

These initiatives are key in the view of all countries in the Americas to the restoration of Haiti's constitutional democracies. The contribution of all OAS members is the key to the success of these efforts. The participation of other nations in these sanctions and other actions will enable these efforts to be more effective and efficient.

All nations have an interest in protecting regional security. All nations have an interest in the protection of human rights and all nations have an interest in respect for the rule of law. For these reasons, I urge the members of this Assembly, on behalf of Canada, the OAS, and -- most importantly -- on behalf of the people of Haiti, to join the OAS in our efforts to ensure the rule of law is respected in Haiti and call for the restoration of the legitimate Government of Haiti.

Chapter VIII of the UN Charter provides for a central role for associations like the OAS in matters like this. Actions taken by that organization in the present case were clearly envisaged by the founders of the United Nations.

Although the OAS has assumed its rightful position as the "forum of first instance" in considering the Haitian events, the United Nations is also directly implicated.

Practically speaking, this fact was already amply recognized by the UN before the current troubles, when a UN mission was dispatched to ensure the success of the electoral process in Haiti and when the Security Council met to hear an appeal from the democratically elected President for a return to constitutional government.

Having made these contributions, I am confident that the UN will support the OAS in its attempt to mediate and resolve this crisis, while remaining engaged in the longer-term challenges of democratic and socioeconomic development. This would be in keeping with the UN's role as voice and conscience of the international community.

This hemisphere and the broader international community are seized of the United Nations' new-found resolve. That knowledge will be ignored at the peril of those who seek to supplant democratically elected government in Haiti.