

Canadian Delegation to the  
Organization for Security & Cooperation  
in Europe



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Délégation du Canada auprès de  
l'Organisation pour la sécurité et la coopération  
en Europe

**DELEGATION OF CANADA TO THE OSCE  
STATEMENT BY YVES BEAULIEU, CHARGÉ D'AFFAIRES  
ON THE OCCASION OF THE ADDRESS BY JOSÉ MIGUEL INSULZA,  
SECRETARY GENERAL OF THE ORGANISATION OF AMERICAN STATES  
832<sup>ND</sup> MEETING OF THE PERMANENT COUNCIL  
28 OCTOBER 2010**

Thank you Mr. Chairperson,

My delegation is honoured today to welcome the OAS Secretary General to the Permanent Council. I want to thank him for sharing his views and for his personal dedication to our common objectives.

Mr. Secretary General,

As you have pointed out, the OSCE and OAS work on many common issues within the context of each respective region, including, the promotion and protection of human rights, democratic reform, elections observation, rule of law, freedom of expression and media, and counter-terrorism. Canada is supportive of continued and even increased cooperation and sharing of best practices to enhance efforts in these areas of our Organizations' work.

Canada views our work at the OAS as a cornerstone of our engagement in the Americas and the OAS as a crucial venue for cooperation with hemispheric partners.

The OAS' position as the key multilateral forum in the Americas means that it is central to our work with these partners and to efforts to address many of the challenges you raised in your remarks. These notably include the threats to regional stability and security posed by drugs, organized crime and terrorism, all of which also preoccupy us here as participating States of the OSCE.

It is always reassuring to hear the extent to which your vision of the OAS's priorities and hemispheric challenges dovetails with our own – and it is instructive to note the extent to which these mirror the goals and priorities in terms of enhanced prosperity, security and democracy that are shared by the OSCE.

Canada's top priorities at the OAS and in the Americas more broadly continue to focus on enhancing democracy and governance in the region, on defending and promoting human rights, on working toward multi-dimensional security, and on encouraging the participation of civil society in hemispheric affairs.

Our past work within the OAS on democracy has contributed to collective achievements such as the establishment of the Inter-American Democratic Charter and a Unit for the Promotion of Democracy within the OAS General Secretariat. Canada is currently providing considerable funding toward democratic programming at the OAS, notably toward the financing of the electoral observation missions the Secretary General has noted.

As at the OSCE, Canada has not hesitated to use its voice within the OAS to draw attention to human rights concerns in the region and to encourage corrective action. It is our intention to continue to vigorously defend the integrity and independence of OAS human rights institutions, particularly in the face of efforts to weaken and discredit these important bodies. Canada supports the central role played by the Inter-American Commission and Court on Human Rights in the promotion and protection of human rights and the reinforcement of the inter-American human rights system, Canada is working to ensure the Commission's continued independence and autonomy, including through financial support.

As noted, enhancing multi-dimensional security through modernizing the hemispheric security framework in the Americas and ensuring that multilateral efforts to face threats, notably at the OAS, are effective is also a Canadian priority. I should note that Canada has just been elected the 2011 Chair of the OAS Inter-American Defence Board and is also providing significant funding to help the OAS enhance its mediation and conflict resolution capacity, to various OAS missions in the region and to the CICAD and CICTE committees, where we remain the largest donor.

We are committed to working with our OAS partners, assisting in their efforts to strengthen local capacity in law enforcement, judicial systems, disaster relief and preparedness, and health issues.

A good example of Canadian leadership on security assistance is our active role in the stabilization and reconstruction efforts in Haiti. We believe that the continent's solidarity and engagement in Haiti are opening a new era of hemispheric cooperation, essential for the long term development of Haiti. We would like to underline the excellent role being played by the Pan-American Health Organization in responding to the cholera outbreak in Haiti. In the view of the upcoming elections, Canada attaches great importance to the OAS-CARICOM observation mission, which illustrates the important contribution of regional organizations of the Americas in Haiti.

As a country of the Americas, Canada is committed to playing a larger role in the region and doing so for the long term.

Thank you.