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OAS SECRETARY-GENERAL TO ATTEND EXPERTS' MEETING ON ENVIRONMENT IN OTTAWA

Secretary of State (Latin America and Africa) Christine Stewart, on behalf of Foreign Affairs Minister André Ouellet, today announced that the Secretary-General of the Organization of American States (OAS), César Gaviria Trujillo, will attend the opening session of the OAS experts' meeting to be hosted by Canada in Ottawa from November 14 to 16, 1995.

The OAS Meeting of Experts on Environmentally Sound Technologies for Small and Medium-Sized Enterprises will bring together environmental and technology experts from across the Americas and the Caribbean, from the governmental, private, academic, and NGO sectors. Also participating in the experts' meeting will be senior representatives from leading international organizations in the field of sustainable development, including the UN Commission for Sustainable Development (CSD), the UN Environment Program (UNEP), and the North American Commission on Environmental Co-operation (NACEC).

"We are pleased that the Secretary-General will address the opening session of this meeting, Canada's first major OAS event," said Mrs. Stewart. "Mr. Gaviria's presence will serve to underscore the importance of environmental issues to the OAS and its member states."

Canada's Deputy Prime Minister and Minister of the Environment, Sheila Copps, will address the experts' meeting on November 14. Canada's Ambassador for the Environment, John Fraser, will preside as Chairman.

"Since joining the OAS in 1990," Mrs. Stewart added, "Canada has placed great emphasis on the environment as a priority issue for the Americas, and one where the OAS can make a positive contribution."



This initiative responds in part to Agenda 21 of the 1992 United Nations Conference on Environment and Development (UNCED), and reflects the important role to be played by the OAS in implementing the commitments taken by Heads of State and Government at the Miami Summit of the Americas in December 1994.

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For further information, media representatives may contact:

Media Relations Office
Department of Foreign Affairs and International Trade
(613) 995-1874