



MODEL OF THE ORGANIZATION OF AMERICAN STATES GENERAL ASSEMBLY

ASSIGNED COUNTRY PREPARATION

A. INTRODUCTION

The Model of the Organization of American States (MOAS) General Assembly is a simulation of the sessions that the OAS General Assembly holds according to the functions derived from its Charter. Student delegations from the participating universities represent a Member State, upholding the foreign policy positions of their assigned country regarding different topics on the hemispheric agenda.

As a diplomatic exercise, the MOAS includes the general debate held in the General Assembly, along with the negotiations and work in the corresponding committees. Likewise, the Model is the most effective means of the Inter-American System to spread the OAS activities and functions among the students of the hemisphere, fostering a real cultural integration across the continents.

The main objective of this document is to create a framework of general information to be taken into consideration as each team prepares to represent its assigned country, according to the rules of procedure and general standards of the WMOAS.

B. TOPICS

In general, country preparation should include the following:

- **Domestic policy and internal affairs.** Students should learn about their assigned country's political and administrative organization, as well as the most significant issues on the country's domestic agenda – economic, social, and political. This should include a thorough examination of the country's constitution as well as its political system. Understanding domestic policy and internal affairs is essential to understanding a country's positions in regards to regional and hemispheric agendas. Information from the governments' official websites will be very useful.



➤ **Foreign Policy and external affairs.** There are several topic areas that should be covered:

- First, the regional agenda, which describes political and economic relations between a team's assigned country and its neighbors. Included here are bilateral and regional economic and security agreements. Students should gain insight into how their assigned country negotiates as well as that country's main foreign policy priorities in the region. Remember that foreign policy is strongly related to domestic politics.
- Second, the hemispheric agenda. What is important here is the position that the country will assume, in reference to the main points of the hemispheric agenda, but in accordance with a common position (if it's possible) with its partners or neighbors. The best example of this is the FTAA negotiation process, in which the MERCOSUR countries stated their opposition to the process led by the United States and other countries. Another example is CARICOM's position in regards to a specific situation that might affect a country in that region.
- Third, the participation of the country in OAS activities and regional organizations. Once the student has studied the country's foreign relations, he/she would be ready to research about its participation in OAS activities, the OAS main program achievements affecting it (or not) and the alliances that the country could develop in order to reinforce its position in particular situations as well.

In foreign policy, areas to be considered as a priority include those related, but not limited, to the following topics:

1. Political Relations
2. Economic Relations (Trade, investments, financial affairs)
3. Defense and national security
4. Educations, science and technology
5. Environmental issues
6. Functional Cooperation in other areas, such as human rights, democracy, the fight against corruption, etc.



C. METHODOLOGY AND MATERIALS

There are lots of sources for information to help students learn about their assigned country. Theoretical classes are useful as well as on line sources such as the Lecture Series of the Americas, which is available on the OAS web site.

Likewise, the WMOAS site includes links to official and non-governmental organizations with up-dated and detailed information related to the hemisphere. OAS official documents, also found on the WMOAS site, as well as the OAS site, are fundamentally important tools for understanding the OAS structure and its main functions. The following are some suggested sources:

Official documents:

- Charter of the OAS
- Inter-American Democratic Charter
- Additional protocol to the American convention on human rights in the area of economic rights
- American convention on human rights
- American declaration of the rights and duties of men.
- American treaty on pacific settlement
- Guidelines for civil society participation in OAS
- Inter-American Convention against corruption
- Inter-American Convention against terrorism
- Inter-American Convention on elimination discrimination disabilities
- Inter-American convention on external judgment
- Inter-American convention on returning children
- Inter-American convention on transparency weapons
- Inter-American Convention to eradicate violence against women
- Inter-American convention to prevent torture
- Inter-American convention on disappearance of persons



- Organization chart of the OAS
- Protocol To The American Convention on Human Rights To Abolish The Death
- Statute Of The Inter-American Commission on HR
- TIAR

Web sites:

- Organization of American States: www.oas.org
- Inter-American Development Bank: www.iadb.org
- Economic Commission for Latin America and the Caribbean: www.eclac.cl
- Inter-American Dialogue: www.thedialogue.org
- The Institute for the Integration of Latin America and the Caribbean: www.iadb.org/intal
- Canadian Foundation for the Americas: www.focal.ca
- The Carter Center: www.cartercenter.org
- Centre for Latin American Monetary Studies: www.cemla.org
- Migration Policy Institute: www.migrationpolicy.org
- Transparency International: www.transparency.org
- The United Nations Conference on Trade and Development: www.unctad.org
- Amnesty International: www.amnesty.org
- The United Nations Organization: www.un.org
- World Bank: www.worldbank.org
- International Monetary Fund: www.imf.org
- Council on Hemispheric Affairs: www.coha.org
- The United Nations Environment Program: www.pnuma.org
- American Enterprise Institute for Public Policy Research: www.aie.org
- Center for Strategic and International Studies: www.csis.org
- Institute for International Economics: www.iie.org
- The Latin American and the Caribbean Economic System: www.sela.org



- Initiative for the Integration of Regional Infrastructure in South America: www.iirsa.org
- Council of the Americas: www.counciloftheamericas.org
- Council on Foreign Relations: www.cfr.org