

**Dialogue between Heads of Delegation, the Secretary General, and Heads of Delegation of the
Permanent Observer Countries to the OAS on the theme of the XLI Regular Session of the
General Assembly, "Citizen Security in the Americas"**

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San Salvador, El Salvador

Permanent Observer Mission of Austria

Remarks delivered by:

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Mr. Chairman, Mr. Secretary General,
Distinguished Ministers, Excellencies, Ladies and Gentlemen,

On behalf of the Austrian government, I would like to express our appreciation for the invitation to participate in the dialogue between the Member States and the Permanent Observer Countries of the Organization of American States. I also would like to extend our warm thanks to the Government of El Salvador for hosting us here in this beautiful country!

Let me take this opportunity to mark the recent decision of the OAS General Assembly to lift the suspension of the Republic of Honduras to participate in the Organization. Austria shares the conviction that democracy is one of the most valued accomplishments and that strict adherence to the rule of law is an essential ingredient for a peaceful and prosperous future for all nations.

We appreciate this year's focus of the General Assembly on the question of citizen security. While citizen security has numerous aspects including human security, rule of law, democracy, good governance etc., I would like to draw your attention to an initiative spearheaded by my government which relates to the fight against corruption: In September last year Austria hosted the conference for the establishment of the International Anti-Corruption Academy (IACA), which has been installed as an international organization. Austria among other contributions provides the facilities for the IACA for virtually no cost to the Academy. We are heartened by the fact that in the first few months after adopting the agreement more than 50 States have already signed the agreement, including a good number of States from the Americas. In addition, the Academy will carry out its first summer course later this summer, which also includes a substantial number of participants from the Americas. The Academy aims to start its first fully-fledged Masters course in fall this year. The IACA, also has concluded a Memorandum of Understanding with the OAS to foster cooperation on this important issue. I would like to take this opportunity to invite all States that have not yet done so to join the Academy and I am happy to answer any questions in that regard.

Mr. Chairman

During more than 30 years of Austria's role as an active observer of the OAS, we have developed not only a very close relationship with the OAS and its member states but also a profound understanding of this region's challenges. Unfortunately, the current economic crisis prevents us from announcing a financial contribution to a specific OAS program this year. Nonetheless, we

remain active in the Americas. Austria continues its funding for the “Energy and Environment Partnership with Central America”. During 2007 – 2012, Austria contributes almost \$ 4.5 million to this program. Furthermore, Austria supports the “Caribbean Renewable Energy Development Program”, established to reduce barriers to the increased use of renewable energy in the Caribbean region, with \$ 865,000 granted during 2008 – 2012. And finally, I would like to mention Austria’s contribution to the energy efficiency program of the “Latin American Energy Organization,” which will total almost \$ 850,000 for the years 2010 – 2012.

Austria remains committed to maintaining a close cooperation with the Americas, not only bilaterally and via the OAS, but also by using and supporting the many tools of EU/LAC cooperation.

I thank you for your attention and wish you a successful and productive General Assembly.