United States:

(Statement made at the time of signature)

Signed 7 November 1986 at the OAS General Secretariat with the following statement:

The United States, upon signing the Protocol of Amendment to the Charter of the Organization of American States, states that it does so subject to the following understandings and that the provisions of the Protocol shall be effective with respect to the United States only insofar as they are interpreted and applied in a manner consistent with such understandings:

Article 1 of the Charter, as amended by the Protocol, does not limit the existing powers and functions of the Organization of American States (OAS) as practiced over the last forty years and any action taken by the OAS under the Charter or the Inter-American Treaty of Reciprocal Assistance (Rio Treaty), such as actions in furtherance of democracy or security, will not be considered to be inconsistent with this article.

Article 3 of the Charter, as amended by the Protocol, paragraph (e), must be interpreted consistent with, and does not derogate from, the democratic principles embodied in paragraph (d) of this same article. Accordingly, it neither bars the promotion under the Charter and Rio Treaty of democracy and security by the Organization and its member states, nor requires the OAS or its member states to accept regimes that are undemocratic or otherwise hostile to inter-American values, nor is it intended in any way to change the fundamental character of the OAS as an organization of democratic states.

Article 23 of the Charter, as amended by the Protocol, does not affect the obligation of member states to continue to submit disputes with other American states to the peaceful procedures set forth in the Charter of the Organization of American States before referring such disputes to the United Nations Security Council, consistent with Article 52(2) of the United Nations Charter and with the purpose of the Protocol to strengthen the Organization.

Articles 29, 30 and 31 of the Charter, as amended by the Protocol, do not create enforceable legal obligations and do not affect the sovereign rights and discretion of donor and recipient states with respect to the provision and receipt of assistance, including the terms, conditions and mechanisms under and through which such assistance may be provided. The pledge to ensure international social justice continues the requirements that member states mobilize their own national human and material resources through suitable programs and recognize the importance of operating within an efficient domestic structure as fundamental conditions for their economic and social progress and for assuring effective inter-American cooperation. In this regard, the United States will continue to help member states fulfill their goals of social justice through assistance it considers appropriate to support democracy, human rights, and the poor of the region.