



ORGANIZATION OF AMERICAN STATES  
WASHINGTON, D. C.

GENERAL SECRETARIAT

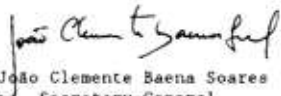
MESSAGE FROM THE SECRETARY GENERAL  
OF THE ORGANIZATION OF AMERICAN STATES

It is with admiration and respect that I congratulate the International Institute of Higher Studies in Criminal Sciences and its distinguished President, Professor Cherif Bassiouni, on the 20th anniversary of the Institute.

In the course of these years the work of the Institute has been outstanding. It has conducted over 140 conferences, seminars and meetings of experts covering the entire range of criminal justice studies. This work has contributed to strengthening criminal justice reform and the rights of the individual in all regions of the world.

Intergovernmental organizations, such as the Organization of American States, are increasingly cooperating with non-governmental international organizations such as the International Association of Penal Law and the Institute which functions under the scientific auspices of the former. The outstanding record and reputation of both institutions, the rising incidence of transcriminality and international crime and the longstanding commitment of the OAS to international cooperation led the OAS General Secretariat to greatly appreciate its current cooperation agreement with the Association. On June 24-28, 1990, the OAS General Secretariat was privileged to participate in the Committee of Experts on International Criminal Policy for the Prevention and Control of Transnational and International Criminality and for the Establishment of an International Criminal Court, held at the Institute's headquarters at Siracusa. On that occasion, the Assistant Secretary for Legal Affairs summarized some of the efforts and work of the OAS to promote international and regional cooperation against crime.

As developments in economic integration and telecommunications, in particular, increasingly shrink the world, both the OAS and the Institute will be challenged to exercise leadership in designing and implementing a better international cooperation in criminal matters. In that context in both the short- and the long-term future our Organization looks forward to opportunities to cooperate with the Institute on strengthening the rule of law in the fight against transnational criminality in the Americas.

  
João Clemente Baena Soares  
Secretary General  
Organization of American States

Washington, D.C., October 15, 1992