

## Minutes

### HUMAN RIGHTS AND ENVIRONMENT SEMINAR

March 19, 2002

American University, Washington College of Law

Sponsored by: CEDHA, CIEL and American University

#### **INTRODUCTION**

1. **Welcome:** Dean Claudio Grossman, Washington College of Law (WCL)
2. **Introductions:** Durwood Zaelke (CIEL and WCL). Professor Zaelke introduced the following distinguished experts: Daniel Taillant (CEDHA), Romina Picolotti (CEDHA), Dinah Shelton (Notre Dame), Loretta Ferris, Carolina Mauri (EcoConsulta), Carl Bruch (ELI), Federico Villegas Beltran (Mission of Argentina), Marcela Matamoros (Mission of Costa Rica); Rick Herz (EarthRights International)
3. **Objectives:** Coordinated by Daniel Taillant, CEDHA

#### **PRESENTATIONS AND COMMENTS**

1. **New Development Strategy of the Americas: Romina Picolotti**  
**Comments:**
  - a. Zaelke  
Mexico: Development Financing Meetings  
Laurence Pratt: Inter-American Development Bank report on development and environmental performance  
Yale study: companies can enhance development by good economic performance.
  - b. Shelton: increase democracy and increase economic development
  - c. Bruch: increase development also occurs with an increase in rule of law
  - d. Taillant: environmental protection does not hinder development
  - e. Ferris: education of corporations needed, however also need to look at example in Angola (raping of natural resources).
  - f. Villegas: need to take into account the increased civil society participation in the OAS in recent years. Also that not everyone agrees on the rights perspective. Political will is needed to get issues through. Can't take for granted the link between human rights and the environment. Need support from non-NGO's.
2. **Where are we? Dinah Shelton**  
**Comments**
  - a. Bruch: environment is a wedge issue through which to promote human rights; examples in Eastern Europe and China.
  - b. Shelton: need to make the State's instruments more effective
  - c. Matamoros: use instruments that already exist, examples: health rights, education rights. Expert/Outsider information is an important element.

- d. Villegas: Article 19, point 1 has not been put into practice, remind OAS of past agreements
- e. Picolotti: What is the best strategy? Forge new ground or focus on past achievements.

**3. National and International Jurisprudence: Jon Van Dyke** (University of Hawaii)

[All materials from this presentation are available in hard copy.]