



**MISSION PERMANENTE  
DE LA FRANCE AUPRÈS DE  
L'ORGANISATION  
DES ÉTATS AMÉRICAINS**

*Liberté  
Égalité  
Fraternité*

Dialogue of the Heads of Delegation of Member States, the Secretary General and the Deputy Secretary General, with the Permanent Observers.  
51th General Assembly of the Organization of American States  
November 10, 2021

Intervention of SE Ambassador François Delattre,  
Secretary General of the Ministry of European and Foreign Affairs  
Of France

*Check against delivery*

President of the Permanent Council,  
Honorable Minister of Foreign Affairs of Guatemala  
Honorable Ministers  
Secretary General,  
Permanent Representatives and Observers

The theme chosen for this 51st General Assembly, "Towards Renewal in the Americas", evokes many challenges, but from a positive and proactive perspective.

We are coming to the end of the second year of the global pandemic that has particularly affected the American continent. The health, humanitarian, economic and social crisis that it caused revealed or accentuated fragilities to which our democracies must respond without delay.

Guatemala, which is hosting this General Assembly, has rightly highlighted some of the most urgent challenges, along with the fight against the pandemic: food security, climate change, natural disasters.

Since the beginning of the pandemic, France has been promoting international solidarity initiatives for vaccines and medical products. We initiated the launch of COVAX and keep playing a leading role in scaling up this mechanism, through grants and donations of vaccines. President Emmanuel Macron has announced an acceleration of our donations up to 120 million doses in the coming months.

As we speak, the COP 26 in Glasgow continues its work, in the continuity of the Paris Agreement of December 2015. It has strong ambitions for reducing emissions and increasing finance for those countries which are the most vulnerable to climate change. This is an urgent challenge that requires a determined global response. France is firmly committed to these objectives and devotes USD 7 billion per year to climate financing, one third of which goes to adaptation. It's our hope that the spirit of Paris, which led to the success of COP 21, will inspire the negotiations in Glasgow.

Climate action is inseparable from the protection of nature and biodiversity, which are themselves closely linked to human and economic development. 30% of French climate funding includes the protection of biodiversity, i.e. more than 2 billion USD. Costa Rica co-chairs with France and the United Kingdom the High Ambition Coalition for Nature and People: nearly 70 countries have committed to protecting 30% of land and of sea areas by 2030. This coalition was officially launched this year at the "One Planet Summit", which will be followed by a new summit in France, early 2022, on the protection of the oceans.

Natural disasters have hit Central American and Caribbean countries hard this year. Present in the Americas through its overseas territories, France provided emergency assistance to countries in the region, such as Haiti and Guatemala, affected by hurricanes, floods or earthquakes.

Mr. President

While the COVID-19 crisis has demonstrated some remarkable capacities for adaptation and building for the future, it has also accentuated the fragilities that are impacting the ongoing renovation process. These weaknesses are not only social, sanitary, environmental, but they also affect the areas that are at the heart of the OAS' work: democracy, human rights and security.

A faithful partner and friend of American countries and of the OAS, France stands up in the international and multilateral arena, to defend our common values and the legitimate aspirations of individuals and peoples.

We support the Inter-American Commission on Human Rights, particularly in its fight for women, for equality, for freedom of expression, for the right to an impartial and independent justice.

As we celebrate the 20th anniversary of the Inter-American Democratic Charter, France remains strongly committed to the promotion and defense of democracy where the OAS plays an important role, in warning and accompanying, notably through its electoral observation missions to which we contribute.

The holding of free, fair and transparent elections is essential to democracy, as is respecting the Rule of Law, the principle of the separation of powers, human rights and fundamental freedoms. If Democracy is to take firm root, it also means fighting poverty that fuels violence, fighting insecurity and organized crime.

Mr. President,  
Ministers, Ladies and Gentlemen,

The futures of our continents, of American countries and France, are as interlocked as is our history. We will continue to work with you and the OAS also in other multilateral fora, to meet the challenge of an inclusive and sustainable renewal that gives everyone a chance.

I thank you.