XXXIX GENERAL ASSEMBLY
DIALOGUE ON COOPERATION BETWEEN THE HEADS OF DELEGATION, THE
ASSISTANT SECRETARY GENERAL AND THE HEADS OF DELEGATION OF THE
PERMANENT OBSERVER COUNTRIES

REMARKS FROM
THE HEAD OF DELEGATION OF
THE PERMANENT OBSERVER COUNTRY OF

BULGARIA

JUNE 1, 2009
Intervention by the honorable delegation of Bulgaria.
San Pedro Sula, Honduras.

Good Afternoon, ladies and gentlemen,

I am honored to be joining you here today and I want to thank H.E. Jose Miguel Insulza for his kind invitation and also the organizers from Honduras for their generous hospitality. I am delighted to be attending the meeting between the permanent observers and the heads of the delegations and I extend my good wishes to you all.

Let me convey the greetings of the leadership of the Bulgarian MFA and express our recognition of the role of the OAS in the region, especially in the protection of human rights, strengthening democratic values and the rule of law as well as resolving common problems as poverty, violence, drugs and others.

Bulgaria acknowledges with utmost responsibility its status as Permanent Observer to the OAS, with full awareness of its benefits for Bulgarian diplomacy in particular. With participant countries from North, Central and South America and the Caribbean, the PAS presents a unique forum for exchanging opinions. Bulgaria, as a member of NATO and the EU, has the benefit of direct and multilateral contacts with those countries and of the close observation of the processes in the Western Hemisphere. As an example, my country established diplomatic relations with Honduras on May 7th, 2004 and I am happy to inform that this forum marks the fifth anniversary of that occasion with our hosts.

The Permanent Observer Mission of the Republic of Bulgaria maintains excellent relations with the Secretariat of the OAS in Washington and especially with the Secretariat of External Relations. We appreciate their efforts in presenting opportunities for better understanding of the different spheres of life in the OAS countries - from politics through economy and cultures-. The Lecture of the Americas project is an excellent example and we do hope it will last in the years to come. In terms of concrete
proposals, we, in the Permanent Observer Mission of Bulgaria, are exploring the opportunities and would be delighted to cooperate in organizing internships in the Secretariat for Bulgarian students and young civil servants working in the state administration or the NGO's who have interests in the good practices of government, human rights, Latin American countries and the Caribbean.

Bulgaria has proved its expertise in the field of preparing doe and holding elections and observing the election process, qe have halso taken part in OSCE and the Council of Europe election observation missions in the Balkans, in Central Asia and the Caucuses and are very willing to use this knowledge and experience in OAS missions when opportunities arise. In this regard, we have proposed to our MFA a review of the capacity of Bulgaria to contribute financially to the Electoral Observation Mission Fund when the budget for the fiscal 2010 is approved.

We are very much interested in deepening the cultural dialogue as the most successful tool ever for bringing people together. As a step in this direction we will approach the Secretariat with an offer for presenting together an exhibition dedicated to the Bulgarian Cultural Identity, that is unique and at the same time universal in terms of the personification of the aspiration of every human being for happiness, beauty and perfection.

Thank you for your attention and I wish the General Assembly a very successful meeting!