



**Brief Speech: Presentation of Credentials of H.E. Lou-Anne Gilchrist,  
Permanent Representative of St. Vincent and the Grenadines to the OAS**

*October 26, 2016*

Thank you very much.

[Mr. Secretary General, Mr. Assistant Secretary General, Chair of the Permanent Council, Permanent Representatives, and Alternate Representatives.]

It is a great honour and privilege to be here today - one day from my country's celebration of its independence - to present my credentials to you, Excellency, to serve in the capacity of Permanent Representative of St. Vincent and the Grenadines to the OAS, and the second female Permanent Representative accredited to this Organization. Permit me also to convey cordial greetings from the Honourable Dr. Ralph E. Gonsalves and the Honourable Sir Louis H Straker, the respective Prime Minister and Minister of Foreign Affairs of St. Vincent and the Grenadines.

Excellency, I am cognizant that my presentation of credentials in the presence of this lovely audience of distinguished and dedicated officials, comes at a very

crucial juncture for the Organization and our hemisphere. We are confronting a myriad of complex challenges which threaten our Inter-American System, but they are not insurmountable.

Since St. Vincent and the Grenadines became a member of this Organization in 1981, two years after independence, we have been committed to promoting and strengthening the four main pillars and principles enshrined in the OAS Charter. Accordingly, I must reassure you of my country's unwavering commitment to: integral and sustainable development, democracy and governance, multidimensional security and the protection of human rights.

St. Vincent and the Grenadines is dedicated to the holistic advancement of the peoples of our hemisphere, especially the disenfranchised, disadvantaged and marginalized. We stand ready to proactively assist, as best as we can, in addressing our hemispheric challenges and of course, we do this in conjunction with all Member States. Personally, I look forward to productively working with you, the Assistant Secretary and my colleagues to accomplish our objectives and mandates entrusted to us during last year's Summit of the Americas, the General Assembly and as is developed in our strategic vision plan.

As the regional organization "*par excellence*", we must always be reminded that many are looking at us as an exemplar, and in this respect I will exert my efforts, together with my staff, for the further strengthening of this Organization. I shall

continue to build on the resolute foundation laid by my predecessors to advance St. Vincent and the Grenadines' objectives and fulfil the goals of this Organization for the ennoblement of the peoples of our region.

Thank you.

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