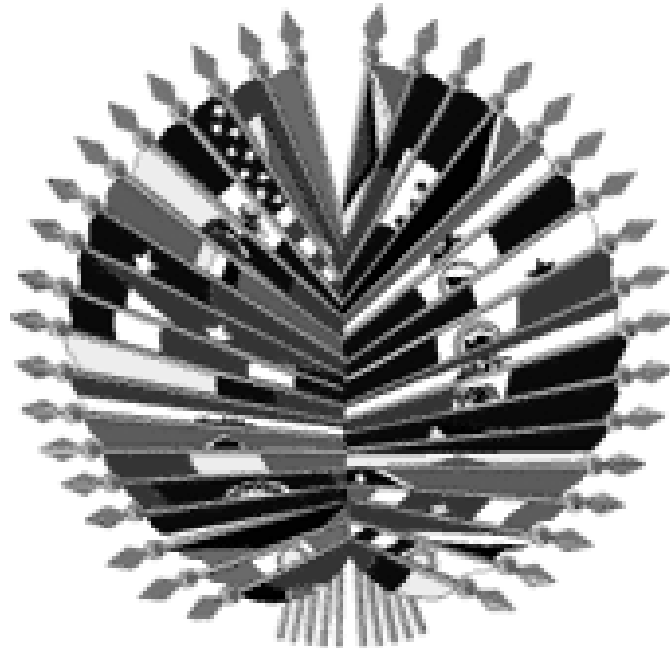


**2022 Washington Model Organization of  
American States General Assembly**

# **Opening Statements**



## **OPENING STATEMENT DELEGATION OF MEXICO**

**Head Delegate:** Pedro Londoño

Fellow Delegates, Faculty, Organizers, and everyone present in the Washington Model of the Organization of American States this year. Please receive a very warm greeting from the Delegation of Mexico, us, from Universidad Pontificia Bolivariana, from both the city of Bucaramanga and the city of Medellín, Colombia, are more than excited to share this event and this opportunity with all of you. We are particularly thrilled to have this first encounter with diplomacy and to try and solve, even if it's just a small part, the issues that our continent faces on a daily basis. For us, the students, as citizens of today and tomorrow, in the adversity that the Covid-19 pandemic has caused, this experience has a main purpose, to create leaders in the Americas that believe in a brighter and easier future than those who came before us.

Please know that we truly cannot wait to meet each one of you either virtually or on-person and begin this adventure that comes upon us.

Let's go change the World!!

## OPENING STATEMENT VENEZUELA

“When dictatorship is a fact, revolution becomes a right”.

These words were spoken in the nineteenth century by the famous French poet Victor Hugo. Today, this delegation reclaims them because they are representative of what Venezuela is currently going through. This is a country that has suffered for over a decade due to a discouraging political, social and economic panorama caused by tyrants that refuse to recognize the massive damage they have caused throughout the years. People lack basic guarantees that ensure their human rights are respected and, consequently, the world has witnessed a vast migration of Venezuelans fleeing precarious conditions and heart-breaking situations. An overall devastating scenario that sometimes seems never ending.

However, contrary to what many may think, this is a delegation that has much to offer when it shows up to international cooperation venues, eager to contribute and work on innovative, life-changing proposals. Today, Venezuela is prepared to make a bet on alternatives related to aspects such as effective transitions towards renewable energy, research boosting in public health matters, technicalization of agriculture, education for the vulnerable, and many more that will surely impact communities positively for the long run.

Having said this, Venezuela is looking forward to refreshing ideas, cooperation, effective proposals and a rather fruitful couple of days that will hopefully guide member States into a stage of vast flourishing and progress for all.

Let's keep on working and growing collectively to achieve the many goals that are set on our nations agendas.

Thank you all.

**OPENING STATEMENT  
DELEGATION OF BELIZE  
WMOAS 2022**

Thank you Mr/Madam Chair,

In the past year, our world has faced many challenges. For many, the present and the future are bleak. However, the Delegation of Belize is convinced that “a better world is possible”. We believe, in spite of the challenges we face, *this is our hour and opportunity* to unify the world. In this respect, our hemisphere can provide leadership.

The Delegation of Belize has prepared several resolutions that address the burning issues of our time. This auspicious General Assembly will consider the following commitments, that are integral to the security of our hemisphere and the world: mitigating climate change, expanding the rights of Indigenous peoples, expanding educational access to impoverished communities, reversing the harmful impact of gender inequality, food security, and preparing for the next pandemic.

Mr. Chair and distinguished delegates, representing countries across the Americas, our delegation reaffirms our belief that the OAS, the oldest multilateral organization in the world, is significantly experienced, and is well equipped, to provide leadership. Our hemisphere has resolved civil wars and demonstrates that we embrace the work of global institutions and international rule of law.

Thank you, Mr. Chair, —We yield the rest of our time.

## **OPENING STATEMENT ECUADOR**

Honorable Chair, fellow delegates, distinguished guests,

I would like to thank Secretary General Luis Almagro, Dr. Joan Andorfer President of the IDDA, Professor Doug Freidman, and the faculty advisors for allowing us the opportunity to present our research and solutions to the rest of the present delegations.

Our delegation met at the Ecuadorian Permanent Mission to the OAS, and the Minister that today's leaders need to listen to and respond to this generation's innovative ideas, and their shared visions for the future. In that spirit, we offer the following reflections and call for action.

Since its establishment in 1948, the OAS' response towards the urgent issues in the Americas has not been adequate. The OAS member states have the incredible responsibility of advocating for those who are often overlooked in international relations and politics and this responsibility has not been acted upon. We need action.

We believe that it is completely fair to want more results to come from the countless conventions, accords, and initiatives that are discussed and discussed by the OAS.

It is more than fair to demand that human rights are protected.

It is more than fair to have the right to economic mobility.

It is more than fair to have equitable access to life saving vaccines.

But this is not the reality.

It is up to us as an organization to prioritize these basic human rights and actually do something about it. As American financier T. Boone Pickens once said "A plan without action is not a plan. It's a speech"

And we cannot afford to continue making speeches.

Thank you.

**OPENING STATEMENT  
DELEGATION OF THE REPUBLIC OF COSTA RICA**

Thank you, Mr. President,

To begin with, the delegation of the Republic of Costa Rica would like to recognize all Member States present in the current Assembly for reaffirming their commitment to international cooperation.

The values that the OAS upholds take greater dimension in light of the events that the world is facing. International dialogue and diplomacy have historically been powerful tools to overcome conflict, and this delegation hopes that in these times of uncertainty, cooperation will allow the Hemisphere to build bridges, to make collective decisions and to lead the way towards a peaceful tomorrow.

This delegation firmly believes that today's challenges not only require strong bonds between states, but also among citizens and their common home: the earth. For that reason, the delegation of Costa Rica is deeply concerned about key hemispheric issues, such as climate change, contamination, energy security and health related threats.

The systemic pressure on the environment has never been higher. This is the time to confront these issues with a sustainable approach that can provide future generations with possibilities for social and economic development. Nevertheless, there are still human rights challenges that need to be addressed in order to ensure that these possibilities extend to all people of the Americas equally, hoping to build more prosperous, democratic, and just societies across the Hemisphere.

With that in mind, this delegation will assume its commitment towards these topics in accordance with this year's agenda, hoping to find all Member States support to address these issues as a joint hemispheric effort.

Thank you, Mr. President for the time and fellow delegates for your kind attention.

## **OPENING STATEMENT DELEGATION OF TRINIDAD AND TOBAGO**

Greetings Honorable Chairs and Fellow Delegations. As all of planet Earth inches towards a projected catastrophic future due to accelerating climate change, The Delegation of Trinidad and Tobago wishes to congratulate all Member States for establishing their intended Nationally Determined Contributions (NDCs) and for signing the Paris Agreement; determined to keep global average temperatures to below 2 °C above the pre-industrial level. The delegation of Trinidad and Tobago also wishes to bring to the attention of all Member State that it is imperative to pay attention to amplifying the use of photosynthetic strategies to mitigate climate change due to increased carbon dioxide emissions. Photosynthesis has been on planet Earth for approximately 3.5 billion years and captures carbon dioxide from the environment. It is also vital in making energy available to almost all life forms.

The Delegation of Trinidad and Tobago not only wishes to speak about the ancient biological process of photosynthesis, but also about the need for Member States to continue making deliberate efforts to preserve the ancient cultures of the Americas. That is, promoting the rights of indigenous peoples. All groups that form Earth's diverse human gene pool should be viewed as valuable and treated with equity. "Promoting and fostering diverse forms of participation strengthens democracy."

The Delegation of Trinidad and Tobago also wishes to look on the current page of Earth's history. That is, on the matter of the COVID-19 pandemic, that has, and continues to greatly impact all Member States. Many lessons have been learned in the present era, including the need for Member States to "extend among themselves the benefits of science and technology."

The Delegation of Trinidad and Tobago comes in peace and embraces continued unity among all Member States, as together the focal point remains to charter a brighter future for all.

## **OPENING STATEMENT**

### **DOMINICAN REPUBLIC**

The Dominican Republic, as one of the founding members of the Organization of American States (OAS), is pleased to support the mission of the OAS and its four pillars: Democracy, Integral Development, Hemispheric Security, and Human Rights. In the spirit of cooperation, this Delegation will work with fellow Member States to foster a greater sense of security for all citizens throughout the Hemisphere and to guarantee more rights for more people.

President Luis Abinader's administration remains dedicated to the pillars of the OAS. The Dominican Republic has welcomed more refugees than any other Caribbean state and has provided food and lodging for 3,000 Ukrainian citizens stranded in the Dominican Republic. The president has also committed to increasing transparency in all areas including supporting a free and independent press, an independent attorney general, as well as the equitable distribution of vaccines. The Dominican Republic is working toward reducing reliance on coal and oil and incentivizing the use of renewable power. The Abinader administration has pledged to reduce income inequality, expand civil registration, and develop models of ecological production. The Dominican Republic has implemented the National Vaccination Plan and has worked with the Pan American Health Organization to track immunization and mortality rates using the Dominican Republic Expand Program on Immunization. This Delegation, in line with President Abinader's leadership, is committed to multilateral cooperation to ensure more rights for more people.



## OPENING STATEMENT BRAZIL

The Delegation of Brazil welcomes this opportunity to engage in dialogue with our fellow Member States. Just as importantly, the Delegation welcomes the opportunity to turn dialogue into action, to bring about change and achieve the lofty goals of the OAS, including economic growth, social and political inclusion, and sustainable development.

Brazil seeks to cooperate with fellow Member States to invest in ourselves—in our hemispheric energy security, or health care and education systems, and our incorporation of all on the basis of universal human rights.

Today, Member States have an opportunity to invest in the inclusion of those among us who need it most—refugees and migrants fleeing tyranny and repression. And we have an opportunity to invest in the inclusion of our indigenous peoples, who deserve every opportunity to benefit from the economic growth and development all member states seek. Let us be an example of freedom and opportunity to the world.

Member States also have an opportunity to invest in the health and education of our people. Education is the only way to ensure that social and economic inclusion are permanent. Health care is the only way to ensure that human security and opportunity are guaranteed. We must commit to education, to scientific and technological innovation, to the development of new vaccines and the universal distribution of existing ones.

Brazil is proud to be a democracy that balances freedom with responsibility. The Delegation from Brazil upholds the right to independent speech and press freedom while simultaneously emphasizing the need to prevent hate speech. Brazil supports the self-expression of all of its citizens when it comes to gender identity, while also acknowledging the necessity of decisions being made at a mature age of consent.

Finally, Brazil encourages Member States to take this opportunity to invest in regional integration. Partnering with governments and businesspeople throughout the hemisphere, Brazil aims to advance regional energy security through initiatives such as hydroelectric joint ventures and energy grid integration. Meanwhile, Brazil also seeks the integration of hemispheric disease prevention efforts, health education campaigns, and vaccine development initiatives in partnership with the private sector. Let us move forward together.

**OPENING STATEMENT**  
**DELEGATION OF THE UNITED STATES OF AMERICA**

Honorable Secretary General, Mr. President and fellow delegations,

The Delegation of the United States of America is eager to be participating in this year's General Assembly and is excited to fruitfully join the upcoming debates. To that end, this delegation's statement will be delivered based on the four pillars of the Organization of American States as stated in its fundamental charter.

In regards to the consolidation of representative democracy, the United States has tirelessly worked to promote it throughout the Hemisphere, being a model to the strengthening of electoral processes understanding that the right to universal suffrage is a cornerstone of the democratic system and the role of the Department of Electoral Cooperation and Observation is at the utmost importance. The United States supports OAS electoral observation efforts as guardians of free and fair elections. Additionally, democracy has been challenged by the discrimination of indigenous population and their political rights, that's why the current U.S. administration is committed to advancing the protection, support and prosperity of the tribal nations in the Americas.

In accordance to the human rights promotions, this delegation is glad to evaluate several topics in the matter. First, this delegation believes in fundamental rights and expects them to be honored whereas the situation of refugees, asylum seekers and stateless are an issue that must be tackled from collaboration among Member States and should be addressed by the roots. Second, protection for transitioning and transgender individuals from discrimination and violence should be at the top of any national and international agenda, since the United States recognizes that all persons are born free and equal in dignity and rights, and defends the creation of laws that combat discrimination based on sexual orientation. Last but not least, it should be mentioned the 20<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of the Inter - American Democratic Charter which emphasizes the respect for the freedom of the press, an asset that the U.S fully supports.

As Condoleezza Rice once said "The United States is willing to exert strong leadership to give diplomacy its very best chance to succeed".

Thank you!

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**OPENING STATEMENT**  
**REPUBLIC OF HONDURAS**

General Assembly,

Honorable Officers, distinguished delegates, Faculty Advisors, OAS and IDDA Directors and staff, observers, ladies and gentlemen: the Delegation of the Republic of Honduras has the honor to extend a fraternal greeting to all delegations.

The Republic of Honduras, with its cultural, social, and environmental richness, has constantly demonstrated its willingness to improve the standard of life of its people and of the country; it firmly believes on a much richer, safer, and inclusive continent through a constant search for cooperation and integration.

The commitment of the Republic of Honduras is to achieve better and effective environmental and social conditions.

The Republic of Honduras looks forward to provide protection of all the rights of every single person, including indigenous people, members of the trans community and journalists.

The Delegation of Honduras believes in the integral development of our societies; we are focused in guaranteeing electric supply and access to clean and potable water to our people, a target that we could achieve by working together with all the countries of the Hemisphere.

The Republic of Honduras once again emphasizes the importance of working together with each one of the Member States of the OAS in order to generate a more inclusive, developed, and innovative continent.

Thank you, Honorable Chair.

**OPENING STATEMENT**  
**ARGENTINA**  
**WMOAS 2022**

Since 1889, the Argentine Delegation has been part of the Organization of American States' Inter-American System. As a nation, Argentina has been willing to improve and create stability among our citizens, our allies, and future generations on our own, bilaterally and through membership in the OAS. We support the OAS' mission to maintain international peace and security, promote democracy and the economic and social advancement of all peoples, by promoting cooperation among nations. As the Delegation of Argentina stands here today, we are committed to progress as a nation and the success of the OAS, and we invite OAS member states to do the same.

1. Foremost, Argentina will continue to protect refugees, asylum seekers, and stateless people in the Hemisphere by securing internet access for educational purposes. Maintaining hemispheric security throughout all of the OAS member states is essential.
2. Allowing the indigenous community to have a voice and speak to how their contributions and ours can improve our relationship.
3. The entire Hemisphere deserves the right to stable nourishment and energy, which can be obtained through sustainable development.
4. Provide a platform to ensure open and continuing communication about regional and Hemispheric water resource management issues
5. To continue educating citizens on the importance of masks and COVID-19 regulations to improve our public health and economic growth throughout the pandemic.

The Argentine Delegation views these goals as vital to the success of the OAS. We look forward to collaborating with OAS members to make progress in these areas.

## **OPENING STATEMENT DELEGATION OF HAITI**

The Delegation of Haiti acknowledges and congratulates fellow Members States for their presence here at the 2022 Washington Model Organization of American States. The Delegation of Haiti commends the efforts that Member States have continue to contribute to resolving issues and believes cooperation is critical between OAS Members States to see success through hemispheric changes. The encouragement the Delegation of Haiti would like to continue to present through the worried climate change problems foreseen across the hemisphere. Along the numerous effects and ramifications related, the Delegation of Haiti further notes and encourage new projects to be presented on a real and accessible platform with concrete change in the region. The Delegation motivates states within the region to promote and protect the political rights of indigenous groups through and within the voting processes in each country. As well, the Delegation of Haiti has hopes that other Member States can find valuable lessons from the severe events over the past years to continue learning and grow stronger together to be prepared to face a more shared successful future. The Delegation hopes to further motivate Member States to educate the youth on the importance of vaccines. Finally, The Delegation of Haiti encourages the establishment of the Inter-American Organization for Future Pandemics as a liaison and sub-branch of the Pan-American Health Organization to further the OAS response and prevention of future pandemics. The Delegation of Haiti would like to commend Member States for their efforts and proposals brought to this year's model. It's time to work together as a hemisphere and as one to take pride in ensuring the progression of a more successful future for all. Thank you.

**OPENING STATEMENT  
DELEGATION OF THE REPUBLIC OF CHILE**

The Republic of Chile is honored to be among its esteemed peers to collaborate at the 2022 Model Organization of American States. In these uncertain times, the OAS remains a crucial forum to discuss the problems facing the western hemisphere. The Republic of Chile is eager to work in open collaboration with its fellow Member States.

During this assembly, the delegation from the Republic of Chile hopes to facilitate discussion and action pertaining to the human rights of all residents of the hemisphere. The Delegation also aspires to rebuild the hemisphere in the wake of the COVID-19 pandemic. In addition to this, the Delegation emphasizes the promotion of the rights of highly oppressed groups within the hemisphere. Finally, the Delegation plans to promote resource security within the hemisphere.

The Delegation of the Republic of Chile is proud to be a part of the discussions of these and other hemispheric issues to strengthen our continued commitment to democracy through diplomacy. If its goals are met, the 2022 General Assembly will propose, address, and pass resolutions that will make our hemisphere a better place for all of its residents. The Republic of Chile looks forward to working with other delegations in this assembly.

## **OPENING STATEMENT DELEGATION OF THE BAHAMAS**

Madame Chair, Secretary General, and esteemed delegates,

It is with joy and utmost honor to see all Member States sharing a room once again. The Covid-19 pandemic stole the privilege of in-person cooperation from the OAS, and the ability to be back here today despite the turbulent events occurring around the world is nothing short of a testament to the OAS's dedication to the furtherance of prosperity and freedom for all people in the hemisphere. In response to the agenda, the delegation of the Bahamas has prepared draft resolutions aiming to promote environmental sustainability by regulating the cruise industry; to further protect and promote the rights of young women, LGBTQIA+, and intersex people through candid and moderated discussion; to bolster hemispheric security by establishing information networks with the goal of preventing new pandemic like viruses; to encourage equitable opportunities in the hemisphere through the promotion of quality education and resource; and to end vaccine corruption via the implementation of a hemispheric regimen meant to fairly distribute the COVID-19 vaccine. The delegation of the Bahamas is filled with confidence that this week will be replete with fruitful deliberation as every delegation cooperates to address the most topical issues facing the hemisphere.

## **OPENING STATEMENT DELEGATION OF GUATEMALA**

Esteemed Chair and Fellow Delegates,

The motto of Guatemala is “Libre Crezca Fecundo,” meaning “Grow Free and Fertile.” The Delegation of Guatemala has experienced much growth in preparation for this General Assembly and is honored to have the opportunity to sow seeds of understanding, empathy, and change alongside all Delegations represented.

The Delegation of Guatemala will strive for cooperation while tackling such important issues as human rights, environmental sustainability, food insecurity, health and hemispheric travel. The Delegation of Guatemala will address these issues with the following aims:

To preserve and increase the rights of Indigenous Peoples by eliminating barriers to participation in educational and political pursuits;

To oppose deforestation and harm to the environment and to encourage citizens and local bodies to be anxiously engaged in efforts to protect the planet;

To increase vaccination rates across the hemisphere in order to protect and strengthen populations;

To fight food insecurity and create better systems to preserve and increase access to food storage; and

To use technology in order to simplify travel, thus strengthening the economy and cross-cultural interaction.

The Organization of American States not only provides a framework for fostering growth and freedoms but also creates opportunities through which ideas can be turned into interventions, differences can lead to discussion, and strangers can work side by side in order to achieve goals of hemispheric development. The Delegation of Guatemala is pleased to present proposals that will strengthen peace and security and promote development while respecting the sovereignty and independence of States.



## **OPENING STATEMENT DELEGATION OF BARBADOS**

The Delegation of Barbados is honored to join with its brothers and sisters in the hemisphere for this august meeting. Barbados is concerned with the increasing prices of food as are all Member States like Barbados who struggle with food security and are suffering as a result of supply chain problems cause by the Covid pandemic and now must face the possibility of huge spikes as a result of the war in Ukraine. We look forward to examining ideas that would stabilize the world market.

Barbados is concerned with a world and hemisphere that treats some countries as second-class citizens – with some getting life saving vaccines and other sent to the back of the line. This continued imperialist mentality is a concern for all of our countries that were victims and/or the creation of colonialism. Inequality is rising and must be confronted.

Barbados would like to see this body make progress on the political rights of indigenous people, climate change, and pandemic recovery and strengthening hemispheric health care. But of utmost importance in our hemisphere and in the world at large today is to strengthen democracy. Our commitment to democracy is primary and in the face of rising autocracy and dictatorship in the world and those that would abet it by cheating an scheming to stay in power, Barbados is prepared to wage battle.