

**Remarks by H.E. Mr. Paul Heinbecker
before the U.N. General Assembly
on the Cooperation between the United Nations and
the Organization of the American States
November 3, 2000**

Monsieur le Président,

Étant donné la présidence actuelle du Canada au Conseil permanent de l'Organisation des États américains, il me fait grand plaisir et honneur de présenter le projet de résolution A/55/L.21, intitulé "Coopération entre l'Organisation des Nations Unies et l'Organisation des États américains.

Il me fait particulièrement plaisir de vous informer que les pays suivants se sont joints au Canada, au Mexique, au Guatemala, à l'Équateur, au Costa Rica et au Venezuela en coparrainant ce projet de résolution: la Colombie, Antigua-et-Barbuda, la République dominicaine, El Salvador, le Japon, le Panama, le Pérou et le Honduras.

Draft resolution A/55/L.21 includes several important new elements.

- It welcomes the upcoming Summit of the Americas to be held in April 2001, when my country will welcome leaders from across the hemisphere.
- It acknowledges the declaration by the OAS of 2001 as the "Inter-American Year of the Child and the Adolescent," and welcomes related efforts in the Americas to address emerging issues for children.
- Finally, it notes with satisfaction information exchanges between the OAS and UN missions in the hemisphere and recognizes the work of the OAS towards the promotion of democracy in the Americas.

It is especially fitting that Canada should introduce this resolution this year, the tenth anniversary of our membership in the OAS.

Since joining the organization, Canada has increased its engagement with its regional partners in all areas, from free trade to drug control programming to Human Security.

As a regional agency of the United Nations, the OAS shares the fundamental goals of promoting peace and security and ensuring respect for human rights.

It is therefore important that the two Organizations work closely together to develop and strengthen activities to address the multifaceted challenges facing the citizens of the hemisphere.

Such collaboration has developed impressively, including cooperation on important activities such as electoral observation, disaster management, refugee protection and human rights, to name only some.

Leaders at the summit of the Americas will endorse initiatives that will increase the already substantial workload of the OAS.

We must therefore intensify efforts to identify areas where cooperation between the OAS and UN can be strengthened in order to facilitate the ability of the OAS to carry out its mandates.

Si les résolutions comme celle-ci sont quelque peu pro forma de par leur substance, nous sommes confiants qu'une étroite coopération entre les États-membres de nos deux organisations résultera en une amélioration palpable sur la qualité de vie des populations.

Enfin, j'aimerais exprimer notre espoir que ce projet de résolution sera adopté par cette Assemblée sans vote.

Merci, M. le Président.