XXXIX GENERAL ASSEMBLY

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

GERMANY

JUNE 1, 2009
Remarks by the Head of the German Delegation
Ambassador Dr. Enver Schrömbgens,
Director General for Latin American and Caribbean Affairs
San Pedro Sula, 1st June, 2009.

Distinguished Ministers, Secretary General, Ladies and Gentlemen,

It is an honor for me to attend this 39th General Assembly of the OAS Charter. We thank the people and Honduras for their hospitality.

First of all, I would like to congratulate the Secretary General and the OAS staff for their significant contributions to the management of complex political situations during the past twelve months. Luckily - thanks to the long-term stability which is so characteristic of this region - it is not too often that the OAS needs to act in political or inter-state conflicts.

In LAC, security threats rather emanate from other sources: Gang terror, maras, violent crime are increasing problems in the continent. It is distressing that the main victims of violence are, in most cases, the poorest. In some cases violence has a growing impact on the whole state, jeopardizing the political stability or the national economic performance.

Ladies and Gentlemen,

This is the third OAS General Assembly where I have the honor to participate as an observer. In Germany there is a good proverb “aller guten Dinge sind drei”, in English “all good things come by threes”. Ill explain what I mean: Three years ago, Germany ranked as number 13 in the list of Observer countries, in terms of contributions to OAS activities. In the latest lists (referring to the year 2008) we appaeer as third contributor among observer countries. This is not a hazzard. This is rather the result of targeted efforts of mu ministry to intensify German support for the work of the PAS.
The support of German’s ministry of cooperation is presently focusing on the rights of indigenous people, on safeguarding victims in Colombia and on the food sector. Mr. Secretary General, I would like to announce that our Ministry of Cooperation plans to send a delegation to the OAS in September this year in order to discuss with you priorities and financial commitments on the future cooperation now.

But what I can assert here is that both the German Foreign Office and our Ministry of Cooperation are definitely resolved to provide continuity to the high level of cooperation achieved.

Ladies and Gentlemen,

Thank you very much for your attention. I’m looking forward to good meetings and interesting discussions on a wide range of issues over the next few days.