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PRESS RELEASE

SAINT LUCIA'S ADDRESS TO THE 50TH GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE OAS



Washington D.C., October 21, 2020 - H.E. Anton Edmunds, addressed the 50th Regular Session of the General Assembly of the Organization of American States (OAS) earlier today, where he underscored the importance of and advocated for a deeper collective and inclusive approach to address *inter alia* - border security challenges, vulnerable and marginalized groups including women, the Micro, Small and Medium Enterprise (MSME) sector and issues relating to climate change in the context of the COVID-19 pandemic. This particularly as relates to the advancement of small island and low-lying coastal developing states like Saint Lucia.

The OAS General Assembly, which is normally held each June, was the first to be held virtually due to the unprecedented environment brought on by the global pandemic. Its overarching theme “Facing the Challenges of COVID-19 in the Hemisphere: A Collaborative Approach to Address Vulnerabilities and Build Resilience in the Times of Crisis, Based on the Four Pillars of the OAS” provided an opportunity for its member states to highlight the adverse social, environmental and developmental impact on countries by the coronavirus.

Leading up to the Assembly, delegations deliberated on actions and policies to strengthen ongoing work of the Organization as well as to guide its future work within its four pillars of security, democracy, human rights and integral development. These resolutions in turn were considered by the Assembly for

adoption and subsequent implementation. Elections of officers to organs, agencies and entities of the OAS also took place during the proceedings. On the fringes of the General Assembly, OAS member states engaged in dialogue with representatives of civil society organizations and Permanent Observers.

The General Assembly is the supreme organ of the Organization of American States (OAS).