

**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"**

**June 5, 2011**

**San Salvador, El Salvador**

**Permanent Observer Mission of Croatia**

Remarks delivered by:

**Dario Mihelin**

**Minister Counselor and Alternate Observer**

Honorable Secretary General Insulza,  
Honorable Minister Martinez,  
Excellencies,  
Dear Colleagues,  
Ladies and Gentlemen,

It is my distinct honor to greet you on behalf of the Republic of Croatia and to thank our Salvadorian hosts for the warm welcome to the heart of Central America.

At the outset I would like to express our most sincere appreciation for the excellent cooperation extended to us by the Secretariat for External Relations, Department of International Affairs and its wonderful staff headed by Ambassador Quiñónez and Director Klinger which enables all the Permanent Observer Missions to interact with the OAS so seamlessly.

Croatia follows developments in the hemisphere and activities of the OAS in the light of ever more prominent place of this part of the world in the global architecture. Role the OAS, led by Secretary General Insulza's relentless efforts, played in facilitating return of Honduras to the Organization just several days ago or in recent formation of government in Haiti, testifies to its centrality in the regional architecture. The Inter-American Democratic Charter, as one of the milestones of the Organization, should be highlighted here, with its tenth anniversary to be celebrated later this year.

Croatia finds the overarching theme of citizen security of this General Assembly to be of vital importance for realizing full potential of the region. We can testify to importance of regional cooperation in security, however difficult history may be. Threats to security are multidimensional and transnational and any approach to counter them must be of the same nature in order to be successful. Croatia stands ready to share its experience in many areas highlighted in the documents to be adopted by the General Assembly.

Croatia has been developing its international development assistance policy. I am proud to share that we have approached the OAS to arrange provision of our first contribution to its programs and activities, in demining efforts in Colombia and by participating in an electoral observation mission in the second half of this year.

Croatia firmly believes that regional cooperation and integration facilitate development, stability, prosperity and peace throughout the world. In this spirit, Croatia will continue to follow and support the activities of the OAS. Rest assured that once among the EU ranks, Croatia will advocate dialogue between these two regions.

Croatia's perspective of next EU member state increases our profile in the region, witnessed by intensified bilateral dialogue with many of its countries. And not only with those that substantial communities of Croatian descent inhabit, like Argentina, Canada, Chile or USA, to mention just a few places where over 2 million citizens of Croatian origin in this hemisphere are well present in its history and societies.

I am looking forward to following the General Assembly deliberations and wish you a successful Assembly.

Thank you for your kind attention!