



**Report of the Canadian Parliamentary Delegation
respecting its participation at the forty-first regular session
of the OAS General Assembly**

Canadian Section of ParlAmericas

**San Salvador, El Salvador
June 5-7, 2011**

Report

A delegation from the Canadian Section of ParlAmericas (formerly the Inter-Parliamentary Forum of the Americas) attended the 41st Regular Session of the General Assembly of the Organization of American States (OAS) in San Salvador, El Salvador from June 5-7, 2011. The delegation was led by Mr. Randy Hoback, M.P., and included the Honourable Percy Downe, Senator. The delegation was accompanied by Mr. Leif-Erik Aune, Association Secretary.

The members of the delegation from the Canadian Section of ParlAmericas (formerly, the Inter-Parliamentary Forum of the Americas) had a particular interest in the main theme of the Assembly, *Citizen Security*, as the theme of the 8th Plenary Assembly of ParlAmericas is to hold meetings on the same theme. In addition, in his capacity as interim President of ParlAmericas, Mr. Randy Hoback, M.P. was also interested in discussing the possibility of a memorandum of understanding between the OAS and ParlAmericas.

Although ParlAmericas was created by an OAS Resolution in 1999, it was never formally granted defined status within the OAS framework. As a result, parliamentary delegations from across the Americas had to apply for permission to attend OAS General Assemblies under a special status. This arrangement left parliamentary delegations with uncertainty, as invitations from the OAS would not be extended to special status applicants until very near to the date of the General Assembly. As a result, Mr. Hoback, in his capacity as interim President of ParlAmericas, sought to define and strengthen the relationship between the OAS and ParlAmericas, to facilitate parliamentary participation in major activities of the OAS, such as the annual General Assembly.

The delegation observed the Plenary Sessions, which included regular business items such as elections, activity reports and adoption of resolutions and program-budget. These sessions provided useful summary information on the views of OAS member states, as the Heads of each delegation presented their countries' views on the theme of the General Assembly and on hemispheric priorities such as peace, security, democracy, human rights, development and cooperation.

The Plenary Sessions also provided a forum for the presentation of views and to report progress on standing questions such as on the Malvinas Islands. The Declaration of San Salvador on Citizen Security in the Americas was approved at the final Session (see Appendix 1).

The mission was not only an opportunity to observe the meetings as part of the General Assembly agenda but also to promote ParlAmericas and to gain support for furthering

the linkages between ParlAmericas and the OAS. As a special guest of the OAS General Assembly, ParlAmericas promotes the role of parliaments in the General Assembly and Summits of the Americas processes, and annual representation at these events is critical to maintaining the presence of the legislative branch in high-level inter-American activities.

Mr. Hoback met with OAS Secretary General Mr. José Miguel Insulza. Mr. Hoback and Mr. Insulza discussed the preparatory work that went into the draft Declaration of San Salvador, and Mr. Hoback congratulated Mr. Insulza on the quality of the declaration. Mr. Hoback and Mr. Insulza also discussed ParlAmericas and the prospects for the organization's growth. Mr. Hoback invited Mr. Insulza to attend the 8th ParlAmericas Plenary Assembly in Asuncion, Paraguay, in September 2011, and Mr. Insulza ensured that he would endeavour to include this event in his calendar of activities. Turning to matters of cooperation between ParlAmericas and the OAS, Mr. Hoback suggested to Mr. Insulza that the moment was right to begin discussions in earnest on a Memorandum of Understanding between the two organizations. Mr. Insulza expressed his agreement and committed the full support of his office in collaborating on a draft MOU in 2011.

Mr. Hoback also met with His Excellency Mr. Sigfrido Reyes Morales, President of the Legislative Assembly of El Salvador. Mr. Hoback expressed warm greetings on behalf of the Parliament of Canada, and encouraged President Reyes to promote ParlAmericas amongst the members of the Salvadorian Legislative Assembly. President Reyes thanked Mr. Hoback for visiting El Salvador and for his efforts in promoting inter-parliamentary linkages in the Americas. Mr. Hoback advised President Reyes of ParlAmericas's strategic plans to broaden the organization's reach and to enhance parliamentary diplomacy in the Americas. President Reyes applauded these efforts and committed to sharing information on ParlAmericas amongst his parliamentary colleagues. Turning to the Canada-El Salvador bilateral relationship, President Reyes commented on the positive relationship between the two countries, although entry visas to Canada were difficult to obtain for Salvadorians. President Reyes also noted that a free trade agreement with Canada was not as interesting to El Salvador as cooperation on development, and high profile people-to-people exchanges.

The Canadian delegation would like to thank the Department of Foreign Affairs and International Trade, Ambassador Marianick Tremblay, Ambassador Allan Culham, General Guy Thibeault and the Foreign Service Officers who were on site in San Salvador. The delegation was strongly supported by the staff of the Canadian Embassy in El Salvador.

Respectfully submitted,

Randy Hoback, M.P.
Chair, Canadian Section of the Inter-Parliamentary Forum
of the Americas (FIPA)

Travel Costs

ASSOCIATION	Canadian Section of ParlAmericas
ACTIVITY	Mission to the 41 st Regular Session of the General Assembly of the Organization of American States (OAS)
DESTINATION	San Salvador, El Salvador
DATES	June 5-7, 2011
DELEGATION	
SENATE	The Honourable Percy Downe, Senator
HOUSE OF COMMONS	Mr. Randy Hoback, M.P.
STAFF	Mr. Leif-Erik Aune, Association Secretary
TRANSPORTATION	\$ 6,880.23
ACCOMMODATION	\$ 1,795.32
HOSPITALITY	\$ 181.51
PER DIEMS	\$ 452.47
OFFICIAL GIFTS	\$ 180.00
MISCELLANEOUS / Medical Evaluations	\$ 36.44
TOTAL	\$ 9,525.97

Appendix 1—Declaration of San Salvador on Citizen Security in the Americas

GENERAL ASSEMBLY



FORTY-FIRST REGULAR SESSION

OEA/Ser.P

June 5 to 7, 2011

AG/DEC. 66 (XLI-O/11)

San Salvador, El Salvador

7 June 2011

Original: Spanish

AG/DEC. 66 (XLI-O/11)

DECLARATION OF SAN SALVADOR ON CITIZEN SECURITY IN THE AMERICAS

(Adopted at the fourth plenary session, held on June 7, 2011)

THE MINISTERS OF FOREIGN AFFAIRS AND HEADS OF DELEGATION OF THE MEMBER STATES OF THE ORGANIZATION OF AMERICAN STATES (OAS), gathered in San Salvador, El Salvador, at the forty-first regular session of the OAS General Assembly;

RECOGNIZING that peace, security, democracy, human rights, development, and cooperation are the pillars of the inter-American system and that they are interlinked and mutually reinforcing;

CONVINCED that all multilateral efforts and cooperation in the area of security must respect in full the principles of sovereignty, territorial integrity, political independence of states, and of non-interference in the internal affairs of states, in accordance with the Charter of the United Nations, the Charter of the Organization of American States, and international law, as well as take into account different perspectives with regard to threats to states' security and their priorities;

RECOGNIZING that the Declaration on Security in the Americas reiterates that the concept of security in the Hemisphere is multidimensional in scope, includes traditional and new threats, concerns, and other challenges to the security of the states of the Hemisphere, incorporates the priorities of each state, contributes to the consolidation of peace, integral development, and social justice, and is based on democratic values,

respect for and promotion and defense of human rights, solidarity, cooperation, and respect for national sovereignty;

RECOGNIZING that with the adoption of the Commitment to Public Security in the Americas at the First Meeting of Ministers Responsible for Public Security in the Americas (MISPA I), held in Mexico on October 7-8, 2008, the member states expressed their political will for and the priority of confronting crime, violence, and insecurity in a joint, mutually supportive, preventive, comprehensive, coherent, effective, and continuous manner;

RECOGNIZING ALSO the Consensus of Santo Domingo on Public Security in the Americas adopted at the Second Meeting of Ministers Responsible for Public Security in the Americas (MISPA II), held in the Dominican Republic on November 3-5, 2009;

REAFFIRMING that the Meetings of Ministers of Justice or Ministers or Attorneys General of the Americas (REMJA) and other meetings of criminal justice authorities are important and effective forums for promoting and strengthening mutual understanding, confidence, dialogue, and cooperation in developing criminal justice policies and responses to address threats to security;

RECALLING the rights enshrined in the Universal Declaration of Human Rights, in the American Declaration of the Rights and Duties of Man, in the American Convention on Human Rights, and in the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights;

TAKING NOTE of the Report on Citizen Security and Human Rights prepared by the Inter-American Commission on Human Rights and presented by it in December 2009;

RECOGNIZING that public security is the duty and exclusive obligation of the state, strengthens the rule of law, and has as its purpose to safeguard the integrity and safety of persons and to protect the enjoyment of all their rights;

TAKING INTO ACCOUNT that citizen and community participation is essential in the promotion and sustainability of public security policies;

RECOGNIZING that public security conditions are improved through full respect for human rights and fundamental freedoms, as well as by means of the promotion of education, culture, health, and economic and social development;

RECOGNIZING furthermore the need to promote and strengthen long-term and comprehensive state policies for public security that fully ensure the protection and promotion of human rights, with an emphasis on addressing the causes of crime and violence;

UNDERLINING the need to continue coordinating international measures in the area of natural disaster prevention, mitigation and assistance, while encouraging community participation and strengthening domestic capabilities as well as those of competent risk management agencies;

REITERATING the commitment to promote, within the framework of the rule of law, a culture of peace and non-violence, which is understood as a set of values, attitudes, and modes of behaviour based on respect for life, human beings, and their dignity, and which gives priority to human rights, ending of violence, and adherence to the principles of freedom, justice, democracy, solidarity, tolerance, and respect for diversity;

RECOGNIZING that crime and violence crime impair the social, economic, and political development of their societies;

CONSIDERING ALSO that, in the OAS Charter, the member states agreed that equality of opportunity, the elimination of extreme poverty, equitable distribution of wealth and income, and the full participation of their peoples in decisions relating to their own development are, among others, basic objectives of integral development;

RECOGNIZING the need to take action to bring about conditions for social, economic, political and cultural development so as to promote social inclusion, reduce inequity and create opportunities for their people thereby contributing to the prevention of crime, violence and insecurity;

REITERATING the commitment to address the challenges related to pandemics and natural and man-made disasters;

REAFFIRMING that states have a duty and responsibility to provide the humanitarian assistance necessary to protect the life, integrity, and dignity of their inhabitants in natural or man-made disasters;

CONSIDERING the importance of adopting policies, programs, and actions to prevent and confront crime, violence, and insecurity, including measures for the protection of vulnerable groups;

CONVINCED that elimination of violence against women in all its dimensions is an indispensable condition for their individual and social advancement and for their full and equal participation in society; as well as of the importance of including a gender perspective in security policies;

RECOGNIZING the importance of providing youth, particularly at-risk youth, with opportunities for and access to education, training, employment, culture, sports, and recreation, in order to prevent violence;

REAFFIRMING that prevention, punishment, and eradication of migrant smuggling, trafficking in persons and exploitation in all its forms, including sexual exploitation of women and minors, are obligations of the member states that should be addressed in accordance with the national and international legal instruments on such matters, and when appropriate, in partnership with civil society;

TAKING INTO ACCOUNT that transnational organized criminal activities can be used to finance and facilitate terrorism;

RECOGNIZING the importance of continuing to strengthen law enforcement and criminal justice capabilities;

RECOGNIZING the importance of mutual assistance in criminal matters and extradition in response to the preparation, planning, commission, execution, or financing of acts of terrorism, as well as corruption and organized crime, in accordance with domestic law and international agreements;

CONSIDERING the importance of international cooperation for improving economic and social conditions and thereby strengthening public security;

REAFFIRMING the importance of maintaining and strengthening bilateral, subregional, regional, and international cooperation on security-related matters,

DECLARE:

1. That it is their priority to continue directing their political will, efforts and actions to strengthen citizen security, as a component of public security, in their countries.

2. The obligation of states to develop and implement public policies in the area of public security in the framework of a democratic order, the rule of law, and observance of human rights, geared towards providing security and strengthening peaceful coexistence in their communities.

3. That public security policies must encourage measures for dealing with the causes of crime, violence, and insecurity.

4. That the individual is at the center of citizen security, understood as a component of public security and should therefore be a partner in the definition and implementation of ways to build more secure and sustainable communities and societies that conform to their aspirations for democracy and for socioeconomic and cultural development.

5. That public security policies require the participation and cooperation of multiple actors, such as individuals, government at all levels, civil society, communities, the mass media, the private sector, and academia in order to reinforce promotion of a culture of peace and non violence and respond effectively and in a participatory manner to the needs of society as a whole.

6. The importance of strengthening the capacity of the State to develop comprehensive, long-term public security policies with a gender-based perspective,

bearing in mind the needs of vulnerable groups, including the promotion and protection of human rights, and adapting, as necessary, the appropriate legal frameworks, structures, programs, operating procedures, and management mechanisms.

7. The need to continue implementing policies and measures in the area of prevention, law enforcement, rehabilitation, and reintegration into society, in order to ensure a comprehensive approach in combating crime, violence, and insecurity, for the purpose of enhancing public security.

8. The determination to design public policies and educational programs with a view to achieving a cultural transformation aimed at eradicating domestic violence.

9. The importance of continuing to foster measures to ensure that their populations have access to justice and to the protection afforded by an effective, transparent, and reliable criminal justice system.

10. The need to continue promoting prison systems based on respect for human dignity and human rights, including policies and practices geared towards rehabilitation and reintegration into society.

11. Their commitment to strengthen the links between development and security and, in this regard, foster the increasing coordination between the areas of integral development and multidimensional security of the OAS.

12. The importance of maintaining and strengthening bilateral, subregional, regional, and international cooperation on security-related matters.

13. The commitment to reinforce inter-American partnership for integral development and to strengthen cooperation mechanisms and actions to urgently address extreme poverty, inequity, and social exclusion.

14. The need to continue coordinating international measures in the area of disaster prevention, mitigation and assistance, while encouraging community participation and strengthening domestic capabilities as well as those of competent risk management agencies.

15. The need to continue strengthening bilateral, subregional, regional, and international cooperation mechanisms, in keeping with the principles established in the OAS Charter, to address, prevent and combat, in a comprehensive and effective manner, transnational organized crime, illicit arms trafficking, trafficking in persons, smuggling of migrants, the global drug problem, money laundering, corruption, terrorism, kidnapping, criminal gangs and technology-related crime, including cybercrime, as they may affect, in certain cases, social, economic, and political development and the legal and institutional order.

16. To instruct the Permanent Council to prepare, in consultation and coordination with the national authorities of the Meeting of Ministers Responsible for Public Security in the Americas (MISPA) and of the Meetings of Ministers of Justice or Other Ministers or Attorneys General of the Americas (REMJA), with the assistance of the General Secretariat, a draft hemispheric plan of action, to follow-up to the Declaration of San Salvador, to be considered by the forty-second regular session of the General Assembly;

17. That they request the General Secretariat to seek adequate funding for the preparation of the Plan of Action and to report to the General Assembly at its next regular session on steps taken to achieve it.