

PERMANENT MISSION OF ANTIGUA & BARBUDA
TO THE
ORGANIZATION OF AMERICAN STATES
WASHINGTON, D.C.



10 July, 2001

Ambassador Hernan R Castro H
Chairman of the Permanent Council
Organization of American States
Main Building
17th Street and Constitution Ave, N.W.
Washington, D.C. 20006

Excellency,

I have the distinct honor to submit herewith a copy of a proposal prepared by the government of Antigua and Barbuda for inclusion in chapter II of the Democratic Charter.

Considering that the Permanent Council will hold discussions on the Charter when it convenes on July 11, 2001, I will be most grateful if you would make the proposal available to members of the Council in preparation for the meeting.

Accept, Excellency, the assurances of my highest consideration.

Your sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Lionel A Hurst".

Lionel A Hurst
Ambassador/Permanent Representative

Attachment

Democracy and the Environment

Article 10 bis

Preservation and good stewardship of the hemisphere's environment are goals which societies are obligated to pursue but which can be achieved only when democratic freedoms allow. The hemisphere is comprised of the most and the least vulnerable states but this dis-equilibrium cannot blind decision-makers to the threat faced by the most vulnerable. All states pledge to abide by their commitments under various international treaties, conventions and instruments which safeguard the environment for future generations.

Democracy and Education

Article 11 bis

Education remains the key to strengthening democratic institutions, promoting the development of human potential, equality, equity, and to alleviate poverty and foster greater understanding among our peoples. To achieve these ends, it is essential that primary and secondary education be available to all, including girls and women, rural inhabitants, and persons belonging to minority populations.

Democracy and Workers' Rights

Article 12 bis

The successful promotion and strengthening of democracy requires full adherence to and respect for the International Labor Organization (ILO) Declaration on the Fundamental Principles and Rights at work, and its Follow-up, adopted in 1998, as well as other related fundamental ILO conventions. Improving standards in the work place, enhancing working conditions for employees as well as providing adequate compensation to workers during sudden closure of plants or firms are fundamental to improving the standard of living and welfare of workers in the Hemisphere.