into even more efficient and effective mechanisms for regional unity and development.

Only three weeks ago, Grenada was honored to host the Twenty-Second Inter-Sessional Meeting of the Conference of Heads of Government of CARICOM. Grenada's Prime Minister, who currently chairs CARICOM, recalled the somber reality of the financial crisis that has impacted all our countries and the world over the past few years. In that context, the Honorable Prime Minister made the point that a renewed commitment to regional integration is key to modernization and transformation if we are to successfully rebound from that crisis and develop even more resilient economies.

It is that message of renewal and relevance that I would like to underscore today. We must remain true to the ideals upon which this Organization is founded, even in the face of new international realities and regional challenges that inevitably demand so much more from us. We must rise to the challenges and forge innovative responses that are effective in continuing to deliver our Charter's objectives. We must reassert the truth that socioeconomic development is essential for our peoples, our nations, and our hemisphere to achieve those objectives. We must recommit to the cooperation of which our Charter so nobly speaks. And we must do all this while remaining faithful to the principles of sovereignty, the rule of law, and respect for human rights.

Today, I wish to renew to you, our sister states of the Americas, the pledge of my government to continue working in close partnership with each of your countries within this Organization to build on our accomplishments, renew our commitments, and reinvigorate our efforts. We look forward to engaging in constructive dialogue that aims to enhance our implementation procedures, maximize resources, and strengthen this institution.

Indeed, as this organization prepares for two major multilateral processes that are important for hemisphere-wide policy making, direction, and implementation, Grenada believes that we have an invaluable opportunity and an unavoidable responsibility to ensure that the delivery of benefits to our citizens is our primary focus and objective.

Madam Chair, these two processes with hemispheric impact are, of course, the OAS General Assembly session to be held in June in El Salvador, and the Sixth Summit of the Americas, slated for early next year in Colombia.

My country welcomes the theme chosen by the Government of El Salvador for the forty-first regular session of the General Assembly. Within our region and, indeed, throughout the hemisphere, confronting the issue of citizen security is a priority for all of our countries. We believe that citizen security is a prerequisite for national development and thriving democracies. The impact of citizen security is seen most readily at the national level, but we should all be mindful of its inescapable cross-border implications and consequences. Our sister nation of El Salvador has brought this topic to the fore, and we congratulate it for selecting an issue of such fundamental import to our countries, region, and Organization.

Grenada looks forward to helping to advance the preparations for the General Assembly session and to playing an active role as my country assumes the chairmanship of the Permanent Council in the coming weeks. We are confident that this preparatory process and deliberation on the draft declaration put forward by El Salvador will lead to a stronger engagement on our common goal of citizen security, and we reiterate our support to this end.

In similar vein, my country is pleased by the expressed intention of Colombia, as the host of the Sixth Summit of the Americas, to work with all member states on a clearly focused declaration with conclusions that are results-oriented and achievable. We renew our support to our sister state of Colombia in this endeavor and look forward to participating fully in the preparatory process.

Madam Chair, representatives, I take this opportunity to reassure you that Grenada is determined to remain an active and reliable partner within this Organization. Conscious of that undertaking, we are pleased to serve and collaborate wherever possible. Indeed, we have been honored by this membership through several demonstrations of your confidence in our capacity to do so, especially in the past two years.

One of those roles, which we have played for one year, is that of Vice Chair of the Inter-American Committee against Terrorism (CICTE). We humbly accepted our election to that position last March and have been truly pleased to serve under the chairmanship of our sister CARICOM state, the Commonwealth of The Bahamas.

I must say to you all that we are truly appreciative of the support and solidarity shown to Grenada by all of the members of this Organization as we sought to fulfill our obligations as Vice Chair. As you all know, CICTE will hold its annual meeting tomorrow in these very hallowed halls, where we will renew with one emphatic voice our commitment to strengthen our cooperation and capacity to fight the scourge of terrorism in all its manifestations. It is no small feat to battle a clandestine enemy, but we are assured by the resolve and tenacity of the nations of this hemisphere that we will certainly succeed in doing so.

Madam Chair, I am proud to address this body at a time when my country, Grenada, one of the smallest member states of this Organization, is making significant strides in bolstering its financial, security, and constitutional frameworks so that we might develop a more competitive economy, guarantee continued social stability, and preserve our natural environment. We believe that the work done by the Organization of American States in the areas of trade, tourism, and multidimensional security, as well as in sustainable and integral development, is key to achieving those objectives and to building capacity in Grenada and in all our countries.

We cannot overstate, Madam Chair, the imperative of a sound economic and social foundation. This is the absolute requirement for a stable and sustainable nation, region, and hemisphere. This is the only basis that permits the realization of all the other goals of this Organization. Grenada is therefore keen to collaborate with our sister member states and the General Secretariat on refocusing our efforts and resources on the development agenda of this Organization so that it may not only respond to current and forecasted needs but also position our peoples, countries, and our region to better withstand any event that might impact our well-being.

The constant challenge of natural disasters is one such looming challenge for all our countries. Another very present challenge is the financial crisis, which spun out of control the world

over in the past few years and from which we are all still struggling to rebound. Such adversity and difficult realities should make us even more determined to ensure that we make of this Organization an entity whose policies and programs over time provide a platform for sustainable and resilient responses by our governments and lessens the impact of dramatic shifts on our citizens.

We wish to thank the Secretary General and the entire Secretariat for their tireless efforts to support us all and to faithfully execute the many mandates placed before them.

Notwithstanding our own challenges, Grenada is committed to the well-being of our sister nations in this Organization and across the globe. We add our voice in solidarity and deepest empathy with the people of Japan and the United States, who have suffered unspeakable horrors and loss from the recent earthquake and tsunami. We continue to empathize with all of our sister nations that suffered from devastating natural disasters in 2010 and are still grappling with the resultant national and personal tragedies.

In closing, Madam Chair, I wish to thank you for so kindly convening this special meeting, and I express my appreciation to you, distinguished representatives, for your presence and attention.

I thank you.

[Aplausos.]

La PRESIDENTA: Thank you very much, Minister Hood, for providing us with Grenada's perspective on the issues before the Organization of American States. I'd like to ask the Secretary General to take the floor.

El SECRETARIO GENERAL: Thank you very much, Minister, for your kind words, which truly reflect the present position of Grenada as Chair of the Caribbean Community (CARICOM). We welcome your very important comments on the main issues facing the Organization of American States and our region today. As we draw close to the next General Assembly session in June and the Sixth Summit of the Americas next year, we have to reflect very much on those main issues.

One such issue, which we will take very much into consideration at our next General Assembly session, is crime. We are concerned about this great problem, not only because the data shows that we have unprecedented levels of crime in many countries of our region and we are under the attack of organized crime in several countries, but also because, as the theme of the Assembly session indicates, what is at stake is our citizens' security.

Crime very deeply damages our democracy; therefore, we hope that we will receive your cooperation. We are very grateful for the cooperation your country has already given to us as Vice Chair of the Inter-American Committee against Terrorism (CICTE), and we are certain that during the next period, you will continue to work with us in preparation for our General Assembly session. As for the Summit of the Americas, we very much look at it as a defining moment for hemispheric relations and a way to deal with challenges that are truly hemispheric.

Of course, many of the matters in the region are dealt with very well by the regional organizations, such as CARICOM, the Central American Integration System (SICA), and the Union of South American Nations (UNASUR). Other issues, such as crime, human rights, democracy,

trade, and immigration are hemispheric issues that we have to deal with among ourselves and will face at the next Summit. We count on your country's support, as usual, on these matters.

Grenada is going to be the Chair of this Council in preparation for the General Assembly session in El Salvador, and we are certain that your very able Ambassador will do a very good job in coordinating our work leading up to that Assembly session. We are certain, also, that your country, which was the first Caribbean country to host a regular session of the OAS General Assembly in 1977, will continue to participate actively in the debates and to assume a leadership role in this Organization.

Thank you very much, Mr. Foreign Minister, for being here, and for your words.

La PRESIDENTA: Thank you very much, Secretary General. I now offer the floor to the distinguished Representative of Brazil.

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

Em primeiro lugar, gostaria de agradecer ao Honorável Karl I. J. Hood, Ministro das Relações Exteriores, Comércio Exterior, Meio Ambiente e Desenvolvimento da Exportação de Grenada, de ter tido a bondade de vir hoje de manhã a esta reunião extraordinária do Conselho Permanente a dar uma visão a todos nós da política externa de Grenada.

O Ministro das Relações Exteriores do Brasil, Embaixador Antonio Patriota, teve a honra de estar presente à última Reunião Intersessional da Conferência de Chefes de Governo da Comunidade do Caribe (CARICOM) que se realizou ao final de fevereiro em Grenada.

Naquela ocasião, o Ministro Antonio Patriota fez uma intervenção durante esta reunião, da qual eu me permitiria ler apenas um parágrafo que sintetiza a posição do Brasil em relação aos países caribenhos.

Brazil and the Caribbean share important historic, geographic, demographic and cultural traits. Our common heritage is reflected today in a growing degree of political convergence. Our societies are guided by the same set of core values. We are firmly committed to democracy, to the promotion and protection of human rights, and to economic development with social justice.

Based on this affinity, Brazil has been working towards an increasingly closer relationship with the major organizations for Caribbean integration; namely, CARICOM and the Organisation of Eastern Caribbean States (OECS), to which we have accredited our ambassadors in Georgetown and Castries as observers.

It is also in this spirit that Brazil has decided to open new permanent diplomatic missions to the Caribbean. Since 2005, we have opened embassies in eight CARICOM countries, and that makes us one of the few countries in the world to have diplomatic missions in all of the 14 members of this community.

Senhora Presidente, este é o espírito que vem movendo a política externa brasileira em relação à região caribenha, a cujas relações nós damos uma vital e central importância na política externa brasileira.

Muito obrigado, Senhora Presidente.

La PRESIDENTA: Thank you, Ambassador. I give the floor to the Representative of the United States.

La REPRESENTANTE ALTERNA DE LOS ESTADOS UNIDOS: Thank you, Madam Chair.

On behalf of the United States, I would like to welcome Minister Hood. I concur with and echo the words of my colleague from Brazil: were we to simply replace the word “Brazil” with “the United States,” we would probably have the same statement.

The United States shares a history and culture with the Caribbean. I am from the Caribbean and happen to also be American. Grenada’s leadership within CARICOM and its work in Haiti in particular, as CARICOM Chair, has been significant. In the coming months, that leadership will be even more critical as Haiti transitions politically and its development and reconstruction continue. So, we thank Minister Hood for his presence here today and for his leadership in CARICOM and, obviously, as Foreign Minister of Grenada.

Minister Hood spoke clearly about the work ahead in terms of security as we approach the OAS General Assembly session in June. The United States is very appreciative of its collaboration with Grenada in the context of security and citizen safety. Grenada, in many ways, offers best practices for the region, because it is one of the safest Caribbean states, and we applaud Grenada for doing such a significant job in ensuring the security of its citizens.

Thank you, Minister Hood, and we look forward to seeing you soon here at the OAS and in Washington.

La PRESIDENTA: Thank you, United States. I give the floor to the distinguished Ambassador of Guatemala.

El REPRESENTANTE PERMANENTE DE GUATEMALA: Muchas gracias, señora Presidenta, muy buenos días; señores Secretarios, Honorable Ministro de Relaciones Exteriores, Comercio Exterior, Medio Ambiente y Fomento de Exportaciones de Grenada Karl I. J. Hood y distinguida delegación que lo acompaña, muy buenos días.

En nombre y representación del Sistema de la Integración Centroamericana (SICA) reciba nuestra más cálida bienvenida a esta, su casa. Señor Ministro, su presentación fue tan clara como sucinta y nosotros solo podemos compartirla plenamente, no solo con su nación sino con todo el Caribe, con el que nos unen no solo un ancestro de tradiciones, valores e intereses, sino el mismo espacio vital: el mar Caribe, el gran Caribe, que es de ustedes como de nosotros y eso nos hace subrayar todavía más la necesidad de cooperar.

Por eso nos alegramos, porque usted mencionaba los valores de la libre determinación, del desarrollo de la seguridad, la prosperidad y, ciertamente, de los derechos humanos y el Estado de Derecho, intereses que en esta casa tienen su máxima expresión, y es aquí donde países grandes o pequeños podemos articular acciones concertadas para llevarlos a cabo.

A nuestros ciudadanos no les interesa quienes son potencias y quienes son países más vulnerables, sino que les interesa un futuro mejor. Ahí es donde nos unimos con ustedes en una acción concertada; acción que podemos renovar, no solo en la sesión ordinaria de la Asamblea General de El Salvador el próximo junio, sino en la Sexta Cumbre de las Américas. Estas son oportunidades que no podemos dejar pasar; tenemos que volver a reenfocar nuestros esfuerzos, a valorizar nuestras afinidades, como mencionaba el distinguido Embajador de Brasil, y poder recordar que todos compartimos este hemisferio y que a todos los ciudadanos nos incumbe que sea mejor.

Muchas gracias por su visita, Ministro. También le agradezco sus palabras.

La PRESIDENTA: Thank you. I now give the floor to the Ambassador of Canada.

El REPRESENTANTE PERMANENTE DEL CANADÁ: Thank you very much, Madam Chair.

I, too, would like to offer my words of very warm welcome to Minister Hood for being here with us this morning. It is always a very special occasion when we have outside guests and ministers from our member states because they can offer a very clear and succinct perspective of our work as an organization.

The Caribbean Community (CARICOM) has played a very key role in the work of the Organization of American States, and Grenada, as a member of CARICOM, has played a very constructive role as well. Canada values its relations with CARICOM and with Grenada in particular. We share historical ties, we have large development cooperation programs in the Caribbean, and we share many of the same values of CARICOM and Grenada in our own society in Canada.

I would like to highlight two points that the Minister raised in his intervention. He emphasized the need for constructive dialogue here within the OAS, and he highlighted the work of Grenada in strengthening this institution. These are two concepts that we wholeheartedly support, and we look forward to working with the Ambassador of Grenada, as she takes over as Chair of the Permanent Council, to hold constructive dialogue and to strengthen this institution.

Thank you again for being with us, Minister. You're always very welcome in this forum, and we look forward to working with you and your colleagues.

Thank you very much.

La PRESIDENTA: Thank you, Ambassador. I give the floor to the Ambassador of Guyana.

El REPRESENTANTE PERMANENTE DE GUYANA: Thank you, Madam Chair.

I take the floor on behalf of the Caribbean Community (CARICOM) member states to extend a very warm welcome to the Honorable Minister Karl Hood to this hallowed Hall of the Americas, a

bastion of peace, development, and security. We welcome Grenada's commitment to work with other countries to overcome the challenges in the Hemisphere with respect to democracy, human rights, development, and security.

We wish to congratulate the Honorable Minister on Grenada's assumption of the Chair of Inter-American Committee against Terrorism (CICTE), the coming chairmanship of the Permanent Council, and the chairmanship of CARICOM. We wish you to be assured, Minister, of the customary, unstinting cooperation of CARICOM member states as Grenada discharges these important responsibilities.

You have honored us with your presence here today, and we thank you for having made known Grenada's vision. We share this vision, and our countries are in fraternal solidarity with Grenada as we strive to achieve our common objectives as we begin to focus on the upcoming General Assembly and the Sixth Summit of the Americas.

Thank you.

La PRESIDENTA: Thank you, Ambassador. I give the floor to the Ambassador of Peru.

El REPRESENTANTE PERMANENTE DEL PERÚ: Gracias, Presidenta.

Quería, en nombre del Grupo de países miembros de la Asociación Latinoamericana de Integración (ALADI), darle al señor Canciller de Grenada nuestra más cordial bienvenida. Sea usted, señor Ministro, bienvenido en esta Casa de las Américas que es, naturalmente, su casa también.

Usted dijo en algún momento de su intervención que Grenada es un país pequeño. Le debo decir, señor Ministro, que por la gran actividad que desarrolla su país en la OEA y su Representante Permanente, ustedes actúan más bien como un país grande. Así que la presencia de Grenada en la Organización es altamente efectiva y apreciada por todos nosotros, Ministro.

Usted se ha referido a temas de gran importancia. Se ha referido, como lo decía hace un minuto el Coordinador de los países miembros del Grupo de la Comunidad Caribeña (CARICOM), a temas tan importantes como la democracia, los derechos humanos y la seguridad. Esos son temas que para los países que integramos el Grupo ALADI son de gran importancia y en ellos encontramos importantes coincidencias con su país. Así que estamos seguros que será posible trabajar muy ventajosamente en esos asuntos con Grenada, especialmente en momentos en que ustedes asumen dos importantes responsabilidades.

La presidencia del Consejo Permanente es una responsabilidad importante que ustedes asumirán dentro de pocos días, precisamente en momentos en que estaremos preparando la próxima Asamblea General que tendrá lugar en El Salvador. Es una de las épocas más activas de la Organización, cuando el trabajo se intensifica mucho y estamos seguros que bajo la dirección de Grenada tendremos éxito en nuestros esfuerzos.

Asumen también ustedes la coordinación del Comité Interamericano contra el Terrorismo (CICTE) en un tema tan fundamental para la seguridad de nuestros países como es la lucha contra el terrorismo; ustedes vienen demostrando un liderazgo importante.

Pueden contar, señor Ministro, con la más amplia e interesada colaboración de los países del Grupo (ALADI) en ambas actividades. Es decir en la presidencia del Consejo y en la coordinación de los trabajos del CICTE.

Sea, en síntesis, señor Ministro, bienvenido y felicitado por las palabras que ha querido compartir con nosotros.

Muchas gracias.

La PRESIDENTA: Thank you, Ambassador. I give the floor to the Representative of Colombia.

El REPRESENTANTE ALTERNO DE COLOMBIA: Señor Ministro, si bien es cierto que el Representante Permanente del Perú habló en nombre de todos los países que conformamos el Grupo de la Asociación Latinoamericana de Integración (ALADI) –lo hizo de manera excelente respecto a las manifestaciones que usted ha dado en el día de hoy– no podía Colombia dejar pasar la oportunidad para agradecer su manifestación de respaldo a mi país en los logros y en la participación decidida en todo el proceso preparatorio para la realización de la Cumbre de la Américas en Cartagena, en abril del próximo año.

Muchas gracias, señor Ministro.

La PRESIDENTA: Thank you, Colombia. I give the floor to the Ambassador of Haiti.

El REPRESENTANTE PERMANENTE DE HAITÍ: Merci Madame la Présidente.

Monsieur le Ministre, il est vrai que le Doyen des Ambassadeurs de la CARICOM, l'Ambassadeur Karran de la Guyane a déjà pris la parole pour parler au nom de la CARICOM. Personnellement en tant que Représentant d'Haïti, je souhaite vous dire la bienvenue parmi nous et aussi vous remercier pour le support inconditionnel que la CARICOM a toujours apporté à Haïti avant et après le tremblement de terre. Nous sommes très touchés par la volonté clairement exprimée par tous les pays de la CARICOM de jouer un rôle très actif dans le processus de reconstruction d'Haïti.

Étant du Nord d'Haïti, je dois vous dire, Monsieur le Ministre, que votre pays, la Grenade, nous est très chère. Il y a très peu de gens qui le savent. Dans le Nord d'Haïti, nous avons un monument historique qu'on appelle « La Citadelle Christophe » et Henri Christophe fut un roi d'Haïti qui l'a bâtie. Ce monument intéresse tous les pays à travers le monde et quand les touristes vont en Haïti où même en République dominicaine, ils vont visiter la Citadelle Christophe.

Dans le Nord, nous savons tous que le roi Henri Christophe, ancien esclave, nous est venu de la Grenade et ce qui est bizarre, quand je suis allé pour la première fois dans votre bureau ici à Washington, j'ai été frappé de voir un tableau avec une zone qu'on appelle « Carenage ». Je vous dirai aussi que dans le Nord d'Haïti nous avons une zone qui ressemble tout à fait à votre Carenage là-bas à la Grenade.

J'avancerai aussi que Christophe, peut-être était marqué par un arbre fruitier très connu à la Grenade. C'est la châtaigne, je crois, mais en Haïti, on lui a donné un autre nom et Christophe avait

lancé une grande campagne quand il était roi d'Haïti pour retrouver cette plante. Aujourd'hui, c'est une plante très connue et très aimée partout dans le pays.

Merci.

La PRESIDENTA: Thank you, Ambassador. I give the floor to the Ambassador of Panama.

EL REPRESENTANTE PERMANENTE DE PANAMÁ: Muchas gracias, doña Carmen Lomellin.

Señor Ministro Karl Hood, bienvenido a esta su casa. No quiero ser indisciplinado ya que el Embajador Jorge Skinner-Klée habló en nombre de los países del Sistema de la Integración Centroamericana (SICA), sin embargo, sí quería reiterar lo que acaba de señalar el Embajador del Perú sobre los valores de Grenada: democracia, derechos humanos y seguridad, que uno puede palpar cuando visita dicho país. Estuve allá y aunque no pude conocerlo a usted, sí conocí a su Primer Ministro y a su Viceprimer Ministro en la gira que realicé por el área caribeña. Realmente, lo que uno palpa en Grenada es eso y el rostro de la gente indica que viven en democracia, se respetan los derechos humanos y se respira seguridad.

Por eso le digo que así como ahora vamos a cooperar con las nuevas responsabilidades que Grenada tiene en la OEA, a través de la Embajadora Gillian Bristol, solamente me queda decirle que la ayudaremos en todo lo que esté a nuestro alcance y ojalá muchos de nosotros tengamos la experiencia y el manejo que la Representante de Grenada tiene en esta Organización. Así que cuente con nuestro apoyo y de eso debe estar totalmente seguro.

Muchas gracias.

La PRESIDENTA: Thank you, Ambassador. I give the floor to the Representative of El Salvador.

EL REPRESENTANTE INTERINO DE EL SALVADOR: Muchas gracias, señora Presidenta.

Solicitando de manera excepcional la licencia de nuestro Coordinador, en cuanto a dirigirme al señor Ministro de Relaciones Exteriores de Grenada en razón de las alusiones que él ha tenido a bien pronunciar respecto a El Salvador, quisiera sumarme a las expresiones de bienvenida, así como expresarle que este Consejo, por supuesto, se distingue con su presencia y con su alocución. Sus conceptos en perspectiva histórica expresan un credo panamericanista, el propósito permanente de integración que refleja una política exterior propia de un Estado democrático de Derecho, con instituciones sólidas y una sociedad vibrante.

Usted ha tocado, señor Ministro de Relaciones Exteriores, el tema de los desastres naturales que, como un sello, impulsan a nuestros pueblos destinados a experimentar dichos desastres, el imperativo de reconstruir y continuar siempre en la construcción de nuestro destino. Su país es un socio proactivo en la agenda interamericana, como reflejo de lo cual se avecina la presidencia en el Comité Interamericano contra el Terrorismo (CICTE) y la presidencia del Consejo Permanente, la cual anticipamos y en la que mi país se apoyará precisamente para los preparativos de la Asamblea General de San Salvador.

Agradecemos a su Gobierno, a su Ministerio, a su persona, así como a su Misión Permanente y a su Representante Permanente, la Embajadora Gillian Bristol, por los aportes constructivos que anticipamos en el ejercicio de la negociación de la Declaración de San Salvador y, en general, del resto de compromisos, y a que se consensúen en esa cita al sistema interamericano. Se trata de una dialéctica virtuosa en la que nos embarcaremos durante la presidencia de Grenada.

Señor Ministro, lo esperamos en San Salvador. Gracias.

La PRESIDENTA: Thank you, El Salvador.

If there are no further comments or observations, I move that this Council take note of the presentation by the Honorable Karl I. J. Hood, Minister of Foreign Affairs, Foreign Trade, Environment, and Export Development of Grenada, and thank him for his visit to the Organization of American States and his remarks before the Council. Agreed.

There being no further business to consider, this meeting stands adjourned. I suggest that we take a five-minute break, which will allow our invited guest to depart. We will reconvene in five minutes.

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