



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

*Liberté
Égalité
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September 17, 2021

**Intervention of HE Ambassador Anne de la Blache,
Permanent Observer of France to the Organization of American States**

Extraordinary session of the Permanent Council
On the occasion of the twentieth anniversary of the Interamerican Democratic charter

= *Protocol* =

The twentieth anniversary of the Inter-American Democratic Charter coincides this year with the bicentenary of several Latin American independences. Taken together, it is clear that these events have a deep meaning in the political history of the Americas. The independence of a nation can't blossom if not based on the freedom that democracy confers to its people. The project of the Latin American liberators was imbued with ideals from the French Enlightenment and Revolution, based on the sovereignty of the people, ideals that can be fulfilled only through a representative democracy.

In France, in Europe, as well as in the Americas, democracy is the system that makes it possible to meet the aspirations of the vast majority of citizens and political actors.

Only democracy can provide governments with the legitimacy and effectiveness they need in a sustainable and peaceful manner and offer citizens genuine participation in public affairs. While organizing the exercise of power within the framework of political pluralism and peaceful changes through elections, democracy guarantees the effectiveness of public action thanks to a system of checks and balances that ensure democratic control of governments, with an independent parliament and judiciary and public interest in mind.

Our common commitment to democratic values, in European and in the Americas, create a unique and strong bond that unites us even more than our common history. For that reason, also, all attacks on the democratic order, wherever they take place, must be strongly denounced.

As a European and American country, France, is concerned, as you are, about the threats and alterations to the constitutional order, about the barriers to free electoral processes, the spreading of false information and the abusive obstacles to the citizens' rights and freedoms.

In the Americas, the Organization of American States is a key actor in the defense and promotion of democratic values supported as well by the Interamerican Human Rights System. The European Union is also committed to supporting these values in the America, particularly through its electoral observation missions.

Finally, allow me to express my government's confidence in the citizens and leaders of American countries as they keep alive the important values of the Inter-American Democratic Charter. Let me assure them of France's full and committed support.

I thank you