

CONSEJO PERMANENTE



OEA/Ser.G  
CP/ACTA 1800/11  
28 abril 2011

ACTA  
DE LA SESIÓN CONJUNTA  
DEL CONSEJO PERMANENTE Y  
DE LA COMISIÓN EJECUTIVA PERMANENTE DEL CIDI (CEPCIDI)  
CELEBRADA  
EL 28 DE ABRIL DE 2011

Aprobada en la sesión del 1 de febrero de 2012

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DOCUMENTO CONSIDERADO EN LA SESIÓN  
(SE PUBLICA POR SEPARADO)

CP/doc.4554/11, Informe del Presidente del Grupo de Trabajo Conjunto del Consejo Permanente y de la Comisión Ejecutiva Permanente del Consejo Interamericano para el Desarrollo Integral sobre el Proyecto de Carta Social de las Américas

CONSEJO PERMANENTE DE LA ORGANIZACIÓN DE LOS ESTADOS AMERICANOS

ACTA DE LA SESIÓN CONJUNTA DEL CONSEJO PERMANENTE Y DE LA  
COMISIÓN EJECUTIVA PERMANENTE DEL  
CONSEJO INTERAMERICANO PARA EL DESARROLLO INTEGRAL  
CELEBRADA EL 28 DE ABRIL DE 2011

En la ciudad de Washington, a las dos y cuarenta y cinco de la tarde del jueves 28 de abril de 2011, celebraron sesión conjunta el Consejo Permanente de la Organización y la Comisión Ejecutiva Permanente del Consejo Interamericano para el Desarrollo Integral (CEPCIDI). Presidieron la sesión la Embajadora Gillian M. S. Bristol, Representante Permanente de Grenada y Presidenta del Consejo Permanente, y el Embajador Luís Alfonso Hoyos Aristizabal, Representante Permanente de Colombia y Presidente de la CEPCIDI. Asistieron los siguientes miembros:

Embajador Bayney R. Karran, Representante Permanente de Guyana  
Embajador Michael Louis, Representante Permanente de Santa Lucía  
Embajador Héctor Virgilio Alcántara, Representante Permanente de la República Dominicana  
Embajador Hugo de Zela, Representante Permanente del Perú  
Embajador Joaquín Alexander Maza Martelli, Representante Permanente de El Salvador  
Embajador Hubert J. Charles, Representante Permanente del Commonwealth de Dominica  
Primera Secretaria Aylin Luisa Oropeza Bleichner, Representante Interina de Bolivia  
Consejera Patricia D. M. Clarke, Representante Alterna de Grenada  
Segundo Secretario Juan Gabriel Morales Morales, Representante Alterno de México  
Lynen Ann Scott, Representante Alterna de Jamaica  
Ministra Consejera Carmen Luisa Velásquez de Visbal, Representante Alterna de Venezuela  
Ministro Consejero Luís Exequiel Alvarado Ramírez, Representante Alterno de Nicaragua  
Ministro Consejero Christian Rehren, Representante Alterno de Chile  
Consejero Agustín Ignacio Fornell Vintimilla, Representante Alterno del Ecuador  
Consejero Pierre Giroux, Representante Alterno del Canadá  
Embajadora Rita María Hernández Bolaño, Representante Alterna de Costa Rica  
Ministro Consejero Omari Seitu Williams, Representante Alterno de San Vicente y las Granadinas  
Consejero Francisco María Barreiro Perrotta, Representante Alterno del Paraguay  
Embajador José de Jesús Martínez González, Representante Alterno de Panamá  
Primer Secretario Roger Joseph Abboud, Representante Alterno del Brasil  
Segunda Secretaria Carolina Dones, Representante Alterna de la Argentina  
Consejero Pedro Israel Valenzuela Durand, Representante Alterno del Uruguay  
Kelly Hapka, Representante Alterna de los Estados Unidos  
Ministra Consejera Yadir Salazar Mejía, Representante Alterna de Colombia

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

## APROBACIÓN DEL PROYECTO DE ORDEN DEL DÍA

La PRESIDENTA: Good afternoon, colleagues, excellencies, distinguished ladies and gentlemen! I am very pleased, in my capacity as Chair of the Permanent Council and Permanent Representative of Grenada to the Organization of American States, to call to order this joint meeting of the Permanent Council and of the Permanent Executive Committee of the Inter-American Council for Integral Development (CEPCIDI), which has been convened to consider the matters contained in the order of business before you, document CP/OD.1800/11.

As we begin this meeting, it gives me great pleasure to welcome Ambassador Luís Alfonso Hoyos, Permanent Representative of Colombia to the Organization and Chair of CEPCIDI, who is jointly chairing this afternoon's meeting with me.

Also, I would like to acknowledge and welcome Ambassador Maza, Permanent Representative of El Salvador, who has been absent for a few months. It's a pleasure to see you and have you with us, sir!

I now submit for your consideration the draft order of business.

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

1. Aprobación del orden del día (CP/OD.1800/11)
2. Informe del Presidente del Grupo de Trabajo Conjunto del Consejo Permanente y de la Comisión Ejecutiva Permanente del Consejo Interamericano para el Desarrollo Integral sobre el Proyecto de Carta Social de las Américas (CP/doc.4554/11)
3. Elección del Presidente del Grupo de Trabajo Conjunto CP/CEPCIDI sobre el Proyecto de Carta Social de las Américas
4. Otros asuntos.]

There being no requests for the floor, the Chair takes it that the draft order of business is approved as presented. Is Peru asking for the floor, Ambassador de Zela?

El REPRESENTANTE PERMANENTE DEL PERÚ: Sí, Presidenta. Gracias. Quisiera solicitar, si es posible, que se invierta el tratamiento de los puntos 2 y 3.

Gracias.

La PRESIDENTA: Ambassador, the wisdom of receiving the report of the outgoing Chair of the Joint Working Group of the Permanent Council and CEPCIDI on the Draft Social Charter of the Americas before we move on to the next item, which is the election of the new Chair, was so that the outgoing Chair may conclude his work. I wonder whether that logic finds agreement with you. The nod means "yes"? Thank you very much. So, the draft order of business is approved as presented? Approved.

INFORME DEL PRESIDENTE DEL GRUPO DE TRABAJO CONJUNTO DEL  
CONSEJO PERMANENTE Y DE LA CEPCIDI SOBRE EL  
PROYECTO DE CARTA SOCIAL DE LAS AMÉRICAS

La PRESIDENTA: I will now hand over the chairmanship of the meeting to Ambassador Hoyos, who will direct the proceedings on the following item.

El PRESIDENTE DE LA COMISIÓN EJECUTIVA PERMANENTE DEL CONSEJO INTERAMERICANO PARA EL DESARROLLO INTEGRAL: Gracias, Presidenta. Un saludo a todos y me sumo a la bienvenida al Embajador de El Salvador. Nos alegra mucho tenerlo nuevamente con nosotros.

El siguiente punto del orden del día se refiere a la presentación del Informe del Presidente del Grupo de Trabajo Conjunto del Consejo Permanente y de la Comisión Ejecutiva Permanente del Consejo Interamericano para el Desarrollo Integral sobre el Proyecto de Carta Social de las Américas.

Para la presentación del informe, tengo especial satisfacción de ofrecer la palabra al señor Representante Permanente de Dominica, Embajador Hubert Charles. Adelante, Embajador.

El PRESIDENTE DEL GRUPO DE TRABAJO CONJUNTO DEL CONSEJO PERMANENTE Y DE LA CEPCIDI SOBRE EL PROYECTO DE CARTA SOCIAL DE LAS AMÉRICAS: Thank you, Chairman. It is a pleasure for me to present this report on behalf of all the hard-working members of the Joint Working Group of the Permanent Council and CEPCIDI on the Draft Social Charter of the Americas.

In resolution AG/RES. 2056 (XXXIV-O/04), the General Assembly instructed:

. . . the Permanent Council and the Permanent Executive Committee of the Inter-American Council for Integral Development (CEPCIDI) to jointly prepare a draft Social Charter of the Americas and a Plan of Action, which includes the principles of social development and establish specific goals and targets that reinforce the existing instruments of the Organization of American States on democracy, integral development, and the fight against poverty.

The importance of the Social Charter initiative was emphasized by the heads of state and government, gathered at the Fourth Summit of the Americas in Mar del Plata, Argentina, in November 2005. In that meeting, the heads encouraged:

... the work of the Organization in drafting the Social Charter of the Americas and its Plan of Action, whose principles and objectives will be directed towards the achievement by member states of societies that offer all of our citizens more opportunities to benefit from sustainable development with equity and social inclusion.

They also supported and promoted, and again I quote, “the work now underway in the OAS to conclude successfully the negotiation of the Social Charter of the Americas and its Action Plan.”

The task of negotiating the draft Social Charter of the Americas has been assigned to the Joint Working Group, established by the Permanent Council and CEPCIDI and which began its work in

September 2005. In resolutions AG/RES. 2139 (XXXV-O/05), AG/RES. 2241 (XXXVI-O/06), AG/RES. 2278 (XXXVII-O/07), AG/RES. 2363 (XXXVIII-O/08), AG/RES. 2449 (XXXIX-O/09), and AG/RES. 2542 (XL-O/10), the Assembly reiterated the mandate in resolution AG/RES. 2056 to the Permanent Council and CEPCIDI.

On September 2, 2010, I was elected Chair of the Working Group and its drafting group for a period of six months, in accordance with the decisions made regarding the Working Group, which can be found in document AG/doc.4459/05.

The Chair proposed a methodology that was very similar to that which obtained earlier in order to facilitate consensus, and the delegations agreed to his proposal.

During this period, the Joint Working Group started negotiating the draft preamble, as the substantive section had been negotiated during the mandates of previous chairpersons.

The Chair presented the document "Draft Social Charter of the Americas Draft Preambular Section: Chairman's Effort at Rationalization of Member States' Contributions" [GTC/CASA/doc.152/10], in which the Chair compiled and synthesized the existing proposals presented by member states for the preamble. The delegations accepted the Chair's proposal and used it as the basis for their negotiations. Additionally, delegations presented new proposals that were incorporated into the draft preamble and started negotiating with this new document.

This work resulted in the conclusion of six months of intensive negotiations by the Working Group in formal and informal meetings in order to hold consultations and develop consensus among delegations. The Chair is pleased to report that eight paragraphs on the topics of poverty, integral development, and human rights were agreed to during his term.

Madam Chair, the draft Social Charter, committed as it is to laying the basis for the systematic pursuit of a fundamental improvement in the condition of all the peoples of the Hemisphere, remains one of the central instruments of our organization. It has the capacity to define our organization as one interested in going well beyond the mechanics of democratic expression and into the realm of genuine transformation of the lives and condition of all of our citizens, including the vulnerable and marginalized.

In this regard, I was pleased to have worked with representatives of member states who were all strongly committed to the task, and, hence, to a full transformation of the OAS into a caring organization.

The Chair is pleased to report that the Joint Working Group has made great progress, having negotiated a significant part of the draft preamble. This progress was achieved with the active participation and engagement of all delegations, and I commend the sincerity with which all the delegations did this work.

It is necessary to emphasize the great importance of the political commitment of all member states of the Organization to meet the mandate in the most recent General Assembly resolution [AG/RES. 2542 (XL-O/10)]. Of course, if we are to keep to the admittedly ambitious schedule of completing the draft Social Charter before the next General Assembly session, it is crucial that the

momentum established over the past months be sustained. We solicit the continued cooperation of all member states in facilitating the resumption of the work of the Joint Working Group.

The Chair wishes to thank each and every one of the representatives who participated so actively in the meetings for their contribution and their spirit of commitment to the draft Social Charter of the Americas.

Finally, I wish to express my sincere gratitude to my Caribbean colleagues for entrusting me with this responsibility.

Thank you.

EL PRESIDENTE DE LA COMISIÓN EJECUTIVA PERMANENTE DEL CONSEJO INTERAMERICANO PARA EL DESARROLLO INTEGRAL: Muchas gracias, Embajador, por su preciso informe. Permítame expresarle un especial reconocimiento por su liderazgo en el trabajo realizado durante estos meses, tanto en reuniones formales como informales, buscando avanzar en acuerdos sobre el preámbulo.

Quiero también transmitir un agradecimiento especial a todas las delegaciones que han participado en este proceso de reuniones y conversaciones. Como lo ha indicado el señor Embajador Charles, tenemos un compromiso muy importante con el Hemisferio en la preparación de esta Carta que representa un claro mensaje no solo de compromiso político sino también de acciones concretas frente a los problemas de pobreza e inequidad en el Continente.

Quiero reiterar el agradecimiento, además, a la Secretaría que ha dado todo el apoyo y a usted, Embajador, por su liderazgo durante este tiempo.

Ofrezco ahora la palabra a las delegaciones que deseen referirse a la información presentada por el Embajador de Dominica, con relación a las labores desarrolladas por el Grupo de Trabajo del Consejo Permanente y de la CEPCIDI sobre el Proyecto de Carta Social de las Américas durante los últimos seis meses. Está abierto el uso de la palabra a todas las delegaciones. Tiene la palabra la Delegación de Venezuela.

La REPRESENTANTE ALTERNA DE VENEZUELA: Gracias, Presidente.

Reciban todos nuestro saludo. Queremos agradecer especialmente al Embajador Hubert Charles por haber asumido el compromiso de llevar adelante nuestras negociaciones. Lo felicitamos porque, apenas llegando, asumió esta tarea que más que difícil es compleja, con el convencimiento de la importancia del proyecto de la Carta Social de las Américas. Lamentamos que el Grupo no haya coincidido con todo ese empuje que él tenía para sacar los trabajos de la Carta durante su período, pero esperamos tenerlo siempre en nuestras labores que esperamos nos tomen por lo menos dos meses más.

Gracias.

EL PRESIDENTE DE LA COMISIÓN EJECUTIVA PERMANENTE DEL CONSEJO INTERAMERICANO PARA EL DESARROLLO INTEGRAL: Gracias a Venezuela. Tiene la palabra el Representante del Ecuador.



El REPRESENTANTE ALTERNO DEL ECUADOR: Gracias, Presidente.

La Delegación del Ecuador se quiere sumar al agradecimiento al Embajador Hubert Charles y expresarle nuestro deseo de que siga en el proceso de negociación de la Carta Social. Quien sea elegido Presidente ciertamente tendrá un gran reto de igualar o mejorar aún, cosa muy difícil, el trabajo que ha hecho el Embajador de Dominica.

Gracias, señor Presidente.

El PRESIDENTE DE LA COMISIÓN EJECUTIVA PERMANENTE DEL CONSEJO INTERAMERICANO PARA EL DESARROLLO INTEGRAL: Gracias al Representante del Ecuador. Tiene la palabra el Representante de Chile.

El REPRESENTANTE ALTERNO DE CHILE: Gracias, Presidente.

En el mismo sentido de las delegaciones que nos han precedido, queríamos agradecer el informe del Embajador de Dominica en su calidad de Presidente del Grupo de Trabajo y, por cierto, concordar plenamente con las afirmaciones y con el relato que él ha efectuado.

Por último, queremos destacar su rol y su compromiso personal, prácticamente recién llegado él, con la negociación de este importante cuerpo. Yo creo que es meritorio destacar no solo el compromiso del propio Embajador sino también el hecho de que, en términos y números concretos, se logró la aprobación del núcleo central del proyecto de Declaración, en primer lugar. Por cierto estamos firmemente abocados a la discusión del énfasis en los aspectos preambulares. Creo que son visiones a veces un tanto más relativas a los énfasis con resultados de fondo que, en definitiva, apuntan a lograr el mejor equilibrio entre lo que todos queremos: una justa ecuación respecto a los temas de democracia, desarrollo y derechos humanos.

De tal manera que queremos aprovechar esta oportunidad para agradecerle al Embajador su compromiso y, por cierto, destacar los avances concretos que se han venido produciendo y que esperamos que culminen exitosamente con la nueva presidencia.

Gracias.

El PRESIDENTE DE LA COMISIÓN EJECUTIVA PERMANENTE DEL CONSEJO INTERAMERICANO PARA EL DESARROLLO INTEGRAL: Muchas gracias al Representante de Chile. Tiene la palabra la Representante de Grenada.

La REPRESENTANTE ALTERNA DE GRENADA: Thank you, Chair.

I wish to echo the comments of the other speakers in thanking Ambassador Charles for his visionary leadership as Chair of the Joint Working Group of the Permanent Council and CEPICDI on the Draft Social Charter of the Americas. As he said in his statement, the work lays the foundation for an improvement of the condition of all the peoples of the Americas. The Caribbean Community (CARICOM) member states are proud of your leadership on the draft Social Charter, and we pledge our continued engagement in this process, which is integral to our participation in the Organization of American States.

Thank you.

EL PRESIDENTE DE LA COMISIÓN EJECUTIVA PERMANENTE DEL CONSEJO INTERAMERICANO PARA EL DESARROLLO INTEGRAL: Muchas gracias a la Representante de Grenada. Si no hay otros comentarios, propongo que el Consejo Permanente y la CEPCIDI tomen nota del informe presentado por el Embajador Charles. Así queda aprobado.

ELECCIÓN DEL PRESIDENTE DEL GRUPO DE TRABAJO CONJUNTO DEL  
CONSEJO PERMANENTE Y DE LA CEPCIDI SOBRE EL PROYECTO DE  
CARTA SOCIAL DE LAS AMÉRICAS

EL PRESIDENTE DE LA COMISIÓN EJECUTIVA PERMANENTE DEL CONSEJO INTERAMERICANO PARA EL DESARROLLO INTEGRAL: Ofrezco ahora la palabra a la Embajadora Bristol para que continúe con la presidencia de esta sesión.

La PRESIDENTA: Thank you, Ambassador Hoyos.

We turn now, colleagues, to the next item on the order of business, which is the election of the Chair of the Joint Working Group of the Permanent Council and CEPCIDI on the Draft Social Charter of the Americas. Delegations will recall that the tasks entrusted to the Joint Working Group are those assigned by the General Assembly in resolution AG/RES. 2056 (XXXIV-O/04), which instructed the Permanent Council and CEPCIDI to jointly prepare a Draft Social Charter of the Americas and a Plan of Action. It will also be recalled that on May 27, 2005, at a joint meeting of the Council and CEPCIDI, the member states decided on seven points, four of which refer to the election of the Chair of the Joint Working Group:

1. The officers of the Working Group shall comprise a Chair and four vice chairs, elected on the basis of equitable geographical distribution by subregions.
2. The Chair's mandate shall last one term of six months, which may not be extended.
3. The chairmanship shall rotate at the end of each six-month term; the previous Chair may not be re-elected and will become one of the vice chairs.
4. The order of succession of subsequent chairs shall be determined by the Working Group.

To date, the chairmanship of the Joint Working Group has been held, in the following order, by Venezuela, Ecuador, El Salvador, Uruguay, Grenada, the United States, Canada, the Dominican Republic, Colombia, and Dominica.

The co-chairs of this afternoon's meeting wish to place on record that our understanding of the intention of paragraph 3 of the agreement regarding the election of the Chair was to ensure equal representation by each subregion. In 2005, the members came up with rotational chairmanship in order to achieve that goal. Although it is not expressly stated in the agreement of 2005, rotational basis implies that no member state would be eligible to assume the chairmanship immediately; in other words, no member state could serve two successive terms as Chair of the Joint Working Group.

Perhaps this intention could have been more clearly expressed if the word “immediately” had been inserted in the text of paragraph 3 of the agreement so that it would have read: “The Chair may not be re-elected immediately and will become one of the vice chairs.”

I say this because there has been some debate about which member state should or should not next assume the chairmanship of the Joint Working Group. I raise this matter now so as to ask you to bear in mind the understanding that the co-chairs are offering you as guidance this afternoon.

We do note, however, that the chairmanship of the Joint Working Group has been held, in some cases, by two member states of the same subregion on a consecutive basis, so geographical rotation has not always been maintained. The chairs of today’s meeting note that the last three chairmanships of the Joint Working Group were from the Central American Integration System (SICA), then the Latin American Integration Association (ALADI), then the Caribbean Community (CARICOM); so, the next Chair of the Joint Working Group would have to come from one of the other subregions.

On this understanding, we now proceed to elect a new Chair, and for that purpose, I am pleased to open the floor for nominations. I give the floor to the Ambassador of Dominica.

EI REPRESENTANTE PERMANENTE DE DOMINICA: Thank you, Madam Chair.

It is with pleasure that I nominate the Delegation of Canada for the chairmanship of the Joint Working Group of the Permanent Council and CEPCIDI on the Draft Social Charter of the Americas. Canada has been an active participant in the business of the Joint Working Group. Of course, many other entities have been actively involved, but you have explained the regulations quite effectively and, as such, it is with pleasure that I recommend that Canada assume the responsibility.

My understanding is that the departing Chair also has a role as Vice Chair. I can assure you, Madam Chair, that even without that responsibility, I would insist on continuing my association with the Joint Working Group.

So, here you have it, Madam Chair: a recommendation that the chairmanship of the Joint Working Group be assumed by Canada. I am wondering, Madam Chair, whether we can take this action by acclamation. No?

La PRESIDENTA: Not at this point. I believe Peru is asking for the floor, Ambassador, so we will allow Peru to speak and then we can entertain your proposal, but your nomination of Canada is noted. I now give the floor to Peru. Ambassador de Zela.

EI REPRESENTANTE PERMANENTE DEL PERÚ: Muchas gracias, Presidenta.

Es para mí Delegación muy grato unirse a la propuesta que acaba de hacer el señor Embajador de Dominica y proponer, así mismo, que esta elección sea hecha por aclamación.

[Aplausos.]

La PRESIDENTA: Thank you. Canada has now been elected, by acclamation, to chair the Joint Working Group of the Permanent Council and CEPCIDI on the Draft Social Charter of the

Americas. Allow me, Mr. Giroux, to congratulate Canada, through you, on its election. I pledge to you the assistance of the chairs of the Permanent Council and the Permanent Executive Committee of the Inter-American Council for Integral Development (CEPCIDI), and of both bodies, as Canada assumes this function for the next six months. I now have the pleasure to give you the floor.

EL PRESIDENTE DEL GRUPO DE TRABAJO CONJUNTO DEL CONSEJO PERMANENTE Y DE LA CEPCIDI SOBRE EL PROYECTO DE CARTA SOCIAL DE LAS AMÉRICAS: Thank you, Madam Chair.

I would like to take the opportunity to thank the ambassadors of Dominica and Peru for having presented and supported the nomination of Canada. You can rest assured that Canada will make every effort to make this chairmanship a successful one, in which we hope to complete the text of the draft Social Charter of the Americas so that we can rapidly move to the next step, which will be to address the Plan of Action.

We will be in touch very soon regarding next steps: beginning our meetings and our work, following the good example given by Ambassador Charles during the previous months. Thank you very much.

La PRESIDENTA: Thank you very much, Canada.

#### PREPARATIVOS PARA EL CUADRAGÉSIMO PRIMER PERÍODO ORDINARIO DE SESIONES DE LA ASAMBLEA GENERAL

La PRESIDENTA: Ladies and gentlemen, we've just concluded our main items. We have one remaining item, which is "Other business." The Assistant Secretary General has asked for the floor to make an announcement.

EL SECRETARIO GENERAL ADJUNTO: Thank you very much, Madam Chair, and thank you very much, Ambassador Hoyos.

I take this opportunity, distinguished ambassadors, to update you on the preparations for the forty-first regular session of the General Assembly, which will take place in El Salvador in early June.

We are very well on target with the logistical, administrative, and organizational preparations. The collaboration between the host country and the team from the General Secretariat of the Organization of American States that visited El Salvador recently to finalize the arrangements is going very well; we've enjoyed excellent support from the host country. I want to thank Ambassador Maza for that; even in his absence, he continued to support us.

You have received the information bulletin, which is customarily distributed electronically. In it, member states are asked to submit the heads and composition of their delegations to the General Assembly as soon as possible in order to facilitate timely accreditation. Many member states have not yet submitted the names of the members of their delegation, so I take this opportunity, Madam Chair, to appeal to member states to do so as soon as possible. We want to facilitate timely

accreditation and logistical arrangements in El Salvador, which the host country recently discussed with us.

The Ministry of Foreign Affairs of El Salvador designated Hotel Sheraton Presidente as the hotel for heads and members of official delegations. It is important to inform the host country as soon as possible about the composition of your delegations and the names of the representatives who will be staying at the Hotel Presidente.

As stated in the bulletin, the Government of El Salvador will defray the accommodation costs for three nights only, from June 4 to 7, 2011, for heads of delegation of the member states. The National Coordinating Office has reserved three additional rooms per participating delegations at the Hotel Sheraton Presidente. Those reservations must be confirmed with the Accommodation Committee of the host country.

For other members of delegations, it is expected that each participant will pay his or her hotel bill directly. Each delegation, without exception, must indicate its accommodation requirements by May 6, 2011. This is very important because after that date, the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of El Salvador will not be able to guarantee the availability of rooms, and the special rates arranged with the hotel selected for the General Assembly and its block of reservations will be cancelled thereafter.

Madam Chair, distinguished ambassadors, I would like to also update you on the more substantive preparations for the General Assembly session. So far, 54 draft resolutions have been presented, with two draft resolutions approved so far—one by the Committee on Hemispheric Security (CSH) and one by the Committee on Inter-American Summits Management and Civil Society Participation in OAS Activities (CISC). Fifty-two draft resolutions are still under consideration by the CSH, the CISC, the General Committee, the Committee on Juridical and Political Affairs (CAJP), the Committee on Administrative and Budgetary Affairs (CAAP), the Working Group to Prepare the Draft American Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous People, and the Working Group to Prepare a Draft Inter-American Convention against Racism and All Forms of Discrimination and Intolerance.

We appeal to the chairpersons of the committees to expedite their work because the last meeting of the Permanent Council prior to the General Assembly session is to be held on May 18. As far as possible, we want to conclude the work here so that very few draft resolutions go to the General Committee in El Salvador.

Ambassador Maza has returned and will take charge of the negotiations of the Working Group to Consider the Draft Declaration and Plan of Action of San Salvador on Citizen Security in the Americas. Several full-day sessions have been scheduled, starting next week. We hope that they will be sufficient to conclude this Draft Declaration so that the General Assembly can adopt it without bracketed text, and we will update you in May when we meet again.

Thank you very much.

La PRESIDENTA: Thank you, Assistant Secretary General. I believe Ambassador Maza has asked for the floor.

El REPRESENTANTE PERMANENTE DE EL SALVADOR: Muchas gracias. Un saludo para usted, señora Presidenta, por su trabajo en frente de este Consejo Permanente así como para todos mis amigos y colegas Embajadores y Representantes.

En primer lugar, quisiera felicitar a la distinguida Delegación del Canadá por su nombramiento para presidir este Grupo de Trabajo y decirle con toda seguridad que El Salvador continuará respaldando este objetivo de tener lo antes posible nuestra tan ansiada Carta Social. De eso hemos conversado mucho con el señor Embajador de Colombia. Lamentablemente en lo que a mí me corresponde, no he podido estar en los últimos meses por razones de salud. Pero estamos aquí de nuevo con todo el entusiasmo para colaborar en los trabajos y en los objetivos de nuestra Organización.

En segundo lugar, quiero decirles que en El Salvador los preparativos continúan avanzando en coordinación con la Secretaría General de esta Organización. Será un gusto para nosotros recibirlos. Ya nos quedan prácticamente un mes y unos días de trabajo. Eso implica, como ustedes saben, un gran esfuerzo. Solicitamos también su cooperación, sobre todo en lo que muy bien señalaba el señor Secretario General Adjunto: comunicar a la brevedad posible la integración de las delegaciones para así poderles atender mejor en todo lo que sea necesario que ustedes requieran con respecto a alojamiento, transporte, etcétera.

Será indudablemente un placer atenderlos y, como Embajada y como Representación, estamos a sus órdenes. No duden en llamarnos para hacer cualquier pregunta o para tratar asuntos que ustedes necesiten en torno al cumplimiento de esa misión en El Salvador.

Sobre la parte sustantiva: lo que es la Declaración de San Salvador sobre Seguridad Ciudadana, me permito informarles que el Grupo de Trabajo ha tenido jornadas provechosas, diría yo, y que se ha avanzado bastante no solo en la parte preambular sino que también ya se está entrando en los detalles en la parte conceptual. Tienen todos una jornada inclusive en el día de mañana y en los días posteriores con el objeto de finalizar esos trabajos, tal como había sido previsto. Creo que hasta el 17 de mayo tendríamos ya un primer borrador, el cual será presentado a esta instancia.

Estamos, pues, con toda la receptividad buscando los consensos. Sabemos que a veces es difícil y eso es parte de nuestro trabajo.

También agradecemos a la señora Presidenta su colaboración en la Comisión General. Creemos que su trabajo es muy importante y queremos también pedirle que continúe. Yo creo que su experiencia y sus buenos oficios serán necesarios para la conclusión de nuestra Asamblea General, que es la Asamblea General de todos en San Salvador.

Estamos a sus órdenes y créanme que estoy muy contento de estar nuevamente aquí en la OEA, trabajando con el entusiasmo de siempre.

Muchas gracias.

La PRESIDENTA: On the contrary, thank you, Ambassador, for your remarks. I take this opportunity, on behalf of the Council, to wish you and your government every success as you continue the preparations for hosting the General Assembly session. Your minister has been here and

addressed us at least twice now, and we are sure that the General Assembly is in very capable hands. We look forward to joining you there.

I also thank you for your vote of confidence in me, and, with the permission of my government, I will be pleased to assist at the Assembly session in that capacity.

There being no other matters . . . Ambassador Hoyos, do you have any other matters to bring to the table? No? Then this meeting stands adjourned.

May remind you that the Committee on Juridical and Political Affairs (CAJP) is about to resume its meeting here at 3:30 p.m. I thank Ambassador de Zela for giving us the space for this joint meeting this afternoon. Thank you.

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ISBN 978-0-8270-5736-4