Washington Model of the Organization of American States – WMOAS

www.wmoas.org

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Washington Model of the Organization of American States – WMOAS
Preparation Manual

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I. Introduction to the WMOAS

The Washington Model of the General Assembly of the Organization of American States (WMOAS) is a simulation of the sessions that the Organization of American States (OAS) General Assembly holds according to the functions derived from its Charter. Accordingly, student Delegations of the participating universities represent a Member State upholding the positions and foreign affair policies of each representative country in relation to different topics of the hemispheric agenda.

As a diplomatic exercise, WMOAS includes the general debate held in the General Assembly, along with the negotiations and work in the corresponding committees. Furthermore, the Model is the most effective means for the Inter-American System to share information about the OAS’s activities and agenda with students of the Hemisphere. The goal is to foster real cultural exchange in the continent.

Implemented as a leadership training project, WMOAS presents the opportunity for students from across the Americas to meet and dialogue with one another. Students assume the role of diplomats interacting in debate and discussions about the drafting of policies on hemispheric political, economic, social and security issues that are of great interest to the Member States.

As in the real General Assembly, WMOAS is conducted in five different committees that comprise its Body:

- **General Committee**: Political and General Interest Affairs.
- **First Committee**: Juridical and Political Affairs.
- **Second Committee**: Hemispheric Security.
- **Third Committee**: Integral Development.
- **Special Committee**: Special Issues.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Which are the WMOAS aims?</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>- Stimulate knowledge of foreign policies and of the impact of multilateral decisions.</td>
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<tr>
<td>- promote interest in the activities, structure and priorities of the OAS.</td>
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<tr>
<td>- analyze the impact of policies adopted on regional economic, social, political, educational, security and of general interest issues.</td>
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<tr>
<td>- train students to use diplomacy and negotiation in search of common solutions.</td>
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<tr>
<td>- educate participants in leadership through compromise.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>- raise awareness about the most important political, economic, social, and security issues of the region.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>- encourage connections among the various universities of the hemisphere.</td>
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<td>- promote intercultural awareness among peers.</td>
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II. The OAS and the Inter-American agenda.

In order to be prepared for the sessions of WMOAS, students need to learn and study how an international organization like the OAS works, as well as, the most noteworthy issues of the Inter-American agenda and as they relate to the countries’ regional interests. The following is a brief history of the Organization of American States.

The OAS charter was adopted on April 30, 1948, in Bogotá, Colombia, although multilateral relations among the countries of the Western Hemisphere go back much further. The International Conference of American States, held in Washington, DC, from October 1889 to April 1890, was the first in a series of periodic meetings among the nations of the Americas to establish norms and institutions to govern hemispheric relations and promote cooperation.

Participating nations agreed to establish the International Union of American Republics renamed the Pan American Union in 1910. In 1933, the nations of the hemisphere signed the Convention on the Rights and Duties of States, which formally recognized the equality of states and the principle of nonintervention in one another’s internal affairs. Close cooperation during World War II considerably strengthened hemispheric ties, which were reinforced in the post-war period with the adoption of the Inter-American Treaty of Reciprocal Assistance (Rio Treaty) in 1947. The OAS Charter and American Declaration of the Rights and Duties of Man were signed a year later by 21 countries in the region to legally codify the institutions and principles that had come to form the Inter-American system1.

Nowadays, the OAS has 35 Member States, but only 34 are active2.

The next chart summarizes the Pan American Conferences and their main agenda issues.

**Table 1 List of Panamerican Conferences**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Conference</th>
<th>Year</th>
<th>Place</th>
<th>Issues</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>I</td>
<td>1889 – 1890</td>
<td>Washington DC</td>
<td>Basis for continental cooperation. Trade cooperation. Settlement disputes (Monroe Doctrine discussions).</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>III</td>
<td>1906</td>
<td>Rio de Janeiro</td>
<td>Roosevelt corollary to the Monroe Doctrine. Draft convention on pecuniary claims and foreign debt.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>IV</td>
<td>1910</td>
<td>Buenos Aires</td>
<td>Convention on mandatory arbitration on pecuniary claims by common citizens.</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

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1 MEYER, Peter (2018).
2 The Government of Cuba was suspended from 1962 to 2009. The current Cuban government has decided not to come back to the Organization. Likewise, the current government of Venezuela has proclaimed its intention to leave the OAS.
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Conference</th>
<th>Year</th>
<th>Place</th>
<th>Issues</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>Reorganization of the functions of the Pan American Office.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>V</td>
<td>1923</td>
<td>Santiago, Chile</td>
<td>Treaty to avoid conflicts among States (Gondra Pact) and provide for consequences where necessary. Creation of four advisor commissions: trade and economic relations; labor issues; hygiene and health issues; higher education cooperation.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>VI</td>
<td>1928</td>
<td>Havana</td>
<td>Presentation of several draft treaties on: private international law code; conventions on diplomatic asylum and territory; convention on maritime neutrality; convention on diplomatic staff; Pan-American convention on civil aviation. Creation of the Inter-American Commission on Women. Creation of the Pan-American Institute on History and Geography.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>VII</td>
<td>1933</td>
<td>Montevideo</td>
<td>Convention on Rights and Duties of the States (principle of non-intervention). Agreements related to trade issues (most favored nation clause), political asylum, political and civil rights of women. Signing of the Saavedra Lamas Pact to prevent military aggression and conciliation.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Special</td>
<td>1936</td>
<td>Buenos Aires</td>
<td>Inter-American Conference on Peace Consolidation. The Argentine government, due to the Chaco war between Paraguay and Bolivia, called this Special Conference. It reaffirmed the principles of solidarity, cooperation and peace among the American States.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>VIII</td>
<td>1938</td>
<td>Lima</td>
<td>Meeting of Consultation of Ministers of Foreign Affairs. Declaration on the protection of human rights (the first one in the world).</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Special</td>
<td>1945</td>
<td>Mexico City</td>
<td>Conference on war—problems and peace. In this conference Chapultepec Act was signed, which promoted mutual assistance and solidarity among States.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Special</td>
<td>1947</td>
<td>Rio de Janeiro</td>
<td>Conference to promote peacekeeping and security in the continent. Signature of the Inter-American Treaty on Reciprocal Assistance (TIAR).</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>IX</td>
<td>1948</td>
<td>Bogotá</td>
<td>Adoption of the Charter and creation of the Organization of American States. Adoption of the American Declaration on the Rights and Duties of Men.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>X</td>
<td>1954</td>
<td>Caracas</td>
<td>Strengthening democracy across the continent.</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

During the Cold War, there were only a few important meetings but there is one that deserves special attention. The Summit Meeting, held in Punta del Este, Uruguay, was the last time Cuba participated in an inter-American forum, as the country was suspended from the OAS in January 1962, a measure that was officially lifted in June 2009. At the
Punta del Este conference, the United States formally established the Alliance for Progress, launched by U.S. President John Kennedy months earlier to counteract the influence of the Cuban Revolution in the region, after his government’s frustrated attempt to invade the island in 1961. After this Summit, the OAS suspended the participation of Cuban government from all Inter-American activities.

Another important meeting was called when the Malvinas war broke out in 1982. The government of Argentina tried, without succeeding, to invoke the TIAR, but this time, and 13 times thereafter, the Treaty announcement was nullified.

Once the Cold War was over, Inter-American relations were revived. By 1990, all the American States, with the exception of Cuba, were ruled by democratic governments (or were in process of coming under democratic rule) and, under the Washington Consensus, economies flourished. With this as background, in 1992 U.S. President George H.W. Bush launched the idea of creating a Free Trade Area from Alaska to Tierra del Fuego. As a result, the OAS, under new leadership, accepted the challenge of initiating the negotiation process. Therefore, in 1994 the process of the Summits of the Americas began through which all leaders of the hemisphere gather in regular meetings held across the continent.

Regional challenges and common interests have led governments to pursue and agree on a regional agenda. The next chart summarizes some of the main topics discussed in the OAS Summits and Meetings.

Through its offices and Summits, the OAS works on a wide range of issues, requiring close cooperation among its members states. There are several remarkable and important documents with which students need to be familiar: the three main charters of the OAS that are the basis of the Inter-American system:

- The Charter of the Organization of American States: this is the main juridical document, which sets out the creation of the OAS. It contains the Organization’s principles and objectives, as well as the functions of its offices. The Charter was signed in 1948, at the Ninth Pan-American Conference, held in Bogotá, Colombia, and amended by the Protocols of Buenos Aires, Cartagena, Washington and Managua.
- The Inter-American Democratic Charter: this is the instrument whose main goal is to strengthen and uphold democratic institutions in the Americas. The Charter spells out what democracy entails and specifies how it should be defended when it is under threat.
- The Social Charter of the Americas: refers to social and economic rights of the peoples of the Americas, focusing on one of the OAS pillars--integral development.

Once the students have read and familiarized themselves with the OAS principles, objectives and functions set forth in the Charters, the next step to take is to understand how the OAS is organized. Understanding the organization of the OAS, will help students write resolutions and assign specific tasks to the different offices of the OAS. Following
the OAS Charter, the following organizational chart illustrates the relationship between the various offices and how they interact. The organization of the OAS and the offices of the General Secretariat follow.

*Figure 1 Key topics discusses in OAS Summits and Meetings*
To date, ten Summits have been held in different countries:

**Table 2 Summits of the Americas**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Summit</th>
<th>Year</th>
<th>Place</th>
<th>Issues</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>I</td>
<td>1994</td>
<td>Miami, USA</td>
<td>Established a pact for development and prosperity based on the preservation and strengthening of the community of democracies. Economic integration and the launch of the Free Trade Area of the Americas (FTAA) process began during this Summit in order to eradicate poverty and discrimination in the Hemisphere and to guarantee sustainable development.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Special</td>
<td>1996</td>
<td>Santa Cruz de la Sierra, Bolivia</td>
<td>Sustainable development.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>II</td>
<td>1998</td>
<td>Santiago, Chile</td>
<td>Preservation and strengthening of democracy, justice and human rights; economic integration and free trade; eradication of poverty and discrimination.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>III</td>
<td>2001</td>
<td>Quebec, Canada</td>
<td>Creation of an Inter-American Democratic Charter to reinforce OAS tools for proactive defense of representative democracy.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Special</td>
<td>2004</td>
<td>Monterrey, Mexico</td>
<td>Governments signed the Nuevo León Declaration, which focused on three areas: economic growth with equity to reduce poverty, social development, and democratic governance.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>IV</td>
<td>2005</td>
<td>Mar del Plata, Argentina</td>
<td>The Summit took a narrower focus and concentrated on confronting the major challenges of the region in job creation and strengthening democratic governance. Additional issues discussed included: employment growth; job creation to fight poverty; work force training; micro, small, and medium-sized businesses as an engine of job growth; and framework for creating fair working conditions.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>V</td>
<td>2009</td>
<td>Port of Spain, Trinidad &amp; Tobago</td>
<td>Focus on securing citizens’ future by promoting human prosperity, energy security and environmental sustainability.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>VI</td>
<td>2012</td>
<td>Cartagena de Indias, Colombia</td>
<td>Integration of physical infrastructure, poverty, inequality, disaster risk reduction and management, access to and use of information and communication technologies, citizen security and transnational organized crime.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>VII</td>
<td>2015</td>
<td>Panama City, Panama</td>
<td>Issues discussed: prosperity with equity: cooperation for improvements in education, health, energy and the environment; and Hemispheric partnership for development.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>VIII</td>
<td>2018</td>
<td>Lima, Peru</td>
<td>Democratic governance against corruption.</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Source: [http://summit-americas.org](http://summit-americas.org)
Figure 2 Organizational Chart of the Organization of American States
Source: http://oas.org
All these offices are mandated by the OAS Charter and carry out their duties in accordance with the four pillars of the Organization. The following information is provided on the OAS web page.

A. Strengthening Democracy

The Secretariat for Strengthening Democracy (SSD) supports the OAS mission to strengthen political processes of the member states. The Secretariat, in particular, supports the principle that democracy is the best option for ensuring peace, security, and development. It focuses on strengthening the role of the Organization as the primary political forum in the inter-American system and on actively helping to
maintain democracy in the member states. In pursuit of its objectives, it acts to increase the legitimacy of institutions in political processes and to strengthen the means to maintain those processes. To carry out these tasks, the SSD develops its activities through the following bodies:

- the Department of Electoral Cooperation and Observation;
- the Department of Sustainable Democracy and Special Missions; and
- the Department of Effective Public Management.

B. Protection and Promotion of Human Rights

The Inter-American System of Human Rights is enacted via two main offices: The Inter-American Commission on Human Rights and the Inter-American Court of Human Rights. These offices are tasked with ensuring the observance and compliance with the treaties and conventions of one of the most important pillars of the Organization: the promotion and protection of all human rights. Among the most important treaties and conventions are included:

- American Declaration of the Rights and Duties of Man.
- Inter-American Convention to Prevent and Punish Torture.
- Protocol of San Salvador": Additional Protocol to the American Convention on Human Rights in the Area of Economic, Social and Cultural Rights".
- Protocol to the American Convention on Human Rights to Abolish the Death Penalty.
- "Convention of Belem do Pará": Inter-American Convention on the Prevention, Punishment and Eradication of Violence against Women.
- Inter-American Convention on Forced Disappearance of Persons.
- Inter-American Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Person with Disabilities.
- Inter-American Convention Against Racism, Racial Discrimination, and Related Forms of Intolerance.
- Inter-American Convention Against All Forms of Discrimination and Intolerance.
- Inter-American Convention on Protecting the Human Rights of Older Persons.
- Declaration of Principles on Freedom of Expression.
- Principles and Best Practices on the Protection of Persons Deprived of Liberty in the Americas.
- Statute of the Inter-American Commission on Human Rights.
- Statute of the Inter-American Court on Human Rights.
- Form for Filing Petitions Alleging Human Rights Violations.

C. Multidimensional Security

Through the work of the Secretariat for Multidimensional Security (SMS), the OAS promotes and coordinates cooperation among the member states and between
them, and the inter-American system and other bodies in the international system, in order to assess, prevent, confront, and respond effectively to threats to security, with a view to being the leading point of reference in the Hemisphere for developing cooperation and capacity-building in the OAS member states.

The sphere of activity of the SMS is defined by the Declaration on Security in the Americas and its understanding of hemispheric security as being multidimensional and comprising traditional threats and new threats, concerns, and challenges to the security of the states of the Hemisphere. The SMS is comprised of the Executive Office of the Secretary for Multidimensional Security and the following dependencies:

- Executive Secretariat of the Inter-American Drug Abuse Control Commission (at the department level);
- Secretariat of the Inter-American Committee against Terrorism (at the department level);
- Department of Public Security, and
- Department to Combat Transnational Organized Crime.

D. Integral Development

Through the Executive Secretariat for Integral Development (SEDI), the OAS supports, facilitates, and fosters integral development in the member states while also supporting measures to strengthen democracy, multidimensional security, and the promotion of human rights. SEDI also promotes intersectional dialogue, public-private partnerships, and consensus-building in the integration of government policies on sustainable human development.

SEDI also endeavors to mobilize resources for the formulation, promotion, and implementation of policies for technical cooperation, programs, and projects in the area of integral development and for activities to strengthen human and institutional capacity to improve integral development and governance throughout the Hemisphere. Also, SEDI is the office of the General Secretariat charged with supporting the Inter-American Council for Integral Development (CIDI), its subsidiary offices, and the Cooperation for Development Fund (CDF).

SEDI is comprised of the Office of the Executive Secretary for Integral Development and the following offices:

- Department of Human Development and Education;
- Department of Economic Development;
- Department of Social Inclusion, and
- Department of Sustainable Development.
III. The assigned country preparation.

The purpose of this chapter is to create a framework of general information that students should keep in mind as they prepare the assigned country in accordance with the rules of procedure and standards of WMOAS.

A. Topics

As students prepare to represent the assigned country, they should seek information on the following:

- **Domestic policy and internal affairs.** Students should learn about the country’s political and administrative organization, as well as current domestic political and economic issues. Study of the country’s constitution and the integration of the governmental framework is essential to understanding the importance of the country’s main issues for the regional and hemispheric agenda. Information about this topic may be found on the country’s official governmental web sites.

- **Foreign Policy and external affairs.** Several topics should be studied:
  - **First**, the Regional Agenda, which describes the political and economic relationships between the country and its neighbors. Study of economic agreements that the assigned country has signed with its neighbors, as well as any other regional integration process are important. The student should be able to recognize how the country negotiates as well as the main points of its regional foreign policy keeping in mind its current domestic situation.
  - **Second**, the Hemispheric Agenda. Students should determine what position the country assume, in regard to the main points of the hemispheric agenda, but also in accordance with a common position it may have with its partners or neighbors. Examples of this would be the current Venezuelan or Nicaraguan situations; a natural disaster or the problem of drug trafficking.
  - **Third**, the participation of the country in OAS activities and regional organizations. Once the student has studied the country’s foreign relations, he/she is ready to research its participation in OAS activities, the OAS main achieved programs affecting it (or not) and the alliances that the country could develop in order to reinforce its position in particular situations as well.

In regard to foreign policy, it is possible to define topics that could be considered a priority. Such topics might include:

- Political Relationships.
- Economic Relationships. (Trade, investment, financial affairs)
- Defense and national security.
- Educations, science and technology.
Environmental issues.
- Functional cooperation in other areas, such as human rights, democracy, the fight against corruption and the like.

B. Methodology and materials

To research on foreign and regional policy of the Member State it is important to cover the analysis of different aspects of the country’s domestic and international policy, economic and social situation, together with other aspects regarding the country’s real situation. In the same way, the hemispheric political and economic current situation should be discussed among the students. Theoretical classes are useful as well as online sources such as the Lecture Series of the Americas, which are available in the OAS web site.

There is a list of links to official and non-governmental organizations with up-dated and detailed information related to the hemispheric current situation. Likewise, the OAS official documents constitute a fundamental tool to understand the OAS structure and its main functions. Some sources are below:

**Official documents:**
- Charter of the OAS
- Inter-American Democratic Charter
- Social Charter of the Americas
- Conventions and Treaties on Human Rights
- Inter-American convention against corruption
- TIAR

**Websites:**
- Organization of American States: [http://oas.org](http://oas.org)
- Inter-American Development Bank: [http://iadb.org](http://iadb.org)
- Economic Commission for Latin America and the Caribbean: [http://eclac.cl](http://eclac.cl)
- Inter-American Dialogue: [http://thedialogue.org](http://thedialogue.org)
- The Institute for the Integration of Latin America and the Caribbean: [http://iadb.org/intal](http://iadb.org/intal)
- Canadian Foundation for the Americas: [http://focal.ca](http://focal.ca)
- The Carter Center: [http://cartercenter.org](http://cartercenter.org)
- Centre for Latin American Monetary Studies: [http://cemla.org](http://cemla.org)
- Migration Policy Institute: [http://migrationpolicy.org](http://migrationpolicy.org)
- Transparency International: [http://transparency.org](http://transparency.org)
- The United Nations Conference on Trade and Development: [http://unctad.org](http://unctad.org)
- Amnesty International: [http://amnesty.org](http://amnesty.org)
- World Bank: [http://worldbank.org](http://worldbank.org)
- International Monetary Fund: [http://imf.org](http://imf.org)
- Council on Hemispheric Affairs: [http://coha.org](http://coha.org)
• The United Nations Environment Program: http://pnuma.org
• American Enterprise Institute for Public Policy Research: http://aei.org
• Center for Strategic and International Studies: http://csis.org
• Institute for International Economics: http://iie.org
• The Latin American and the Caribbean Economic System: http://sela.org
• Initiative for the Integration of Regional Infrastructure in South America: http://iirsa.org
• Council of the Americas: http://counciloftheamericas.org
• Latin American Development Bank: http://caf.org
• Pan-American Health Organization: http://paho.org
• World Health Organization: http://who.org
• International Labor Organization: http://ilo.org
• World Trade Organization: http://wto.org
• Organization for Economic Cooperation and Development: http://oecd.org
IV.  On PDR elaboration

A.  Introduction: Approaching a PDR

In all international organizations, decisions are made based on different voting criteria, which may be through simple or 2/3 majority. These decisions are generally recommendations, and with some exceptions\(^3\), are not mandatory for Member States. This means that decisions issued by the OAS, through the General Assembly or the Permanent Council, do not constitute an obligation for States, but rather are recommendations. The recommendations occur when the OAS takes a common position on a particular situation in accordance with an agenda of common interest to the Hemisphere.

These decisions or recommendations take shape through draft resolutions which, once discussed and voted, become official OAS resolutions. Resolutions explain the position taken by the body on an issue or problem and how it intends to carry out a possible solution. For example, if addressing a problem resulting from a natural disaster, countries agree on positions on how to cope with the problem and state how the OAS might make a contribution towards solving it. This possible solution is put forth in a Resolution.

The purpose of this document is to explain how to prepare a Proposed Draft Resolution (PDR). It explains, in specific detail, how to develop a well-prepared PDR using appropriate content, proper formatting, and diplomatic language. The document is divided into six sections. Sections 2-4 outline the main steps in preparing PDRs. Section 5 addresses important issues to consider before PDRs are submitted and debated, such as potential fiscal implications and amendments. Finally, sections 6 and 7 provide sample PDRs.

1.  PDR Defined

The presentation of a well-framed PDR for debate is one of the most important contributions a Delegation makes to its success at the Model OAS. A PDR reflects the depth of student research and shows the extent to which the author understands the nature and scope of a given agenda topic, the country-specific perspective on the issue, and recommendations it puts forth.

A PDR expresses the position of a country according to a specific topic of the agenda of each committee. The PDR should reflect the main interests and concerns on a given issue that a country wishes to propose to the General Assembly.

According to the Student Handbook, “PDRs consist of four basic sections. The first section is the Title, which should introduce the action proposed by the PDR. It is easy to imagine the title being the first thing you write down, as well as the last section you polish before submitting the PDR for review. The second section is the Preamble. This section details

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\(^3\) Resolutions issued by the United Nations’ Security Council are mandatory for Member States.
the background of the resolution; why it is important, what has been done in the past, and the extent of the problem. This is where offices of the OAS are referred to, as well as previous resolutions and documents issued by the OAS. This section sets up the rationale for the action called “operative” or “resolve” clauses, which is the third section of the resolution. These are the actual steps to be taken. The Resolve Clauses are your statements of what it is you hope to accomplish should this resolution pass, and they form the substance of the debate in the committee. The fourth section of the PDR is the signatures of those countries who support the proposed draft resolution.

**Article 35 of the Rules of Procedure** states that, “Items for consideration in committee sessions normally shall be in the form of Proposed Draft Resolutions (PDRs). Each Delegation may present one resolution per Delegation per committee. Delegations may have additional resolutions in waiting; if a Committee completes its consideration of all PDRs it may consider additional resolutions on a one resolution per Delegation basis. If a Delegation submits two items in one committee, the two items must focus on different agenda topics.”

**B. The PDR’s contents**

A PDR summarizes essential and relevant information related to a specific agenda topic and reflects the country’s position on that topic. The information contained in a PDR must be organized into specific sections as outlined in this document. When developing a PDR, the author/s of a PDR, as well as the Faculty Advisor, must ensure that the PDR adheres to the following:

- PDRs must cite the OAS Charters, conventions, protocols, documents, OAS passed resolutions, and rationales. These documents must be quoted properly.
- When necessary, the PDR has to indicate appropriate sources and methods of funding.
- The PDR must be consistent with OAS issues, organizations, and regulations.
- The PDR must be consistent with current and existing statistics and data.
- The PDR must be consistent with the country’s, region’s and hemisphere’s concerns.
- The PDR must be pertinent to the Agenda Topic.
- The PDR must be specific, well-defined and workable, as well as realistic and creative.
- Finally, the PDR has to make clear what individual, body, or institution is to carry out the action.

Next, we will explain in detail the four sections of a PDR.

1. **The Title**

All PDRs begin with a title (first section), which refers to the main proposal and it is directly linked to the operative clauses. **There must be a connection between the title and the main clause proposed on a specific matter.** The title has to be written in bold capital letters, 12 points size and centered. Here are some examples of titles:
2. The Preamble

Definition

The Preamble refers to the background information about the issue being proposed by a country. It provides the reasons (the rationale) for the action to be taken.

General Standards for Headings

Special language introduces each statement of the Preamble and is specific to the situations and quotes presented by the given statement. This language is called a “heading.”

The first heading which may be used is “HAVING SEEN”. This heading introduces the main OAS documents related to the agenda topic being proposed by the country. Here, the OAS Charter, the Inter-American Democratic Charter and other OAS Treaties and Agreements may be quoted. Only treaties and agreements - not resolutions from the General Assembly or the Permanent Council - are included in this heading. Here is an example:

HAVING SEEN:

Article 2(b) of the Charter of the Organization of American States (OAS), which establishes as one of its main purposes to: “promote and consolidate representative democracy, with due respect for the principle of non-intervention”;

Article 47 of the OAS Charter, which states that “The Member States will give primary importance within their development plans to the encouragement of education, science, technology, and culture, oriented toward the overall improvement of the individual, and as a foundation for democracy, social justice, and progress”;
Article 49 of the OAS Charter, which claims that “The Member States will exert the greatest efforts, in accordance with their constitutional processes, to ensure the effective exercise of the right to education (…)”;

Article 16 of the Inter-American Democratic Charter, which asserts that “Education is key to strengthening democratic institutions, promoting the development of human potential, and alleviating poverty and fostering greater understanding among our peoples”;

Article 27 of the Democratic Charter, which emphasizes that “Special attention shall be given to the development of programs and activities for the education of children and youth as a means of ensuring the continuance of democratic values, including liberty and social justice”;

Another heading which is common to use is “CONSIDERING”. Under this heading, a description of a situation, a problem or an event from the past or present is commonly used. Other headings like “REALIZING”, “BEARING IN MIND” or “NOTING” are used in the same way to underscore a specific situation which might be positive or negative. If you wish to note something highly positive, you may use “NOTING WITH SATISFACTION” or “FULLY AWARE OF”. For instance:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>CONSIDERING:</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>That the regular practice of a sport or a physical activity not only gives children the possibility to improve their health and nourish their mind, but also makes a more effective contribution to the inculcation of fundamental human values which are closely related to the exercise of democracy;</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>That physical education instills in minors the spirit of self-reliance, self-confidence, justice, fair play and teamwork and also enables them to follow other values such as discipline, honesty, integrity, loyalty and even patriotism;</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>NOTING:</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>That the PAHO provides technical cooperation and mobilize associations to improve health and life quality over the countries of the Americas, as approved by the Permanent Council in the Resolution CP/RES. 797 (1293/01);</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Another frequently used heading is “TAKING INTO ACCOUNT” or “TAKE INTO CONSIDERATION” or “ACKNOWLEDGING” and introduces official documents from other international organizations, like the United Nations, the Pan-American Health Organization, the International Labor Organization, among many others. Here is an example:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>TAKING INTO ACCOUNT:</th>
</tr>
</thead>
</table>
The Resolution of the United Nations AG/RES/63/217 (2009) “Natural Disasters and Vulnerability”, which recognizes that “each State has the primary responsibility for its own sustainable development and for taking effective measures to reduce disaster risk, … and stresses the importance of regional and international cooperation and partnerships to support those national efforts;

Additional headings used frequently include “REAFFIRMING”, “UNDERLINING” or “EMPHASIZING”. These headings refer to something that expresses the willingness to do a special thing, something that was done before (an agreement, a meeting, a summit, etc.), or when you bring up the spirit of something done. Likewise, you can use the word “RECOGNIZING”, which is generally used to describe a negative situation or an unfinished task.

RECOGNIZING:

Cisco’s comprehensive research conveying the positive correlation between a country’s economic growth and increased education, and Edward L. Glaeser’s findings that stable education is necessary for the stability of a democratic government;

A CFBT study, in which it was found that on average every year in the Americas 5.4 million children repeat their grade each year and that the cost for every 1 million is estimated to be $1 billion, and that according to the Unit for Social Development and Education’s report that a main factor for grade repetition is poor teacher quality;

That in Latin America there are estimated of 520 indigenous societies and they represent around million people, with 300 different languages, making necessary to further develop educational material and methods that respond to the primary education needs of indigenous communities;

On the other hand, the headings “CONSCIOUS” and “CONCERN” are used to express a serious problem or concern, that is to say, a negative reality which affects the Member States, their populations or a region:

DEEPLY CONCERNED:

Regarding the high risk of the 2015 Millennium Development Goals not being met acknowledging that currently “70 million school-age children are not in school”;

With the knowledge that illiteracy is still holding back more than 120 million young people globally,

Finally, the heading “RECALLING” is used to quote resolutions from the General Assembly, the Permanent Council, and other offices of the OAS. Reports and other official documents from the OAS offices are quoted under this heading as well. When referencing a Resolution, you quote it under “RECALLING” as follows: when citing a document from the General Assembly, use, for example, AG/RES. 1080 (XXI-
O/91), or CP/RES 095 (XXI-O/96) for documents issued by the Permanent Council. Any such document so cited must also indicate the analytical connection of the document to the argument of the draft resolution. RECALLING specifically suggests precedence, or inherency, whereas HAVING SEEN implies direct, immediate use of the ideas therein contained.

RECALLING:


CFS 2012/39 Final report, Committee on world food security, Thirty-ninth Session, Rome, Italy, 15-20 October 2012, which….;

AG/DEC. 69 (XLII-O/12), Declaration of Cochabamba on “Food security with sovereignty in the Americas”, 5 June 2012, which….;

AG/RES.2757 (XLII-O/12), Excessive commodity price volatility and its consequences for food security and sustainable development in the Americas, June 5, 2012, which….;

Avoid use of the heading “WHEREAS”.

All these explained headings or sub-titles summarize the background information of the PDR.

**Sources for the Preamble**

There are many sources of information to help students learn about their assigned country and research is essential. The OAS official documents are fundamentally important tools for understanding the OAS structure and its main functions. And, the OAS site includes all of the official information and updated documentation relevant to hemispheric affairs. For more information, read the previous chapter.

3. **Operative Clauses**

**Definition**

This part of the PDR is linked to the actions to be taken as indicated in the PDR’s title - the operative part of the draft resolution. The operative clauses describe and explain the country’s proposal, according to the committee’s agenda topics. With each clause, the resolution moves from the general to the more specific. Each operative clause begins with a verb in the infinitive form. The verbs used vary depending on the needs or purposes proposed and must accord with the OAS’ purview.
Formal Language

All operative clauses must be written in a formal language and in the third person. This means no use of the pronouns “we”, “you”, “I”, “our” or any derivations thereof. Furthermore, the diplomatic language used employs with verbs of varying intensity. Some examples from the Student Handbook:

- **Mild**: to congratulate, commend, acknowledge, praise.
- **Moderate**: to advise, ask, request, recommend, study, suggest, continue, reiterate, call upon, declare.
- **Active**: to propose, establish, form, create, amend, employ, set, provide, designate, instruct, initiate, increase, decrease.
- **Forceful**: remember that the OAS or any Member State cannot give ORDERS TO GOVERNMENTS. Common forceful verbs are: to strongly urge, require, authorize, eliminate, exempt.

Usually, active verbs are used to explain the main proposal. Moderate verbs are set to put into practice the main proposal, while mild verbs are commonly used to introduce the proposal itself and appear in the first or second operative clause. Forceful verbs are not recommended unless it is necessary to emphasize something especially important that involves the entire hemisphere or a significant number of countries or population. Here is an example:

RESOLVES:

1. To congratulate the Inter-American Committee on Natural Disaster Risk Reduction (IACNDR) for the efforts and accomplishments made to reduce vulnerability and to increase the resilience of Member States.

2. To urge the General Secretariat and the Member States to continue to support the role of the IACNDR, as stated in resolution 1682 (XXIX-O/99), in its endeavors to expand the organization's role in natural disaster prevention, risk mitigation, and responses, in order to offer more efficient and specialized help to victims of natural disasters in the Western Hemisphere.

3. To recommend the creation of a new committee, the Natural Disaster Relief Budgetary Committee (NDRBC), as a subcommittee under the administrative supervision of the IACNDR, which will oversee the appropriate allocation of funds to Member States after natural disasters, and be characterized by oversight, transparency, and the effective coordination of funds and whose chief functions will consist of the following:
   a. After the affected country(s) accepts the aid from this committee, and after these has been communication with all other organizations involved in the
relief process, the subcommittee will then decide what action(s) to follow with.
b. That the IACNDR, the Department of Sustainable Development (DSD) and respective Members States' departments concerning natural disaster risk management will aid the NDRBC to promote stronger relations for the purpose of more efficient and well-used channels of communication and allocation of the funds by offering valuable input on previous natural disasters, their effects, and the efficient and successful programs and activities done thereafter.
c. The committee will, following their investigation, emit an “Emergency Plan of Action” (EPA) composed by specific recommendations addressed to the OAS and its Emergency Missions, that coordinate the adequate use of financial resources, ensuring that they will be spent exclusively on disaster relief and early response actions and that will be issued in order to create transparency within the committee.
d. The NDRBC shall meet once again after the emergency situation has been aided to the best of the committee’s abilities, in order to evaluate the policies applied and to collect lessons learned so that they may be implemented for future events. All of this information should be compiled in a “Post-Disaster Assessment” document.

4. To request that the NDRBC shall consist of a team of seven members who fulfill the following criteria:
   a) Five independent experts, such as any member with prior experience in emergency response or disaster relief, and/or any member with budgetary or financial expertise, elected by simple majority at the General Assembly whose elections shall be considered among a pool of independent experts proposed by the IACNDR.
   b) Two formal and non-permanent observers elected by the ambassador to the OAS of the affected Member State and a representative assigned by the IACNDR.

5. To instruct all OAS entities, especially the Inter-American Committee for Emergency Situations, who handles the Inter-American Emergency Aid Fund (FONDEM), to cooperate to the fullest extent with the IACNDR and DSD to avoid duplicating work and to maximize resource allocation.

6. To request additional funding come from volunteer donations from Member States, Permanent Observers, United Nations Development Program, World Bank, International Federation of Red Cross, Pan American Health Organization, Caribbean Development Bank, and other Non-Governmental Organizations.

7. To recommend that the time frame for the proposed resolution be the creation of the subcommittee under IACNDR election proposals in the following two months and the general assembly election of the five members in the following three months with an absolute deadline set for DEC. 31, 2013.

4. Signatures
For a PDR to be considered in committee, it must have five co-signatories from Members of your committee, or, in the case of working group draft resolutions, the total of co-sponsors (authors) and co-signatories must total six. Signatures for all resolutions must be obtained at the Model itself. Each Delegate who signs on to a PDR becomes a sponsor and is obliged to vote for it, unless it is amended (for more information, see the Rules of Procedure). An example of the signatures formatting is below in the formatting section.

C. Formatting of PDRs

It is very important that each Delegation respect formatting and punctuation when writing a PDR. While the preamble and the operative clauses are the spirit of the PDR, the formatting constitutes the body, and it is intended to show the structure of the PDR.

Each section is indented on the first line, and is a single-spaced paragraph followed by a semicolon. Each section may have multiple clauses (paragraphs). Double spacing between sections is required. The next to last section includes an "and" after the semi-colon. The last section ends with a comma.

Operative Clauses (resolves) end with a period.

Acceptable fonts are Times New Roman or Arial. PDR title font size must be 12 points with 11 points-sized fonts used for the rest of the draft resolution.

Additional formatting requirements for PDRs:

1. General Formatting

Submit on US letter size paper: Go to “page set-up” and switch to US letter. Do not submit resolutions formatted on A-4 paper.

Use default 1” left and .7 right margins. Do not change them.

If you cut and paste from other documents, use “paste special” and “paste and match style” or “paste unformatted text.”

2. Formatting Operative Clauses (Resolves)

ALL numbers are at the left-hand margin.

Do not use tabs in resolves or anywhere else when you can avoid it.
Use the default outline function that appears when you type a number in, hitting the tab key to move to numbered sub-clause (e.g. a,b,c, i, ii, iii.)

If the outline function does not appear when you type a number, go to “Format,” then “Bullets and Numbering”. Choose “Outlined Numbered” and then the appropriate outline number sequence.

Do not type in numbers and letters and then indent or tab to where it looks right. Always use outline format.

3. Final Signatures

Signatures may not appear alone on the final page of the resolution. There must be text with the signatures. Make certain to move last resolve to the final page or insert a page break before the final resolves so at least one resolves appears on the signature page.

You may wish to copy and paste the signature segment that appears here:

Approved for form and substance: ________________________________________
(Signature of Faculty Advisor)

Cosignatories: 1. ______________________________________________________
(Signature of Delegate) (Country Represented)

2. ______________________________________________________
3. ______________________________________________________
4. ______________________________________________________
5. ______________________________________________________

NOTE: Check resolutions against attached model (in the “PDR Sample” section below) for punctuation and formatting, especially for punctuation in the sub-clauses in resolves. (You may wish to print both your PDR and the example to make certain your PDR is formatted correctly.)

D. Beyond PDRs

1. Fiscal implications

When drafting the operative clauses, the following questions must be answered: What is required to execute the proposed solution? How might Member States reach a solution? When must the solution be implemented?
In general terms, when a Delegation presents a PDR, its purpose is to propose something (i.e. a specific action to be taken by an OAS organ, a conference, a summit, etc.) according to the Delegation’s foreign policy and the committee’s agenda, pursuing a national or regional interest. Unlike merely declarative resolutions, the actions proposed by a country imply the mobilization of resources (human and financial ones). For example, if a country wishes to propose a PDR that “calls for a conference on climate change to be held in Lima, Peru” the resolution must describe in detail which office and/or organization (national, regional or hemispheric) will provide the funds to carry out that conference. Likewise, if a country decides to propose the creation of a specific office, such as a Rapporteurship, etc. in the OAS, the PDR must allocate to the OAS budget the funds required for that action.

Accordingly, Delegations must take into consideration that any action that they propose may imply the use of funds, and, if this is the case, and must explain who will provide them. The OAS budget is published annually on the organization’s page, and this budget constitutes an important source of information when writing PDRs with fiscal implications. Additional sources of funding may include: voluntary contributions from Member States and Permanent Observers, international organizations, civil society organizations, nongovernmental organizations, and the like.

Finally, Article 37 of the rules of procedure provides for the following action for a PDR with fiscal implication in each standing committee:

“Article 37 - Proposed Draft Resolutions with Fiscal Implications. All Proposed Draft Resolutions approved by Standing Committees that wholly or in part require the use of funds from the OAS budget, must also be approved by a two thirds majority vote in their respective Committees”.

2. Working Group PDRs

A Working Group PDR means that two or more Delegations have proposed a similar action to be taken in reference to the same item on the committee’s agenda. If this is the case, the Delegations must work together (and use their negotiation skills) to create a single PDR.

Article 41 of the rules of procedure describes how these working group PDRs are to be treated:

“Article 41 – Working Groups After Proposed Draft Resolutions are submitted, at the discretion of the faculty reviewer(s), two or more PDRs may be considered appropriate for a Working Group. In this case, Delegations in the Working Group will caucus together to produce a joint proposal in the form of a co-sponsored PDR. The resulting Proposed Draft Resolution will now be co-sponsored by at least two, and perhaps more, Delegations.
PDRs produced by a Working Group require a total number of signatures equal to at least six Delegations, which includes the members of the Working Group (who are the co-sponsors), plus sufficient other co-signatories to total at least six Member States. Co-signatories to a Working Group PDR are bound by the provisions in Article 40.

Working Group Proposed Draft Resolutions, once prepared by the Delegations and signed by a Faculty Advisor from one of the Working Group Delegations, shall be reviewed by a Faculty Review Panel during the General Assembly.

Delegates assigned to a Working Group may not re-submit their original individual Proposed Draft Resolution. The members of the Working Group will select the primary presenter for the PDR; the primary presenter will give the Proponent Statement during debate on the PDR, and will normally respond to questions during the Question Period...

3. Amendments

By definition, an amendment implies a change made to a PDR with the purpose of improving it. When a Delegation proposes an amendment to another Delegation’s PDR, the intent is to change an operative clause (or a part of it) by adding, changing or deleting information. Amendments should not change the spirit of the PDR; they are used in a positive way to improve it.

Articles 58 to 62 of the rules of procedure describe the procedural treatment of the amendments during the debate in the standing committees.

Article 58 – Amendments. At any time during the consideration of a Proposed Draft Resolution, a motion may be made to amend it by a Delegate on the Speakers List speaking against the Proposed Draft Resolution. The text of proposed amendments must be submitted to the Rapporteur in legible writing, or printed, on an Amendment Form. Action on an amendment must be completed before the proponent of the amendment can use his or her allotted time on the Speakers List for speaking against the Proposed Draft Resolution. If the amendment fails, the Delegate may continue to use his or her allotted time on the Speakers List. Normally consideration of an amendment should be consistent with Articles 44 and ff., as appropriate. A simple majority is required to approve draft amendments.

Article 59 – Consideration of Multiple Amendments. When multiple amendments to a PDR or amendment are presented to the Chair in written form, the consideration of each draft amendment shall be undertaken consistent with the Speakers List. All Delegations, regardless of their status as co-sponsors or co-signatories, may vote in favor of draft amendments.
Article 60 – **Amendments and Co-Signatories.** The adoption of an amendment to a Proposed Draft Resolution releases co-signatory from their obligation to vote in favor of the proposal.

Article 61 – **Excluding Amendments.** A proposed amendment shall be considered by the Committee only when it constitutes an addition to, or deletion from, the PDR, or if it seeks to change part of the PDR. A motion that would totally change the original intent of the proposal or that is not directly related to it, shall not be approved for form and substance, at the discretion of the Chair. When a proposed amendment necessarily implies the exclusion of another previous amendment, as determined by the Chair, the newly proposed amendment shall not be put to consideration or a vote.

Article 62 – **“Friendly Amendments”**. All amendments must follow these procedures. No "friendly amendments" are permitted.

E. **PDR template**

The next pages illustrate a template for formatting a PDR. Please note the arrangement and placement of each section and follow the instructions on punctuation (in red) for formatting a PDR.

---

4 A friendly amendment is an amendment to a PDR under debate that is perceived by all delegates as an enhancement to the original PDR, but it only intends to clarify something, without amending anything relevant, which indeed may improve the PDR.
THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY, [followed by a comma]

SECTION HEADING: [followed by colon, then hard return]

[tab] “This is preamble. This is preamble. This is preamble. This is preamble. This is preamble. This is preamble. This is preamble. This is preamble. This is preamble. This is preamble. This is preamble. This is preamble. This is preamble. This is preamble. This is preamble. This is preamble. This is preamble. This is preamble. This is preamble. This is preamble.”; [ends in semi-colon, double return, space between clauses]

[tab] This is preamble. This is preamble. This is preamble. This is preamble. This is preamble. This is preamble. This is preamble. This is preamble. This is preamble. This is preamble. This is preamble. This is preamble. This is preamble. This is preamble. This is preamble. This is preamble. This is preamble. This is preamble. This is preamble. This is preamble. This is preamble. This is preamble. This is preamble. This is preamble. This is preamble. This is preamble. This is preamble. This is preamble. This is preamble. This is preamble. This is preamble. This is preamble. This is preamble. This is preamble. This is preamble; [ends in semi-colon, double return, space between clauses]

SECTION HEADING: [followed by colon, then hard return]

[tab] This is preamble. This is preamble. This is preamble. This is preamble. This is preamble. This is preamble. This is preamble. This is preamble. This is preamble. This is preamble. This is preamble. This is preamble. This is preamble. This is preamble. This is preamble. This is preamble. This is preamble. This is preamble. This is preamble. This is preamble. This is preamble. This is preamble. This is preamble. This is preamble. This is preamble. This is preamble. This is preamble. This is preamble. This is preamble. This is preamble. This is preamble. This is preamble. This is preamble. This is preamble. This is preamble; [ends in semi-colon, followed by the word “and” when the next to the last section, double return, space between clauses]

SECTION HEADING: [followed by colon, then hard return]

[tab] This is preamble. This is preamble. This is preamble. This is preamble. This is preamble. This is preamble. This is preamble. This is preamble. This is preamble. This is preamble. This is preamble. This is preamble. This is preamble. This is preamble. This is preamble. This is preamble. This is preamble. This is preamble. This is preamble. This is preamble. This is preamble. This is preamble. This is preamble. This is preamble. This is preamble. This is preamble. This is preamble. This is preamble. This is preamble. This is preamble. This is preamble. This is preamble. This is preamble. This is preamble. This is preamble, [final clause ends in comma]

RESOLVES: [followed by colon, then hard return]

1. This is an operative clause that ends in a period. Each single operative clause always ends in period.

2. This is one form of operative clause that requires sub-clauses, so this first part ends in a colon:
   a. This is a sub-clause within the operative clause ending with a period.
b. This is a sub-clause within the operative clause that requires more sub-clauses and so ends with a colon:
   i. These sub-clauses end in a period.
   ii. These sub-clauses end in a period.

c. This is a sub-clause within the operative clause ending with a period.

d. This is the last sub-clause within the operative clause that ends with a period.

3. This is a second form of operative clause that requires sub-clauses, so this first part ends in a colon:
   a. This is a sub-clause within the operative clause that ends with a semicolon;
   b. This is a sub-clause that requires more sub-clauses, so it ends in a colon:
      i. These sub-clauses end in a semi-colon;
      ii. These sub-clauses end in semi-colon, and as the second to last so has an “and”, and
      iii. This is the final sub-clause so ends in a semi-colon;
   c. This is sub-clause ends with a semicolon, and as the next to last so requires an “and”; and
   d. This is the last sub-clause that finishes this entire operative clause so ends with a period.

4. This is the final sub-clause.

Hit a hard return here and then insert “section break.” Cut and paste the signature segment below. Make sure it doesn’t end up alone on a page with no text.

Approved for form and substance: ____________________________________________
                                      (Signature of Faculty Advisor)

Cosignatories: 1. ___________________________________________________________
                                      (Signature of Delegate)                                       (Country Represented)

2. _______________________________________________________________
3. _______________________________________________________________
4. _______________________________________________________________
5. _______________________________________________________________
F. PDR sample

CONFERENCE ON THE PROTECTION OF MIGRANTS’ HUMAN RIGHTS IN THE AMERICAS

First Committee Topic No. 2 of the Agenda
Draft Resolution Presented by the Delegation of Saint Vincent and the Grenadines

THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY,

HAVING SEEN:

The Preamble of the Charter of the Organization of American States (OAS), which affirms that the States’ “welfare and their contribution to the progress and the civilization of the world will increasingly require intensive continental cooperation” and that “the historic mission of America is to offer to man a land of liberty, a favorable environment for the development of his personality and the realization of his just aspirations”;

Article 2 (f) of the OAS Charter, which establishes as one of its main purposes “To promote, by cooperative action, their economic, social, and cultural development”;

Article 3 (l) of the OAS Charter, which states that “The American States proclaim the fundamental rights of the individual without distinction as to race, nationality, creed, or sex”;

Article 45 of the OAS Charter, which declares that “All human beings, without distinction as to race, sex, nationality, creed, or social condition, have a right to material well-being and to their spiritual development, under circumstances of liberty, dignity, equality of opportunity, and economic security”;

Article 9 of the Inter-American Democratic Charter, which asserts that “The elimination of all forms of discrimination, especially gender, ethnic and race discrimination, as well as diverse forms of intolerance, the promotion and protection of human rights of indigenous peoples and migrants, and respect for ethnic, cultural and religious diversity in the Americas contribute to strengthening democracy and citizen participation”;

Article 15(a) of the Social Charter of the Americas, which stresses that “Member States recognize the contributions of indigenous peoples, afro-descendants, and migrant communities to the historical process of the Hemisphere and will promote recognition of their value”;

RECALLING:

AG/RES 2738 (XLII-0/12), “Strengthening the Topic of Migration in the OAS: Establishment of the Committee on Migration Issues”, which creates the Committee on Migration Issues as the main forum of the OAS in charge of the migratory subject under the Inter-American Council of Integral Development;
AG/RES. 2729 (XLII-O/12), “The Human Rights of Migrants, Including Migrant Workers and Their Families”, which reaffirms the importance of guaranteeing the protection of migrants’ human rights, including migrant workers and their families;

AG/RES. 2608 (XL-O/10), “Migrant Populations and Migration Flows in the Americas”, which emphasizes not only the importance of the discussion of migrant populations and migration flows in the Americas, but also the need for the analysis of migration causes and its impact on Member States;

APPLAUDING:

The efforts made by the OAS Migration and Development Program (MIDE) to promote migrants’ rights through the fostering of public policies, legislation and the exchange of better practices among Member States;

The progress made by the OAS Special Committee on Migration Issues (CEAM) in educating and promoting the benefits of migration for development, in respecting migrants’ human rights, and enhancing cooperation among Member States regarding migration issues;

The work developed by the Rapporteurship on the Rights of Migrants, of the Inter-American Commission on Human Rights (IACHR), through the promotion and generation of awareness among Member States on the migrants’ human rights;

TAKING INTO ACCOUNT:

The American Declaration on Rights and Duties of Man, which proclaims that all persons are equal under the law and have the same rights and duties yielded in such Declaration, without distinction as to race, sex, language, creed or nationality;

The American Convention on Human Rights, which recognizes that “the essential rights of man are not derived from one’s being a national of a certain State, but are based upon attributes of the human personality”;

The Plan of Action of the Fourth Summit of the Americas, held in Mar del Plata, Argentina in 2005, which states to strengthen and establish collaboration mechanisms among countries of origin, transit and destination of migrant workers in the Hemisphere in order to disseminate information about the labor rights of migrant workers;

The Declaration of the Fifth Summit of the Americas, held in Port of Spain, Trinidad and Tobago in 2009, which reaffirms the importance of fully protection of human rights of migrants regardless of their immigration status, and observance of the labor laws applicable to them, including the principles and labor rights embodied in the International Labor Organization (ILO) Declaration on Fundamental Principles and Rights at Work;

The Universal Declaration of Human Rights, which states that “everyone has the right to freedom of movement and residence within the borders of each state” and that “everyone
has the right to leave any country, including his own, and to return to his country” according to his will;

CONSIDERING:

That migration is a universal phenomenon, which constitutes a manifestation of integration processes and globalization, and should be examined from a multilateral and multidimensional perspective, including the social, economic, political and cultural spheres;

That Member States should work together in order to seek an effective solution for illegal migration, which constitutes one of the most serious and controversial concerns currently faced by the nations of the Americas;

That migrant workers usually move to countries with higher levels of development, in searching of better job opportunities, a better quality of life and to overcome adversity;

That the OAS plays a substantial role in the protection and promotion of migrant workers’ rights, providing support to the integration process; and

EMPHASIZING:

That every country in the Hemisphere is a country of origin, transit, destination, and/or return for migrants and has the authority to regulate the migration of persons entering its territory in accordance with its obligations under applicable international law, including international human rights law and international humanitarian law;

That migration policies and initiatives should promote comprehensive approaches that take into account the causes and consequences of the phenomenon of illegal migration in the Hemisphere, as well as the full respect for the human rights and fundamental freedoms of migrants,

RESOLVES:

1. To congratulate the Inter-American Council for Integral Development (CIDI) for the efforts and accomplishments made to promote genuine cooperation among Member States to achieve integral development, through the Committee on Migration Issues (CAM).

2. To encourage Member States to renew the commitments endorsed in the Cooperation Agreement signed in October 2009, between the OAS and the International Organization for Migration, regarding international Migration Law, Labor Migration, Combat Human Trafficking; Human Rights of Migrants; Democracy Strengthening, Education for Migrant Youth and Children.

3. To convene an “Inter-American Conference on the Protection of Migrants’ Human Right in the Americas”, that shall be arranged by the Department of Conferences and Meetings Management within six months since the approval of the present draft resolution.
4. To suggest that the Conference address but not be limited to:

   a) An in-depth discussion of the current situation of migration in the Hemisphere, recognizing the magnitude of migration on citizens and its development impacts.

   b) The importance of the application of effective instruments to ensure the protection of migrants’ human rights, including migrant workers and their families, with special emphasis on migrant women, children, and adolescents, regardless of their immigration status.

   c) The urgent need of cooperation among Member States, through treaties and institutions involved, towards a future harmonization of legislation on migration.

   d) The significance of database design for accurate and updated information on migration to foster the strengthening of institutional capacities, cooperation activities, and the exchange of best practices among States.

   e) Member States’ support to the Temporary Work Programs and Education of Migrant Children and Youth, both initiatives of the MIDE, by facilitating migrants and their families an easy access to work without distinction.

5. To request the IACHR to participate in the preparation of the Conference by offering its experience in this field.

6. To instruct the CEAM to prepare a report about the main causes of migration in order to understand international flows of people by identifying the connections between the social, economic, political and cultural factors related to them and to discuss it in the proposed Conference.

7. To invite all Member States, Permanent Observers, Governmental Organizations (GO’s) and Non-Governmental Organizations (NGO’s) dealing with these issues to participate in this Conference.

8. To request the Secretary General to produce a report on the Conference results that will be presented to the next General Assembly and to publish it in the OAS website.

9. To fund this Conference with resources allocated in the CIDI’s budget.

Approved for form and substance

(Signature of Faculty Advisor)

Cosignatories:

1. _________________________
   (Signature of Delegate)                  (Country Represented)

2. _________________________

3. _________________________

4. _________________________

5. _________________________
V. Guidance on debating PDRs

A. Standard Modus Operandi for Delegates and Officers to debate PDRs

The following is a basic explanation of the *modus operandi* of a WMOAS debate⁵. This tool, together with the rules of procedure, among other documents, will help you to understand how the sessions are conducted.

Different colored fonts in the following paragraphs help to explain the date: RED represents the Chair’s dialogue, BLUE the Delegate’s dialogue and in Italics, you will find some clarifications.

Chair:

Good Morning Delegates, the _______ Committee opens its session.

Rapporteur, please call the roll.

The rapporteur will call the roll according to the order of precedence and when his/her country is mentioned, the Delegate answers:

Delegate:

Present and voting

At this point, the Chair and/or Rapporteurs must check if there is a quorum to debate. At least 2/3 of the registered Delegations must be present and voting for debate to proceed.

At this time the Chair moves to explain the *modus operandi* approved in the Plenary Session, which is based on:

- Three minutes for the main presentation.
- Three questions (with only one extension on the Question Period allowed).
- Three speeches in favor and three speeches against (no more than two minutes each).
- And the same procedure for amendments.

Generally, the aforementioned *modus operandi* is the traditional one. However, it may change, depending on what the General Assembly has approved in the Plenary Session, the schedule and the available time.

Chair:

⁵ These sentences are not mandatory. They represent a general or basic structure of a debate.
The Chair moves now to vote on the *modus operandi* for the present session.

All Delegations that wish to vote in favor, please raise your placards at this time. *(The Chair counts the votes.)*
All those Delegations that wish to vote against, please raise your placards at this time. *(The Chair counts the votes.)*

The modus operandi passes by:
- _______ Votes in favor.
- _______ Votes against
- Or by acclamation.

The first resolution to debate is: ___PDR’s Title____ presented by the Delegation of___________________.

Rapporteur, please, read the resolves.

**Chair:**

The Delegate of___________________ has three minutes now to introduce the present draft resolution.

*OR*

The Chair now recognizes the Delegation of___________________ to present its draft resolution. Delegate you have three minutes.

*OR*

The Delegation of___________________ is now recognized to speak for the draft resolution for no more than three minutes.

*The Delegate stands and starts his/her speech. If the Delegation’s speech is shorter than 3 minutes, the Delegate should state the following phrase at the end of the speech:*

The Delegation of___________________ would like to yield its remaining time to the Chair.

*Once the proponent speech has concluded, the Delegate who has presented the PDR remains standing and the chair calls for questions.*

**Chair:**

Are there any questions for the Delegation of___________________?

*OR*
Is there any question on the floor to the Delegation of ________________?

Delegate of ________________ (the Chair chooses three Delegates, according to the approved modus operandi). Then the Chair gives the word to the first Delegate, and this Delegation must stand up.

Chair:

To what point does the Delegate rise?

Delegate 1:

The Delegation of ________________ wishes to ask/propose a question to the Delegation of ________________.

Chair:

That’s in order. Proceed.

*If the period of time is limited, the chair may simply invite the Delegate to state the question directly:*

Chair:

Delegation of ________________, state your question directly to the Delegation of ________________

*In both cases, once the Chair gives permission, the Delegate asks the question in a question form.*

Chair:

Does the Delegate of ________________ understand the question and wish to respond?

Delegate 2:

Yes, Chair. (The Delegate answers the question.)

OR

No Chair, would the Delegate repeat/rephrase the question?

*In the second case, the Chair will invite the Delegate with the question to repeat or rephrase the question asked and will repeat the previous step. Once the question is
understood, the Chair will give permission to the other Delegation to answer it, and will continue.

Chair:

Delegate of ____________, did the Delegation of ____________ answer your question?

Delegate 1:

Yes, thank you Chair.

OR

No Chair, would the Delegation of ____________ repeat/rephrase the answer?

In this case, the Chair will ask the responding Delegate to repeat/rephrase the answer.

(If the same Delegate would like to ask another question, he/she may say “May the Delegation ask a follow up question?”. Then the Chair decides to give him/her the word or not. Follow up questions must be linked to the immediate question asked before. The Chair will not accept unrelated questions at this point.

The Chair will repeat the same procedure in each case with the Delegates chosen at the outset of questioning.

Once the question period is exhausted, the Chair could call for motions.

Chair:

Is there any motion on the floor? (If several Delegates raise their placards the Chair will choose one of them.)

Delegate of ________________?

Delegate:

The Delegation of ________________ would like to propose a motion to extend the questions by X number of questions. (In the event that the Delegate does not mention how many questions for which s/he requests the extension, the Chair must ask him/her for that information.)

Chair:

Is there a second to this motion? Any objection?
If there is an objection, the Chair must move to vote on the motion, which will be approved by a simple majority. If there are no objections, the Chair will continue. It is understood that the motion passes without voting on it.

Chair:

The question period is now extended by _____ questions. (The Chair repeats the previous procedure.)

Once the question period is exhausted,

Chair:

Is there any objection to passing this resolution by General Consensus? (The Chair waits the Delegates’ answer. Generally, there are objections, allowing the PDR to be debated.)

Seeing there is an objection, the Chair now moves to open/create a Speakers’ List. All those Delegates who wish to speak in favor of the present draft resolution please raise the placards.

The Delegations raise their placards and the Chair chooses 3 Delegations (according to the approved modus operandi) to speak in favor and recognizes them.

Chair:

Those Delegations who wish to speak against (or in opposition) to the present draft resolution, please, raise your placards at this time.

The Delegations raise their placards and the Chair chooses 3 Delegations (according to the approved modus operandi) to speak against and mentions them out loud. It is important to keep a balance with an equal number in favor and opposed. If this does not happen, the Chair will ask for speeches in order to keep the balance:

If a Delegation does not want to speak, but offers himself/herself to keep the balance, at the moment that the Chair gives him/her the word the answer will be:

Delegate:

As the Delegation of __________ has raised its placard in the spirit of diplomacy, this Delegation yields its time back to the Chair.

Having said this, the Delegation will not be forced to vote according to the speaker list in which he/she has been included; it is just a diplomatic action.

Chair:
The Delegation of _____ has two minutes to speak in favor of the present draft resolution (or to speak against of the present draft resolution).

OR

At this time, the Chair recognizes the Delegation of_________ to speak in favor/against the present draft resolution for two minutes.

If the Delegations speak for less than the 2 assigned minutes, they should remember to yield the remaining time back to the Chair. The Chair will choose one in favor and then one against, and respect that sequence until all of the chosen Delegations have spoken.

Amendments

To present an amendment, the Delegate must get on the speakers’ list against the PDR and send a written amendment to the Chair. The Delegate should send the amendment to the Chair before s/he opens the speaker’s list. The Chair must approve the amendment for form and substance. Then the Chair recognizes the Delegation and the Delegate presents the amendment:

Delegate:

The Delegation of _______________ has presented an amendment.

Chair:

The amendment passes in form and substance. Rapporteur please read the amendment.

OR

The amendment does not pass in form and/or substance. The Delegation may choose between yielding its time back to the Chair or speaking against the PDR.

If the amendment is approved by the Chair for form and substance, the Chair will ask the Rapporteur to read the amendment. An amendment that would significantly change the original intent of the Proposed Draft Resolution or that is not directly related to it, shall not be approved in substance at the discretion of the Chair.

Next, the Chair asks if the Amendment proposed is clear. If not, the Chair will ask the Rapporteur to read it again.

The procedure for the amendment is usually the same as that used for debate of a PDR (3 questions, 3 speeches in favor and 3 against). If a different procedure is to be used, such a procedure must be explained in the Inaugural Plenary Session.
An amendment may likewise be amended. In this case, there will be an amendment of the amendment and the procedure will be the same. Therefore, the Chair and the Vice Chair must carefully monitor the debate process so as not to lose track of the development of the debate.

Once the question period and the speaker list are exhausted, the Chair invites the Delegates to vote for the presented amendment.

Chair:

All Delegations that wish to vote in favor of the present amendment please raise the placards at this time. (The Chair counts the votes.)

All Delegations that wish to vote against the amendment please raise your placards at this time. (The Chair counts the votes.)

Any abstention? Abstentions? (The Chair counts the votes.)

The amendment passes by _________ votes in favor. _________ Votes against and _________ abstentions

OR

With ____________ votes in favor, ______________ votes against and no abstentions this amendment fails/or does not pass.

In the event that there is an abstention, the Chair must request the Delegation explain its abstention.

The Chair now recognizes the Delegation of __________________ to explain its abstention.

Once the debate on the amendment has ended, the regular debate continues with the next speaker in the original list.

If the amendment passes, the Delegates and the Chair will refer to the as the “amended PDR”. If the PDR has been amended, the Chair will inform the co-signatories that they are released from voting in favor of the amended PDR.

Chair:

Returning to the original Speakers’ List, at this time the Chair recognizes the Delegation of____________________ to speak in favor of the amended PDR.

Once the speaker list is exhausted, the Chair continues:

Chair:
At this time, the speaker list is exhausted, is there any motion on the floor?

A motion to extend the Speakers’ List by one or two in favor and against (the balance must continue) may be made at this point.

Likewise, a motion may be made for a moderated caucus for a specific period of time. Both motions must be seconded, but if there is any objection, there must be a vote on the motion that must be approved by simple majority.

In the case of a Moderated Caucus, the Chair must open and guide the debate. The objective of this exercise is to facilitate the exchange of views and questioning. Every time a Delegate wishes to speak, he/she must raise his/her placard and wait for the Chair to give him/her the word. It is important to mention that a Moderated Caucus may be proposed at the end of the question period and at the end of the Speakers List, when the Chair asks if there is any motion on the floor.

Chair:

With ____________ votes in favor and ____________ votes against, the motion passes. At this time, a moderated caucus of _________ minutes and ________ seconds begins.

The Delegates raise their placards and the Chair chooses the speakers as s/he also monitors the time granted for each to speak. Once concluded, the Chair continues:

Chair:

At this time the moderated caucus is exhausted, is there any motion on the floor? (The Chair waits and continues) Seeing none, the Chair now moves to a vote on the present (amended) draft resolution presented by the Delegation of_____________________. (In case the PDR is amended, the Chair will mention both Delegations.) The Chair would like to remind the co-signatories that they are released from a vote in favor of the present amended PDR. (In the event of an amended PDR.)

All Delegations that wish to vote in favor/for the present draft resolution/amended draft resolution, please raise your placards.

All those opposed?

Abstentions?

The resolution passes/fails by ____________ votes in favor, ____________ votes against and ____________ abstentions (or by acclamation).
Congratulations Delegate of _________________ (For a resolution that passes.)  
If the PDR is an amended PDR, the Chair will have to mention both Delegations.  
If a Delegation has chosen to abstain, the Chair must ask for an explanation:  

The Chair asks the Delegation/s of _________________ to explain its abstention.  

The Delegate stands up and explains briefly the abstention.  

Is there any motion on the floor?  

The Chair will ask this question throughout the debate process as a way to regulate the debate. At the end of the debate, this question will allow the Delegates to introduce the following motions:  

The Delegation of ________ would like to propose a motion to suspend the debate for _______ minutes/hours.  

OR  

The Delegation of ________ would like to propose a motion to adjourn the debate until next session.  

In both cases, the Chair will ask for a second.  

The Chair or a Delegate may make a motion to suspend or adjourn the debate including at the completion of debate on the packet of resolutions. These motions must be seconded and are approved by a simple majority.  

To close the debate, the motion must be approved by 2/3 majority.  

If none of these motions are presented, the debate will continue and the Chair will present the next PDR.  

Chair:  

The next resolution up for debate is _________________ presented by the Delegation of _________________.  

Immediately after that announcement, there shall be an interim caucus session, to last no longer than three minutes. During the interim caucus session, Delegates will remain in the committee’s meeting room but may switch seats with their alternate Delegate. At the conclusion of the caucus session, Delegates will return to order immediately, to begin the discussion of the announced PDR, or to propose reconsideration of a tabled PDR.
The following table summarizes the main motions and voting procedures serve to organize debate.

**Table 3 Motions and Voting procedures**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Art.</th>
<th>Motion</th>
<th>Debatable</th>
<th>Approval</th>
<th>Other considerations</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>20</td>
<td>Consider a matter referred to the General Committee</td>
<td>No</td>
<td>2/3</td>
<td>-</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>26</td>
<td>Adopt or change the General Assembly Agenda</td>
<td>No</td>
<td>2/3</td>
<td>-</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>37</td>
<td>Approve a PDR with funding from the OAS budget</td>
<td>Yes</td>
<td>2/3</td>
<td>Debatable in their respective committees</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>42</td>
<td>Quorum</td>
<td>No</td>
<td>2/3</td>
<td>Attendance, not a motion</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>48</td>
<td>Limit / end the question period</td>
<td>No</td>
<td>2/3</td>
<td>-</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>48</td>
<td>Extend the question period</td>
<td>No</td>
<td>2/3</td>
<td>Only one extension</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>53</td>
<td>Extend the speakers list</td>
<td>No</td>
<td>1/2</td>
<td>-</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>55</td>
<td>Appeal Chair’s decision</td>
<td>No</td>
<td>1/2</td>
<td>-</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>56</td>
<td>Suspension of debate on a PDR</td>
<td>Yes</td>
<td>1/2</td>
<td>Tables the PDR</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>56</td>
<td>Take item from table</td>
<td>No</td>
<td>1/2</td>
<td>Only when no PDR is being considered</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>57</td>
<td>Close the debate</td>
<td>Yes</td>
<td>2/3</td>
<td>Moves to vote the matter being considered</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>58</td>
<td>Amend a PDR</td>
<td>Yes</td>
<td>1/2</td>
<td>May be made on the speakers list speaking against</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>63</td>
<td>Withdraw or reintroduce a PDR</td>
<td>No</td>
<td>Consensus</td>
<td>Only in the case of working group PDRs</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>64</td>
<td>Reconsider earlier votes</td>
<td>No</td>
<td>2/3</td>
<td>If roll call vote, only delegations that have voted affirmative</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>65</td>
<td>Suspend the session</td>
<td>No</td>
<td>1/2</td>
<td>For a specified amount of time</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>65</td>
<td>Adjourn the session</td>
<td>No</td>
<td>1/2</td>
<td>Until next scheduled meeting</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>66</td>
<td>Challenge Chair’s decisions</td>
<td>Yes</td>
<td>1/2</td>
<td>One speaker for and one against, no extension</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>69</td>
<td>Other motions</td>
<td>-</td>
<td>1/2</td>
<td>-</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>70</td>
<td>Approve PDRs</td>
<td>Yes</td>
<td>1/2</td>
<td>-</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>73</td>
<td>Vote by parts</td>
<td>No</td>
<td>1/2</td>
<td>-</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

*Note: There cannot be Roll Call votes on procedural motions*
B. More procedures

- One possible situation that has not been mentioned before was the Unmoderated Caucus. When the Chair asks, “Is there any motion on the floor?”, the Delegates may propose an unmoderated caucus. In this case, the Chair will ask for the extension of the caucus, and will open the unmoderated caucus, where the Delegates may stand up and talk to each other with no need to raise placards. The Chair will control the time and will ask the Delegates to return to their seats once the time is exhausted.

- No Delegate shall speak without being recognized by the Chair. The Chair shall call on Member States in the order in which they show their desire to speak when there are many simultaneous requests. The Chair shall bring to the attention of the Delegate if the remarks made are not relevant to the subject under consideration or if the speaker has exceeded the allowed speaking time. If speaking time remains at the conclusion of a speech, the Delegate must yield his/her remaining time to the Chair.

- **Closing debate**: At any point during the debate, the Chair or Vice-Chair may present a motion to close the debate. Or, any Delegate may propose that debate be closed.

- A motion to suspend the session/debate, recesses the current meeting for an amount of time specified by the one who has presented the motion. This procedural motion shall be put to a simple majority vote immediately and without discussion.

- A motion to adjourn ends the committee session until the next scheduled meeting. This procedural motion shall be put to a simple majority vote immediately and without discussion.

- After the voting on a Proposed Draft Resolution or amendment has ended, any Delegate may request the floor, via a Point of Order, in order to give a brief explanation of the Delegation’s vote.

- Another tool that the Delegations may use is the point of information, whenever they have a doubt about a procedure or a situation happening during the session. The Chair will give the word to the Delegate who has request it, and s/he will explain the concern.

- In the event that a Delegate arrives late to a the session, when the Chair asks if there is any motion on the floor, another Delegate may make a motion to recognize the other Delegation with voice but no vote, considering that he/she has lost part of the debate for being late. Such a motion is a gesture of diplomacy and gives the Delegation the possibility of showing the point of view of the nation regarding the topic that is being discussed.

- In session, communication among Delegates is limited to written notes and mobile or electronic devices are not allowed.