

**2023 Washington Model Organization of
American States General Assembly**

Final Packet

General Committee



Washington Model
Organization of American States

Institute for Diplomatic Dialogue in the Americas



OAS

More rights for more people

April 3 - 7, 2023

**INTENSIFYING EFFORTS TO PREVENT AND COUNTERING
ALL FORMS OF FEMICIDE AGAINST WOMEN AND GIRLS**

General Committee
Draft Resolution Presented by the Delegation of Colombia

Topic No. 3 of the Agenda

THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY,

HAVING SEEN:

Article 106 of the Charter of the Organization of American States, in establishing the Inter-American Commission on Human Rights, affirms its duties “to promote the observance and protection of human rights and to serve as a consultative organ of the Organization in these matters,”

Article 1 of the Convention of the Belém Do Para, which explains that “violence against women shall be understood as any act or conduct, based on gender, which causes death or physical, sexual or psychological harm or suffering to women, whether in the public or the private sphere;”

Chapter II Article 5 of the Belém Do Para, which affirms: “every woman is entitled to the free and full exercise of her civil, political, economic, social, and cultural rights, and may rely on the full protection of those rights as embodied in regional and international instruments on human rights. The States Parties recognize that violence against women prevents and nullifies the exercise of these rights;”

The Declaration of Femicide of the Organization of American States, which calls on Member States to “enact laws or strengthen existing legislation on women’s empowerment and their right and freedom, so that women experiencing or threatened by violence may find effective and efficient ways to end such relationships and protect their lives”.

Chapter II of Article 6a of the Belém Do Para, which establishes “the right of every woman to be free from violence includes, among others;”

ACKNOWLEDGING:

That the United Nations Third Committee’s (Social, Humanitarian and Cultural) draft on elimination of all forms of femicide or femicide expressed alarming concerns that marital rape and other forms of violence against women are among the least punished in the world and re-affirms that tradition or religious custom do not exempt States from eliminating that violence, this was approved in a recorded majority vote;

The Declaration of Femicide of the Organization of American States, which recommended to state parties “that they develop and utilize data banks, research and statistics that enable them to assess the magnitude and problem of femicide in their countries and to monitor State progress and setbacks in this regard”;

That according to the United Nations Gender Equality Observatory for Latin America and the Caribbean, in 2021, 11 OAS Member States registered a rate equal to or greater than one victim of femicide or femicide per 100,000 women; and

RECOGNIZING:

That the main framework linked to International Human Rights Law is composed of the Convention for the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women (1979), and the Inter-American Convention on the Prevention, Punishment and Eradication of Violence against Women (Convention of Belém do Pará, 1994), the

first binding international instrument that recognize the right of women to live a life free from violence in both the public and private spheres;

Chapter III Article 7 of the Belém do Para affirms that “the States Parties condemn all forms of violence against women and agree to pursue, by all appropriate means and without delay, policies to prevent, punish and eradicate such violence,

RESOLVES:

1. To congratulate Member States for their development of new classifications for activities preventing and addressing gender equality, cases of violence, women’s empowerment, gender-based violence against women, peace and security.
2. To encourage Member States to increase coordination of gender-based violence prevention and response efforts among government agencies of the Hemisphere and with other stakeholders;
3. To establish an inter-agency working group and gender-based violence prevention and response activities with the rules of establishment and how to run the group specifically implemented by individual Member States, including, whereby the inter-agency working group will:
 - a. Alleviate potential duplication of effort by offering a forum for more effective exchanging of knowledge and best practices (including promising pilot/demonstration projects, effective tactics, successes and challenges in integrating gender-based violence into agency efforts, and the most efficient training modules).
 - b. Provide an opportunity to discuss improvements to program development and implementation and potentially assess how gender-based violence is addressed in current crises around the world.
4. To ensure greater collaboration amongst Member States and stakeholders such as the United Nations to intensify engagement and coordination with host governments by establishing sub-committees of the OAS that tackle such issues, noting that these sub-committees are critical to coordinate and leverage resources that ensure Member States avoid implementing duplicative programming and assist in strengthening its gender-based violence prevention and response programming.
5. To encourage Member States to integrate content on gender-based violence into existing agency programs, public and private companies, and multilateral and bilateral cooperation policies, including:
 - a. Asking agencies to integrate context on ways to prevent and respond to gender-based violence into their current operations, policies, trainings, and strategies as appropriate.
 - b. Developing gender alert mechanisms that detect violent contexts and generate immediate and targeted response measures.
 - c. Providing emergency care for victims of sexual violence and preventing pregnancy.
 - d. Providing access to health counseling and services, as well as short and long-term modern contraception, including emergency contraception.
6. To encourage Member States to ensure a special mechanism within the police force and/or prosecutor’s office in charge of cybercrime to identify cases of online sexual exploitation and other forms of online violence against women.

7. To suggest that the Member States seek funding to support initiatives from the World Bank, the International Monetary Fund, and the United Nations Development Program, all of which have previously funded programs to address gender-based violence among women, specifically femicide.

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

Cosignatories: 1. _____ (Signature of Delegate) _____ (Country Represented)
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**PREVENTING FEMICIDE AND GENDER BASED VIOLENCE
THROUGH EDUCATION-FOCUSED PUBLIC POLICES AND PUBLIC DIALOGUE**

General Committee
Draft Resolution Presented by the Delegation of Belize

Topic No. 3 of the Agenda

THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY,

HAVING SEEN:

Article 3 of the Inter-American Convention on the prevention, punishment and eradication of violence against women, which states that every woman has the right to be free from violence in both the public and private spheres;

Article 45(A) of the Charter of The Organization of The American States, which recognizes 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 2 of the Social Charter of the Americas, which states that “The Member states commit to promoting and to progressively realizing the full achievement of economic, social, and cultural rights and principles, through policies and programs that they consider are the most effective and appropriate for their needs, in accordance with their democratic processes and available resources”;

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”;

RECONGNIZING:

That, according to the World Health Organization, one in four women aged 15 and older in the Americas has physical and or sexual violence by an intimate partner in her lifetime;

The Economic Commission for Latin America and the Caribbean’s estimates that there were more than 4000 femicide in 2020 across 21 countries of Latin America and the Caribbean;

The Pan American Health Organization (PAHO) / World Health Organization (WHO) Regional Office for the Americas as part of efforts to monitor and assess progress in the implementation of the Regional Strategy and Plan of Action on Strengthening the Health System to Address Violence against Women, 2015–2025 (resolution no. CD54.9);

ACKNOWLEDGING:

The United Nation’s international campaign’s creation and implementation of the International Day for the Elimination of Violence Against Women campaign, 16 days (about 2 and a half weeks) of Activism against gender-based Violence in 2009;

The “Report on Violence and Discrimination against Women and Girls: Best Practices and Challenges in Latin America and the Caribbean” of the Inter-American Commission on Human Rights (IACHR), which declares that “Women also face barriers to obtaining proper access to education, information and sexual and reproductive health services, in a way that is impartial, timely and culturally appropriate”; and

BEARING IN MIND:

That, according to the World Health Organization, violence against women can lead to multiple health consequences in the short, medium and long term, and that the IACHR has identified women and girls in the region as facing a situation of discrimination and, as such, has prioritized its lines of action to promote and ensure their fundamental rights,

RESOLVES:

1. To congratulate the Inter-American Commission on Human Rights (IACHR) and the World Health Organization (WHO) for their ongoing efforts to protect human rights of women and girls across the Hemisphere.
2. To applaud member states for their ongoing efforts for the prevention and reduction of femicide and gender-based violence and social inequalities, especially in the most vulnerable regions of the Hemisphere, to improve people's quality of life.
3. To challenge the member states of the OAS to fully support national and regional public policies that seek to prevent femicide and gender-based violence, including those within the health system that advance strategic national health plans.
4. To recommend that member states adopt education-focused, evidence-based policies and protocols in the health sector designed to prevent femicide and gender-based violence, through:
 - a. Policies that strengthen the availability and use of evidence about violence against women among stakeholders and the public;
 - b. Regulatory frameworks that include access of women to health services, social security and psychosocial support with a gender and intersectionality perspective;
 - c. Policies that promote public education about femicide and gender-based violence as well as government approaches to these issues and those that are the victims of such violence;
 - d. Policies that incorporate health education and health promotion activities with patients that incorporate discussions about human rights and harmful physical, social and emotional consequences associated with violence; and
 - e. Policies that ensure coordination and collaboration between the various stakeholders and support services, including law enforcement and social services as well as civil society organizations;
5. To call on Member States to hold public information sessions and workshops to educate persons living in their respective nations on the impacts of gender-based violence and how they can participate in their respective member state's health system for the betterment of communities by addressing their concerns, such that:
 - a. These meetings should be held three times per year in the cities or areas within a Member State with the highest documented levels of violence against women and should begin within 6 months of the close of this General Assembly;
 - b. These meetings should incorporate publicly recruited women and the discussions should be run by women from the community;
 - c. The discussions should focus on the experiences of the women and seek to document the nature and magnitude of the problem, its causes and consequences;
 - d. The discussions should promote education about government policies and programs to prevent femicide and violence against women and avenues for women to secure support services; and
 - e. The discussions should promote dialogue regarding the ongoing challenges to gender equality in the Hemisphere, through regular annual meetings to evaluate the state of health equality in the Americas, including the elaboration and publication of an annual report.

- 6. To call on Member States to prepare yearly reports through the proposed committees to be submitted to the Inter-American Commission on Women (CIM) to distribute throughout member states, to be discussed in an annual meeting whose location will be determined based on those in the hemisphere willing to participate.

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

Cosignatories: 1. _____ (Signature of Delegate) _____ (Country Represented)
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**AN EFFORT TO STRENGTHEN THE RIGHTS, LEADERSHIP, AND INCLUSION
OF PERSONS OF AFRICAN DESCENT THROUGH STUDY ABROAD
SCHOLARSHIPS AND MENTORSHIP SHADOW PROGRAMS**

General Committee

Topic No. 1 of the Agenda

Draft Resolution Presented by the Delegation of Saint Vincent and The Grenadines

THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY,

RECALLING,

The Inter-American Convention Against Racism, Racial Discrimination and All Related Forms of Intolerance, Chapter I, Article VI, which states: “The States Parties undertake to formulate and implement policies the purpose of which is to provide equitable treatment and generate equal opportunity for all persons in accordance with the scope of this Convention, including policies of an educational nature, labor or social measures, or any other kind of promotional policies and the dissemination of legislation on the subject by all possible means, including the mass media and the internet”;

“Promotion and Protection of Human Rights” [2017 AG/RES. 2908 (XLVII-O/17)], which states: “To encourage member states, the international community, and human rights defenders to support the creation of opportunities for dialogue and cooperation, as appropriate, in order to continue working to promote and safeguard efforts toward human rights protection in the region, sharing experiences, as well as advances made by, and challenges to, institutions in this area”;

CONDEMNNS,

Any and all current and future policies or political decisions that lessen any freedoms of persons of African Descent;

TAKING INTO ACCOUNT:

Recognition of the International year for people of African Descent” [2010 AG/RES. 2550 (XL-O/10)]: “To reaffirm the importance of the full and equal participation of people of African descent in all aspects of political, economic, social, and cultural life in the countries of the Americas”;

RECOGNIZING:

The disparity in rights as well as economic opportunities of individuals of African descent;

UNDERSTANDING:

The financial assistance needed for students of African descent to acquire the funds to study abroad; and

TAKING NOTE:

That other member states may have different outlooks on what equity and inclusion involves and on the importance that equality has in the advancements of society as a whole, and the benefits equality has for the entire population, not just one subgroup,

RESOLVES:

1. To thank the Member States for their concerted efforts against overt acts of racism and discrimination, as well as their efforts to create opportunities for individuals of African descent.
2. To form an OAS Scholarship Committee, as well as a scholarship fund that offers financial assistance for students of African descent seeking to study abroad, consisting of ten member states who are interested and willing to join, whereby:
 - a. Committee members will be responsible for creating and determining the eligibility of the students.
 - b. The Committee will request that the scholarship be funded by the World Bank and the International Monetary Fund.
 - c. The Committee will also strongly encourage other member states to contribute to the scholarship fund
3. To urge Member States governments to develop:
 - a. Develop governmental mentorship shadow programs for students of African descent, consisting of students with the opportunity to gain first-hand experience in their local government.
 - b. Educational programs and report curriculum to the Inter-American Summits Management and Civil Society Participation.
 - c. An advertisement campaign both promoting the mentorship shadow program and the Scholarship Fund, and condemning overt acts of racism and discrimination.

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

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

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**INCREASING EFFORTS TO COMBAT THE PREVALENCE OF SEXUAL VIOLENCE
AGAINST WOMEN AND GIRLS IN THE HEMISPHERE**

General Committee
Draft Resolution Presented by the Delegation of Haiti

Topic No. 3 of the Agenda

THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY,

HAVING SEEN:

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

Article 45(a) of the Charter, which states 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”;

CONSIDERING:

Article 3 of the Inter-American Convention on the Prevention, Punishment and Eradication of Violence against Women, "Convention of Belém Do Para," which highlights that “every woman has the right to be free from violence in both the public and private spheres”;

KEEPING IN MIND:

Article 15 of the Social Charter of the Americas, stating that “Member States also recognize the need to adopt policies to promote inclusion and to prevent, combat, and eliminate all forms of intolerance and discrimination, especially gender, ethnic, and race discrimination, in order to safeguard equal rights and opportunities and strengthen democratic values”;

RECOGNIZING:

Article 9 of the Inter-American Democratic Charter, which claims 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;”

REAFFIRMING:

Article 1(3) of the United Nations (UN) Charter, which identifies its purpose being “to achieve international co-operation in solving international problems of an economic, social, cultural, or humanitarian character, and in promoting and encouraging respect for human rights and for fundamental freedoms for all without distinction as to race, sex, language, or religion;” and

RECALLING:

AG/RES. 2711 (XLII-O/12), “Mechanism To Follow Up On Implementation Of The Inter-American Convention On The Prevention, Punishment, And Eradication Of Violence Against Women, ‘Convention Of Belém Do Pará’,” urges member states that have not already done so to “give prompt consideration to ratifying or,

as appropriate, acceding to the Inter-American Convention on the Prevention, Punishment, and Eradication of Violence against Women”,

RESOLVES:

1. To congratulate Member States for their efforts in the prevention and reduction of sexual and other gender-based violence against women, especially in the most vulnerable regions of the Hemisphere, in order to improve people’s quality of life.
2. To encourage the implementation of legislation that adequately protects women and girls from acts of sexual violence in the private and public spheres.
3. To provide female victims with accessible and effective legal services free of charge to pursue a claim before the courts, by:
 - a. Allocating funds toward providing legal services in the national budget for sexual violence survivors.
 - b. Establishing a network of lawyers or law firms willing to provide pro bono services to victims of gender-based violence, and femicide.
4. To advise member states to educate the general population in order to promote women’s and girls’ safety and well-being through education on sexual violence and the socio-cultural patterns/beliefs that promote the treatment of women as inferior, perpetuating their unequal treatment in society, including, but not limited to:
 - a. Advocacy through various State-run media and private news networks that support the eradication of sexual violence in the Hemisphere through:
 - i. Radio—a daily 5-15 minutes scheduled segment about sexual violence on a prominent radio station;
 - ii. Television—a weekly 1-hour broadcast addressing pressing topics in relation to sexual violence;
 - iii. Social media—social platforms dedicated to educating the public on the presence of sexual violence crimes on the island, how to seek help, and other resources; and
 - iv. Public meetings—community awareness meetings set up monthly or quarterly in communities around the member state, starting with those areas with the highest rate/prevalence of sexual violence; and
 - i. Training programs for the general public, through community look-out programs for members of the community to be taught the signs associated with victim grooming and to function as active lookouts to ensure the safety of all women and girls in the community.
 - b. Community-based advocacy to combat sexual violence through places of worship.

5. To inform students on gender-based violence and femicide through different media such as music, discussions, shared experiences, and videos based on their literacy level, with topics to include, but not limited to:
- a. Human rights.
 - b. Body safety and consent.
 - c. Identifying sexual grooming.
 - d. Healthy relationships.
 - e. Safe dating and intimate relationships.
 - f. Seeking counseling.

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

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

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**SUPPORTIVE MEASURES TO COMBAT
FEMICIDE AND GENDER-BASED VIOLENCE IN THE AMERICAS**

General Committee
Draft Resolution Presented by the Delegation of Guyana

Topic No. 3 of the Agenda

THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY,

HAVING SEEN:

Article 9 of the Inter-American Democratic Charter of the Organization of American States (OAS), which emphasizes: “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 citizens’ participation”;

Article 5 of the Inter-American Convention on the Prevention, Punishment, and Eradication of Violence against Women (Convention of Belém do Pará), which stipulates: “Every woman is entitled to the free and full exercise of her civil, political, economic, social and cultural rights, and may rely on the full protection of those rights as embodied in regional and international instruments on human rights. The States Parties recognize that violence against women prevents and nullifies the exercise of these rights”;

Article 45 of the Charter of the Organization of American States, which emphasizes that “The Member States, convinced that man can only achieve the full realization of his aspirations within a just social order, along with economic development and true peace, agree to dedicate every effort to the application of the following principles and mechanisms”;

Article 45(a) 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”;

CONSIDERING:

That in 2021, the United Nations Women (UNW) report expressed that one in every two women in Guyana will experience intimate partner violence in their lifetime and about 7,300 victims annually in the Americas;

That in 2019, UNW research conducted in Guyana revealed that more than half (55%) of all women experienced at least one form of violence and that 13% of women reported this experience before 18 years of age;

That in Guyana, 38% of women have experienced physical and sexual violence, which is above the reported World Health Organization (WHO) global average of 30%;

RECOGNIZING:

That the Convention of Belém do Pará defines violence against women as “any act or conduct, based on gender, which causes death or physical, sexual or psychological harm or suffering to women, whether in the public or the private sphere”;

That the Convention of Belém do Pará emphasizes that every woman has the right to be free of violence in both the public and private spheres;

That the full respect for human rights has been enshrined in the American Declaration of the Rights and Duties of Man and the United Nations' Universal Declaration of Human Rights and reaffirmed in other international and regional instruments; and

DEEPLY CONCERNED:

That in 2021, a report by the Inter-American Commission on Human Rights (IACHR) stated that up to 56% of countries with the highest femicide rates in the world are in Latin America and the Caribbean, and that 34% of all women aged 15–19 in the hemisphere had suffered physical or sexual violence at some point, compared to 31% of all women globally;

That in 2021, the UNW conducted a report which stated that 81,000 women and girls were killed globally, and 56% were killed by an intimate partner or family member;

That in 2021, a report conducted by the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime (UNODC) emphasized that a family member or intimate partner kills at a daily rate of 137 women and girls worldwide,

RESOLVES:

1. To congratulate OAS Member States that have taken positive steps to mitigate femicide and gender-based violence, and in particular, Canada, for providing \$4.3 million in development assistance funding for three projects to help deter gender-based violence.
2. To reaffirm the commitment of Member States to condemn all forms of sexual and gender-based violence, as it violates the principles and values established in the founding documents of the OAS.
3. To urge all Members States to take effective action, through their national legal systems, to consider international laws when addressing matters that involve gender-based violence.
4. To call upon the General Secretariat of the OAS, its Member States, global development agencies, and regional and civil society organizations to support efforts to promote:
 - a. Access to legal services, reparations, remedies, and assistance for sexual and gender-based violence victims in humanitarian settings through state, national, and international cooperation funds.
 - b. Healthcare gender-equality initiatives that can address stigmas and victim-blaming by:
 - i. The implementation of evidence-based prevention programs at all levels of society.
 - ii. Protecting the victims' and survivors' identity, dignity, and human rights.
 - iii. Enabling victims and survivors' access to legal services without retaliation.

5. To remind Member States to adopt normative measures, public policies, and budgets that address women's structural imbalance to exercise their rights and transform cultural discrimination.

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

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

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**CREATING A WOMAN-CENTERED CURRICULUM
TO COMBAT FEMICIDE AND PROMOTE WOMEN'S RIGHTS**

General Committee
Draft Resolution Presented by the Delegation of Paraguay

Topic No. 3 of the Agenda

THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY,

HAVING SEEN:

Article 2(a) of the Charter of the Organization of American States (OAS), which states that one of the essential purposes of the OAS is “to strengthen the peace and security of the continent”;

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

Article 45(a) of the Charter, which states 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 1 (1) of the Charter of the United Nations, determined “to maintain international peace and security, and to that end: to take effective collective measures for the prevention and removal of threats to the peace, and for the suppression of acts of aggression or other breaches of the peace, and to bring about by peaceful means, and in conformity with the principles of justice and international law, adjustment or settlement of international disputes or situations which might lead to a breach of the peace”;

TAKING INTO ACCOUNT:

Article 3 and 5 of the Charter of the Inter-American Model Law, which indicate that “every woman has the right to be free from violence in both the public and private spheres,” and stipulates: “Every woman is entitled to the free and full exercise of her civil, political, economic, social and cultural rights, and may rely on the full protection of those rights as embodied in regional and international instruments on human rights. The States Parties recognize that violence against women prevents and nullifies the exercise of these rights”;

Article 2 of the Charter of the United Nations’ Treaty for the Rights of Women (CEDAW), which states that “States Parties condemn discrimination against women in all its forms, agree to pursue by all appropriate means and without delay a policy of eliminating discrimination against women and, to this end, undertake: (a) To embody the principle of the equality of men and women in their national constitutions or other appropriate legislation if not yet incorporated therein and to ensure, through law and other appropriate means, the practical realization of this principle”

Article 15 of the Charter of the Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination Against Women (CEDAW), which says that (1) “States Parties shall accord to women equality with men before the law”, as well, (4) “States Parties shall accord to men and women the same rights with regard to the law relating to the movement of persons and the freedom to choose their residence and domicile”;

CONSIDERING:

That most Member States have approved laws that penalize femicide, and that thirteen of them have also introduced a comprehensive law against violence, including: 1) Brazil's federal 2006 Maria da Penha Law, which instituted a wide variety of measures to prevent and prosecute domestic violence and is perhaps the country's most sweeping legislative effort in the gender-based violence space; 2) federal laws in Mexico, which identify femicide as a specific crime and impose a punishment of up to 60 years in prison if the law is violated; and 3) the United States' Violence Against Women Act, which has strived to significantly decrease domestic violence and sexual assault cases, and to increase access to services, healing, and justice for survivors;

That despite the existence of such laws across the Western Hemisphere, much work remains to be done to combat femicide and violence against women;

That the OAS Member States, along with the international community, have a collective responsibility to find effective solutions to protect the women in the Western Hemisphere; and

DEEPLY CONCERNED WITH:

The data collected by the United Nations, in 2021, revealing that the highest rates of femicide or feminicide were registered in Honduras (4.6 cases per 100,000 women), the Dominican Republic (2.7 cases per 100,000 women) and El Salvador (2.4 cases per 100,000 women), which demonstrates that femicide is still an ongoing issue in the Western Hemisphere;

United Nations data showing that “adolescent girls and young women between 15 and 29 years of age make up the age group in which the highest proportion of femicide cases is concentrated, according to data from 16 countries and territories of the region between 2019 and 2021, with more than 4% of all these crimes being committed against girls under the age of 14”;

That femicide is the most extreme expression of inequality, discrimination and the multiple forms of violence against women and girls, as seen demonstrated in United Nations statistics that between 60% and 76% of women (around 2 out of every 3) have been victims of gender-based violence in distinct areas of their lives, and that, on average, 1 in 4 women has been or currently is a victim of physical and/or sexual violence perpetrated by someone who was, or is, their partner, which entails the risk of lethal violence;

That during periods of lockdown (such as during the COVID-19 epidemic), the probability of femicide nearly doubled, with the total estimated number of femicide victims in 17 Latin American countries during 2020 reaching more than 4,000,

RESOLVES:

1. To commend the efforts of Member States in combating femicide and encouraging equal rights and protections for women across the Western Hemisphere.
2. To encourage Member States to formulate fiscally efficient, technically appropriate, and socially acceptable domestic policies concerning the rights and protection of women.
3. To condemn those who permit femicide to continue, do not properly educate women on their rights, and/or do not actively strive to defend women's rights within their territory.

- 4. To encourage Member States to further promote dialogue about femicide and its devastating consequences, in an effort to increase visibility of the violence faced by women and their need for protection, whereby.
 - a. Each Member State is encouraged to create a women-centered curriculum discussing femicide and protection for women’s rights, including but not limited to:
 - i. A database explaining a woman’s legal rights in the Member State.
 - ii. Resources that a woman may use to assert such rights, in accordance with the laws of the Member State, and should be made available in a variety of languages, including English, Spanish, Portuguese, French, or any other language that is commonly used within the Member State.
 - b. In the case that a Member State already has an adequate woman-centered curriculum in place, the Member State is encouraged to more vigorously promote that program in an effort to increase awareness within the Member State.

- 5. To request the support of the Inter-American Commission of Women (CIM) for the development of the curriculum and the supervision of the compliance of each member states, as well as funding support in case it is needed during these same processes, whereby.
 - a. The CIM would be a substantial base of legislation to supervise the woman-centered curriculum to combat femicide and promote women’s rights.
 - b. Funding will be requested from the international influential stakeholders like the UN against women’s violence.

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

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

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**STRENGTHENING THE RIGHTS, LEADERSHIP, AND INCLUSION OF PERSONS OF
AFRICAN DESCENT THROUGH THE CREATION OF
AN ENVIRONMENTAL JUSTICE COMMITTEE**

General Committee
Draft Resolution Presented by the Republic of Panamá

Topic No.1 of the Agenda

THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY,

HAVING SEEN:

Article 3(1) of the Charter of the Organization of American States (OAS), which reaffirms as one of its principles to: “proclaim the fundamental rights of the individual without distinction as to race, nationality, creed, or sex”;

Article 3(2) of the OAS Social Charter of the Americas, which asks member states to “strengthen and foster policies and programs directed towards the achievement of societies that offer all people opportunities to benefit from sustainable development with equity and social inclusion”;

Article 15(1) of the Social Charter, which asks member states to “ 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”;

FULLY AWARE OF:

The Pan-American Health Organization’s (PAHO) detailed research concisely communicating the inequitable social and economic conditions in the Americas that put many persons of African descent at risk;

One of the “Sustainable Development Goals” of the United Nations approved in 2015, which asserts that “For sustainable development to be achieved, it is crucial to harmonize three core elements: economic growth, social inclusion, and environmental protection,” and stresses the importance of “creating greater opportunities for all, reducing inequalities, raising basic standards of living, and fostering equitable social development and inclusion”;

The Inter-American Convention Against Racism, Radical Discrimination, and Related Forms of Intolerance, which affirms that “The states ... prevent, eliminate, prohibit, and punish, in accordance with their constitutional norms and the provisions of this Convention, all acts and manifestations of racism, racial discrimination, and related forms of intolerance,” and asserts the significance of policies...to provide equitable treatment and generate equal opportunity for all persons”; and

DEEPLY CONCERNED:

With the knowledge that households led by persons of African descent are disproportionately affected by poverty and overcrowding than the rest of the population.

With reference to PAHO’s study “*La Salud de la Población Afrodescendiente en America Latina*”, which highlights that “More than 80% of the countries examined present inequalities that reflect disadvantages for the Afro-descendant population in aspects related to poverty levels, access to employment and income, followed by indicators of maternal mortality, infant mortality, access to schools, and more complete vaccination. Added to these are inequalities related to access to adequate housing and basic sanitation.”

That Article 34 of the OAS Charter, which establishes “Urban conditions that offer the opportunity for a healthful, productive, and full life” as a fundamental principle of integral development, is challenged by instances such as the treatment of the African descendants, the Quilombo people, and the constant denial of their rights to property and similar situations throughout Latin America,

RESOLVES:

1. To congratulate the Inter-American Commission on Human Rights (IACHR) and PAHO for their continued efforts to advocate for the greater inclusion of African descendants in Member States.
2. To request the creation of a committee between the AICHR and the International Decade for People of African Descent to create a committee called the Environmental Justice Committee (EJC) that will be in charge of monitoring its success. In addition, to propose that the resolutions funding will be provided by but not limited to the UN environment program, Inter-American Development Bank program, IACHR, and other voluntary funds. To request the creation of a committee, the Environmental Justice Committee (EJC), as a subcommittee under the IACHR, which will provide funding to the Member States to provide better sanitation, water treatment, etc. in affected communities, whereby:
 - a. After the Member State accepts funding from this subcommittee, and the needs have been thoroughly communicated between IACHR and the EJC, subcommittee will assess and decide an appropriate course of action.
 - b. Following an investigation, the subcommittee will provide a “Cleanup Procedure”, which will incorporate specific suggestions directed at the affected Member State, that appropriately allocate funding, ensuring that the finances will be used solely to organize clean-up organizations and other response actions, and thereafter the subcommittee will also issue reports to maintain transparency and accountability regarding their progress.
 - c. The EJC will meet post-operation (after the aid process concludes) to evaluate policy and reflect on its actions for future operations.
3. To suggest that the EJC be comprised of seven members who meet the following criteria:
 - a. Four independent specialists (for instance, any member with prior experience with environmental policy, sanitation, or financial knowledge, elected through a majority by the General Assembly, the elections being overseen by a pool of independent observers and experts selected by the IACHR.
 - b. Three formal, but non-permanent, monitors elected by the ambassador of the affected Member State and an EJC representative.
4. To recommend that all OAS institutions and Member States fully cooperate with the IACHR and EJC to ensure appropriate spending and resource allocation.
5. To suggest that the time frame for the proposed resolution be that the creation of the subcommittee under IACHR, election motions in the following three months, and the General Assembly’s election of the four specialists in the next three months, with the finite deadline set for OCTOBER 1st, 2023.

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

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

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IMPELEMENTING INTERNATIONAL WOMEN'S CENTERS TO PROTECT WOMEN'S RIGHTS AND COMBAT GENDER-BASED VIOLENCE AT A NATIONAL SCALE

General Committee
Draft Resolution Presented by the Delegation of Ecuador

Topic No. 3 of the Agenda

THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY,

TAKING INTO ACCOUNT:

Article 106 of the Charter of the Organization of American States (OAS), which establishes that “There shall be an Inter-American Commission on Human Rights, whose principal function shall be to promote the observance and protection of human rights and to serve as a consultative organ of the Organization in these matters. An inter-American convention on human rights shall determine the structure, competence, and procedure of this Commission, as well as those of other organs responsible for these matters”;

Article 15 of the Social Charter of the Americas, which states that “Member states recognize the need to adopt policies to promote inclusion and to prevent, combat, and eliminate all forms of intolerance and discrimination, especially gender, ethnic, and race discrimination, in order to safeguard equal rights and opportunities and strengthen democratic values”;

REAFFIRMING:

The principles and beliefs stated in the adopted 1994 Inter-American Convention on the Prevention, Punishment, and Eradication of Violence Against Women, which explain different elements and features that could be considered gender-based violence and upholds the promise to end violence against women in the international community; and

UNDERSTANDING:

That according to the United Nations Commission on the Status of Women: “Prevention is the only way to stop violence before it even occurs. It requires political commitment, implementing laws that promote gender equality, investing in women’s organizations, and addressing the multiple forms of discrimination women face daily”;

That, according to the United Nations Women’s statement on “Ending Violence against Women”: “At least 155 countries have passed laws on domestic violence... But challenges remain in enforcing these laws, limiting women and girls’ access to safety and justice. Not enough is done to prevent violence, and when it does occur, it often goes unpunished,” and that while: “One in three women worldwide experience physical or sexual violence, mostly by an intimate partner. Violence against women and girls is a human rights violation, and the immediate and long-term physical, sexual, and mental consequences for women and girls can be devastating, including death”;

RESOLVES:

1. To congratulate the Member States that have passed laws on domestic violence, and have upheld and enforced them within their national borders thus far.
2. To encourage other Member States to uphold the regulated standards determined by the Inter-American Convention on the Prevention, Punishment, and Eradication of Violence Against Women.

3. To strongly urge the implementation of International Women's Centers, which would be regulated by the OAS and with appointed members from each designated country, whereby these centers:
 - a. Are recommended to be established and designated based on a combination of total population of a country, measured by the national census, as well as geographic population densities, and provide provide multiple services to combat violence against women and girls, as well as uphold their right to an equal and safe life.
 - b. Would be a place where:
 - i. Women can anonymously report domestic violence or any violent crimes against women and girls.
 - ii. Women and girls can speak to police directly, therefore disregarding the fear that they may have of going to police stations.
 - iii. Women and girls can be examined and treated by a doctor after being a victim of domestic violence or any violent crimes.
 - c. Be designated as national voting centers so that women can vote freely and without influence.
 - d. Work with already existing local foundations and organizations that work to end violence against women and girls.

4. To strongly recommend that these centers be funded by a combination of OAS grants, government budget allocations on the part of member states, and civil society philanthropic foundations focused on the prevention of violence against women and girls, specifically whereby:
 - a. The OAS would allot a total of \$500,000 from OAS Regular Funds, from which each member state can apply through a grant application process to receive amounts up to \$10,000.
 - b. Subsequent to the establishment of any such International Women's Centers, member states would be allowed to apply for a second grant that totals no more than \$5,000.
 - c. It is recommended that the remaining budgets will be funded by a combination of member state governments and philanthropic foundations.

5. To propose that the Member States hold a conference every two years to guarantee these resolves are being implemented, along with providing space for new ideas.

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

Cosignatories: 1. _____ (Signature of Delegate) _____ (Country Represented)
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**FIGHTING FEMICIDE AND GENDER-BASED VIOLENCE
THROUGH POLICE TRAINING PROGRAMS**

General Committee
Draft Resolution Presented by the Delegation of El Salvador

Topic No. 3 of the Agenda

THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY,

HAVING SEEN:

Article 45(a) of the Charter of the Organization of American States (OAS), which affirms 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 14 of the Social Charter of the Americas, which states that “Member states have a responsibility to develop and implement comprehensive social protection policies and programs, based on the principles of universality, solidarity, equality, non-discrimination, and equity that give priority to persons living in conditions of poverty and vulnerability”;

Article 9 of the Inter American Democratic Charter, which reaffirms that “the elimination of all forms of discrimination, especially gender, ethnic and race discrimination, as well as diverse forms of intolerance... contribute to strengthening democracy and citizen participation”;

BEARING IN MIND:

That during the COVID-19 lockdown, according to the World Bank, calls to domestic violence helplines in Latin American countries increased up to 91%, and femicide rose by up to 51%;

That according to the Wilson Center, in 2020, the total estimated number of femicides in 17 Latin American Countries reached more than 4,000, and some countries reached almost 5 femicides for every 100,000 women;

That according to the Security Distillery, a student-led think tank, hundreds of women are killed every year in Latin America due to structural anti-female violence, because traditional gender roles reinforce perceptions of female bodies as objects for domination, reproduction, and pleasure;

That violence against women is particularly acute within and between gangs and drug cartels, because gangs and cartels weaponize the female body in situations involving territorial disputes, competitive displays of power, and efforts to intimidate and dominate rivals;

That failure to address femicide and gender-based violence will reduce the number of women able to participate in the labor force, which will erode economic development in Member States;

ACKNOWLEDGING:

The Inter-American Model Law on the Prevention, Punishment and Eradication of the Gender-Related Killing of Women and Girls (Femicide/Feminicide), which reaffirms that “every woman has the right to be free from violence in both the public and private spheres” (Article 3), and emphasizes that “the States Parties condemn all forms of violence against women and agree to pursue, by all appropriate means and without delay, policies to prevent, punish and eradicate such violence” (Article 7);

The Preamble to the OAS Declaration on Violence Against Women, Girls, and Adolescents and their Sexual and Reproductive Rights, which reaffirms that “gender-based violence is a form of discrimination that seriously inhibits women’s ability to enjoy rights and freedom on a basis of equality with men”;

That eight UN Security Council resolutions on Women, Peace, and Security, including S/RES/1325 (2000), S/RES/1820 (2008), S/RES/1888 (2009), S/RES/1960 (2010), S/RES/2106 (2013), S/RES/2122 (2013), S/RES/2242 (2015), S/RES/2467 (2019), and S/RES/2493 (2019), outline the differential impact of conflict on women, men, boys, and girls and the necessity to mainstream gender perspectives into policing; and

RECALLING:

That the Inter-American Commission of Women (CIM) plays a crucial role in helping Member States combat gender violence and femicide by reporting on the implementation of the Belém do Para Convention, compiling data on violence against women, and creating a follow-up mechanism to the Convention (“Violence Against Women and the Measures to Contain the Spread of COVID-19”);

That the United Nation’s initiative, UNITE to End Violence against Women, partners with governments, U.N. agencies, civil society organizations, and other institutions to strengthen preventive measures against gender violence and enhance data collection and analysis;

That Cure Violence Global works to interrupt potentially violent conflicts, change behaviors of people at the highest risk, and mobilize communities to change norms;

That the U.N. developed a Handbook on Gender-Responsive Police Services for Women and Girls Subject to Violence, which includes gender-responsive police investigations; prevention; intersectionality; survivor-centered approaches; promoting positive masculinities; and institution-building;

That the U.N. Office on Drugs and Crime created a learning module that helps police respond to gang-based gender violence by understanding “the gendered dynamics of organized crime as well as how gender is operationalized in the organization and structure of organized criminal groups”,

RESOLVES:

1. To commend Member States for endorsing the Inter-American Model Law on the Prevention, Punishment, and Eradication of the Gender-Related Killing of Women and Girls, which creates high standards for protecting the rights and security of women.
2. To propose that the OAS combat femicide and gender-based violence stemming from gang activity by establishing an Inter-American Initiative for integrating gender responsiveness into the gang units of police forces.
3. To request that the Inter-American Commission of Women (CIM) partner with U.N. Women and U.N. Office on Drugs and Crime (UNODC) to develop and present gender-responsive training programs to the gang units of the police forces in interested OAS Member States, with the materials and modules in these training programs being distributed online to facilitate access and minimize costs.

4. To propose that the training programs include materials already developed by partner organizations, such as the U.N.'s "Handbook on Gender-Responsive Police Services for Women and Girls Subject to Violence," and the UNODC's learning modules on gender dynamics within gangs, as well as incorporating recommendations from the Third Hemispheric Report on the Implementation of the Belém do Para Convention, and CIM's Violence Against Women and the Measures to Contain the Spread of COVID-19.
5. The training programs will incorporate the following elements:
 - a. Guidance and practice scenarios to help officers learn how to respond to situations of gender-based violence stemming from gang activity; and
 - b. Guidelines on how officers can best support and aid women who have experienced gang-related violence and families who have lost an individual to femicide.
6. To recommend that participating Member States ensure that the gang units of their police forces complete the online training, and that police officers completing the program take an evaluation to demonstrate their learning.
7. To propose that Member States further support the Inter-American Initiative on gender responsiveness by integrating gender-responsive policing policies and practices into the gang units of their police forces by:
 - a. Enhancing the role and position of women in active policing;
 - b. Placing women as role models in the police force to help women gain the respect of their colleagues and fellow citizens; and
 - c. Flagging situations of gender-based violence so the gang unit officers can initiate follow-ups.
8. To propose that the police forces' implementation of gender-responsive policies, as well as the police officer training program evaluations, be monitored by CIM:
 - a. Gang units of participating Member States' police forces will submit data to CIM on the number of women officers in each rank;
 - b. Member States will submit data on training program evaluations to CIM; and
 - c. CIM will organize and publish its findings to the OAS and its member states.
9. To propose that these efforts be funded by requests to UNITE to End Violence Against Women, the Kerling Foundation, Pathfinder International, the Bill & Melinda Gates Foundation, Cure Violence Global, Changing Tides Foundation, and the Ford Foundation.

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

Co-Signatories: 1. _____ -- _____
 (Signature of Delegate) (Country Represented)

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ESTABLISHMENT OF THE “MARCUS GARVEY SCHOLARSHIP FUND” FOR VISA-FREE EDUCATION THROUGHOUT INSTITUTIONS OF THE WESTERN HEMISPHERE

General Committee
Draft Resolution Presented by the Delegation of Dominica

Topic No. 1 of the Agenda

THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY,

RECALLING:

The principles of the Charter of the Organization of American States (OAS) on democracy, human rights, and the promotion of social justice;

The commitments made by the Member States of the OAS to promote the rights and inclusion of those of African descent in the Americas, including through the adoption of the Inter-American Convention Against Racism, Racial Discrimination and Related Forms of Intolerance and AG/RES. 2891 (XLVI-O/16), Plan of Action for the Decade for People of African Descent in the Americas 2016-2025;

RECOGNIZING:

That the importance of education and academic exchange for promoting social and economic development, and the need to promote the rights and inclusion of those of African descent in the Americas, the Organization of American States (OAS) aims to establish a scholarship fund that functions similarly to one at the University of the West Indies (UWI) and supports these objectives;

The positive impact of existing scholarship and training programs, such as the Leo S. Rowe Pan American Fund and the Partnerships Program for Education and Training, and the need for sustained investment in scholarships for students;

ACKNOWLEDGING:

The historical and ongoing barriers that limit access to education and opportunity for those of African descent, and the potential of an OAS scholarship fund to promote greater inclusion, diversity, and opportunity throughout institutions of the Western Hemisphere;

BEARING IN MIND:

The persistent inequalities and structural barriers faced by persons of African descent in various sectors, including education, and the need to address them through targeted measures and policies;

TAKING INTO ACCOUNT:

The potential benefits of an OAS scholarship fund for students, faculty, and researchers from underrepresented communities, particularly those of African descent, in order to enhance their access to educational opportunities, promote their participation in academic and research institutions, and support their professional development; and

ENCOURAGING:

Member States to adopt measures to promote visa-free education for students in the Americas, while taking into account the measures to protect national security and public health, and to facilitate the recognition of academic degrees and qualifications obtained in other countries,

RESOLVES:

1. To propose the development of a scholarship fund, titled the “Marcus Garvey Scholarship Fund” by the OAS, whereby:
 - a. The scholarship fund will be established with an initial investment within the range of \$10 to \$20 million, which would be raised through partnerships with private sector entities, philanthropic organizations, and contributions from OAS Member States interested in promoting greater access to education and opportunities for African descent students across the Americas, such that:
 - i. Funds would support the development of infrastructure and resources necessary to maintain the initiative.
 - ii. Additional funds invested would be used to provide scholarship opportunities to students from various backgrounds.
 - b. The Permanent Council and the General Secretariat will be sole administrators of the fund, whereby:
 - i. A committee will be formed with five members from the Permanent Council and the General Secretariat of the OAS.
 - ii. Committee members will be responsible for determining the policies, criteria, and selection process for scholarship awards.
2. To urge Member States to establish a framework for the implementation of the “Marcus Garvey Scholarship Fund,” including guidelines for the selection of scholarship recipients, admission, academic recognition, and transfer of credits, as well as measures to ensure the safety and well-being of participants, with a focus on addressing any barriers faced by those of African descent, with:
 - a. Criteria of scholarship being determined by the Permanent Council, but prioritizing students with academic excellence, financial need, and a commitment to promoting diversity, equity, and inclusion into their communities.
 - b. Recipients of the scholarship being required to maintain a satisfactory academic standing, and participate in community service and leadership activities, along with other factors that the committee sees fit.
3. To invite Member States to collaborate with the OAS and other relevant stakeholders, including organizations representing those of African descent, in order to identify potential sources of funding and other resources to support the “Marcus Garvey Scholarship Fund,” particularly for students and researchers from underrepresented communities, with Member States being invited to:
 - a. Contribute to the “Marcus Garvey Scholarship Fund”, in line with their national capacities and development priorities, and to work together to leverage additional resources and partnerships to maximize the impact and reach of the fund.
 - b. Provide additional support, such as academic advising and mentorship, to scholarship recipients.
 - c. Support initiatives that promote the recognition of qualifications and academic mobility among Member States, particularly for those of African descent, and to work towards the elimination of barriers that limit access to education and mobility for underrepresented communities across the Americas.
4. To encourage Member States to promote the scholarship fund widely among their academic communities, and to actively recruit and support the participation of students, faculty, and researchers from underrepresented communities, with a particular focus on those of African descent, in order to promote greater collaboration, understanding, and mutual benefit across the Americas.
5. To request the General Secretariat to monitor the implementation of the “Marcus Garvey Scholarship Fund” and to provide regular reports to Member States, in order to assess its impact on the beneficiaries and the respective institutions, such that:

- a. The scholarship fund will be reviewed every five years by committee members to assesses the overall impact, effectiveness, and sustainability, and to determine whether adjustments are necessary to better serve needs of participants.
 - b. The General Secretariat will be required to take all necessary measures to implement this resolution in consultation with the committee members.
6. That this resolution will come into effect 180 days after its adoption by the General Assembly.

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

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

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**MECHANISMS TO PROMOTE POLITICAL LEADERSHIP OF
AFRO-DESCENDANT WOMEN IN THE AMERICAS**

General Committee
Draft Resolution Presented by the Delegation of Barbados

Topic No. 1 of the Agenda

THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY,

HAVING SEEN:

Article 10 of the Charter of the Organization of American States (OAS), which establishes as one of its main purposes to reaffirm: “States are juridically equal, enjoy equal rights and equal capacity to exercise these rights, and have equal duties. The rights of each State depend not upon its power to ensure the exercise thereof, but upon the mere fact of its existence as a person under international law”;

Article 17 of the Charter, which institutes: “Each State has the right to develop its cultural, political, and economic life freely and naturally. In this free development, the State shall respect the rights of the individual and the principles of universal morality”;

Article 28 of the Inter-American Charter of the OAS, which claims that “States shall promote the full and equal participation of women in the political structures of their countries as a fundamental element in the promotion and exercise of a democratic culture”;

Article 1 of the Social Charter of the Americas, which manifests: “Everyone is born free and equal in dignity and rights. Member states reaffirm their commitment to universal respect for and observance of human rights and fundamental freedoms as essential elements to achieve social justice and strengthen democracy”;

Article 15 of the Social Charter, which states 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”;

Article 16 of the Social Charter, which emphasizes that “Member states recognize that different cultures coexist and interact in societies and that it is, therefore, necessary to promote policies and programs that foster cooperation and solidarity between and among them, as well as the full and effective participation of all people and groups with cultural identities in the framework of democracy and respect for human rights and fundamental freedoms”;

TAKING INTO ACCOUNT:

The United Nations’ A/RES/66/130 (2012) “Women and political participation,” which “calls upon all States to eliminate laws, regulations and practices that, in a discriminatory manner, prevent or restrict women’s participation in the political process”;

RECALLING:

The fact that people of African-descent are among the most vulnerable groups in the Hemisphere as a result of poverty, underdevelopment, social exclusion, and economic disparities that are closely associated with racism, racial discrimination, xenophobia, and related intolerance, according to the OAS;

ACKNOWLEDGING:

The effort of the international community to reduce the inequality gap, even though in Latin America and the Caribbean in 2023 more than 36% of women participate in national parliaments, observing discrimination, delaying the achievement of a more equitable society; and

DEEPLY CONCERNED:

About the fact that from 2014, until present, more than 200 million people who live in the Americas identify themselves as being of Afro-descendant, according to the United Nations;

That, according to United Nations' statistics from the Sustainable Development Goal (SDG) number 5 (Gender Equality and Empowerment for all Women and Girls), it would take another 40 years for women to be presented equally in national political leadership, and could take even longer for afro-descendant women;

With the fact that only 6 out of 35 countries in the hemisphere have women as Head of States, and 9 out of 35 of these countries have women holding the position as vice presidents, and that only 4 of these women are Afro-descendant,

RESOLVES:

1. To congratulate Member States for their responsibility and efforts made towards the equality and non-discrimination in political participation within their countries.
2. To encourage all nations of the hemisphere to prevent and end discrimination and promote the political leadership of women and Afro-descendants in the Americas to achieve a more egalitarian political environment.
3. To promote campaigns to strengthen the collection and access to information and statistics related to Afro-descendants and their political participation in the Americas, in order to have a deeper understanding of their current situation.
4. To implement a series of mechanisms, through the Inter-American Commission of Women (CIM), to ensure greater political participation of women of African descent in the hemisphere, including:
 - a. Requesting the support of different OAS departments and agencies for the optimal development and implementation of these mechanisms, especially organs such as the Department of Social Inclusion, the Secretariat for Access to Rights and Equity (SARE) and the Secretariat for the Strengthening of Democracy (SSD), as well as the Inter-American Development Bank (IDB)
 - b. Cooperating with the mass media in each country, both national and international, to provide spaces in which Afro-descendant women can participate in order to gain greater recognition and become involved in political leadership.
 - c. Setting a plan of mechanisms for all member states to voluntarily follow and implement in their territories, including:
 - i. Seeking tripartite cooperation in order to encourage and propose the establishment of more political positions for Afro-descendant women to assure their right to engage in decisions taken within their territory and regarding their culture.
 - ii. Increasing investment in education by Member States in areas with the highest concentration of population of African descent to provide greater equality for these people, and guarantee access to political office in their communities.

- iii. Working in accordance with the main political parties in each country in order to achieve inclusive and fair political participation for Afro-descendant women within the political environment of each country for the different positions.
- 5. To propose an annual report by each Member State, which would be made through the Ministry of Justice or its equivalent in each country, showing the implementation of the mechanisms and the evolution of female leadership of Afro-descendants in the continent, to be submitted to the CIM in order to guarantee the compliance of the suggested measures in the proposal above mentioned.
- 6. To annually publish the records obtained by the countries on the corresponding OAS data bases and social networks so that they can be massively observed and provide a factor of participation and transparency during the process.

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

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

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**STRATEGIES TO STRENGTHEN AND FIGHT RACISM AND INEQUALITY THROUGH
DIALOGUE AMONG OAS MEMBERS**

General Committee
Draft Resolution Presented by the Delegation of Belize

Topic No. 1 of the Agenda

THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY,

HAVING SEEN:

Article 1 of the Social Charter of the Americas, which claims: “Everyone is born free and equal in dignity and rights. Member states reaffirm their commitment to universal respect for and observance of human rights and fundamental freedoms as essential elements to achieve social justice and strengthen democracy”;

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

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 45(a) of the Charter, which states “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”;

TAKING INTO ACCOUNT:

Article 9 of the World Conference against Racism, Racial Discrimination, Xenophobia and Related Intolerance, “Declaration of Durban”, which noted that “racism, racial discrimination, xenophobia and related intolerance may be aggravated by, inter alia, inequitable distribution of wealth, marginalization and social exclusion”;

Article 2, regarding Protected Rights, of the Inter-American Convention against Racism Racial Discrimination and related forms of Intolerance, which claims that “every human being is equal under the law and has a right to equal protection against any form of discrimination and intolerance in any sphere of life, public or private”;

Article 24 of the Declaration of Mar del Plata at the Fourth Summit of the Americas (2005), in which the Heads of State and Government reaffirmed: “[their] strong commitment to confronting the scourge of racism, discrimination, and intolerance in our societies. These problems must be fought at all levels of government and the wider society. The Inter-American System also has a vital role to play in this process by, among other activities, analyzing the social, economic, and political obstacles faced by marginalized groups and identifying practical steps, including best practices, on how to combat racism and discrimination”;

RECALLING:

AG/RES. 2891 (XLVI-O/16), “Decade Plan of Action of Afro-descendants in the Americas (2016-2025), in which the Member States compromised to “gradually adopt and strengthen public politics,

administrative, legislative, judicial and budgetary measures to ensure Afro-descendant populations in the Americas the enjoyment of their economic, social, cultural, civic and political rights and their full and equal participation in all areas of society with the support of the OAS”;

AG/RES. 2961 (L-O/20), “Promotion and Protection of Human Rights,” in which the Member States agreed to “condemn all forms of racism and discrimination against African-descendants People in the Hemisphere, recognizing that continue to be realities that limit their economic and social well-being and that the Member States need to combat and eradicate them”;

AG/RES. 2878 (XLV-O/15), “Plan of Action for the Social Charter of the Americas,” I which the Member States resolved to “promote a comprehensive social protection approach that addresses the different dimensions and manifestations of poverty, vulnerability, and exclusion and reduces inequalities through a wide range of measures and an intergenerational and life-cycle perspective”;

CONSCIOUS:

Of the endemic nature of racism in the Americas and fully cognizant of its destructive effects on the peoples of the Americas,

RESOLVES:

1. To commend the Member States for their efforts in fighting against racism and promoting dialogue, reaffirming their compromise adopted in the “Decade Plan of Action of Afro-descendants in the Americas”.
2. To congratulate the OAS and UN’s arguments for equality, while highlighting the existing realities of inequality in the region.
3. To challenge the Human Development Education Sector to work with the Department of Social Inclusion to develop programs to reduce partisan politics and promote acumen and integrity in leaders, to:
 - a. Promote national identity above racial or ethnic identity; and
 - b. Implement policies to outlaw the incitement of racial tension.

4. To request the Inter-American Commission on Human Rights to expand on their rapporteurships (country reports) on the rights of persons of African descent and against racial discrimination by:
 - a. Collecting data on more countries through yearly efforts.
 - b. Collecting data on equality and fair access to rights in the areas of education, justice and political rights, social protections, and poverty.

5. To ensure data ethics is respected through already existing measures in the OAS such as those created by CITEL.

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

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

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**ESTABLISHMENT OF A FEMICIDE PREVENTION TASKFORCE TO COMBAT
FEMICIDE IN THE WESTERN HEMISPHERE**

General Committee

Topic No. 3 of the Agenda

Draft Resolution Presented by the Delegation of Saint Vincent and the Grenadines

THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY,

RECALLING:

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

Chapter Two, Article Nine of the Inter-American Democratic Charter, which states, “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”:

Chapter Three, Article Fourteen of the Social Charter of the Americas, which states, “Member States have a responsibility to develop and implement comprehensive social protection policies and programs, based on the principles of universality, solidarity, equality, non-discrimination, and equity that give priority to persons living in conditions of poverty and vulnerability, taking into account their national circumstances;”

ACKNOWLEDGING:

Chapter Two, Article Three of the Inter-American Convention on the Prevention, Punishment, and Eradication of Violence against Women (Convention of Belém do Pará), which states, “Every woman has the right to be free from violence in both the public and private spheres;”

Chapter Three, Article Seven of the Convention of Belém do Pará, which states that States have a duty to “condemn all forms of violence against women and agree to pursue, by all appropriate means and without delay, policies to prevent, punish and eradicate such violence;” and

DEEPLY CONCERNED BY:

The fact that in 2021, “4,473 women were victims of femicide in 29 countries and territories of the region, according to the latest official data that countries reported to the Gender Equality Observatory for Latin America and the Caribbean of the Economic Commission for Latin America and the Caribbean;”

The fact that there is an underwhelming amount of legislation and programming in the Western Hemisphere regarding femicide,

RESOLVES:

1. To commend Member States for their continued fight towards the prevention, punishment, and eradication of femicide in the Western Hemisphere.
2. To encourage Member States to establish and participate in a Femicide Prevention Taskforce (FPT), which will create a resource of model legislation and programming that addresses femicide:

- a. FPT will be an ad-hoc committee of the Follow-up Mechanism to the Belém do Pará Convention (MESECVI).
 - b. FPT will consist of the willing Member States and experts of MESECVI.
3. FPT will serve as a resource to Member States by providing various example of anti-femicide model legislation and programming for Member States to reference or fully adopt and implement at their discretion:
- a. Model laws created by the FPT should consist of the following:
 - i. Encompass the many forms on which femicide can include, but not be limited to intimate partner femicide, killings of women accused of sorcery or witchcraft, honor killings, killings in the context of armed conflicts, dowry-related killings, killings of aboriginal and indigenous women, and killings because of sexual orientation and gender identity.
 - ii. Provide fair and reasonable suggestions of punishment for those accused of committing or attempting to commit femicide.
 - iii. Provide fair and reasonable suggestions of reparations and services to victims of attempted femicide or to families of femicide victims.
 - b. Model programming proposed by the FPT should vary and include:
 - i. State-sponsored trainings on recognizing behaviors that onset femicide.
 - ii. State-sponsored educational materials and events on what is femicide, what causes it, and what is its effect on society.
 - iii. State-sponsored services to persons who self-identify as women to protect themselves from the potential act of femicide.
 - iv. A healthy list of NGOs and/or IGOs that may be a useful source of collaboration for Member-States, financially and/or executively.
 - c. This resource created by the FPT will be shared electronically to Member States, posted on the OAS website under MESECVI documents, and printed and sent to appropriate State departments/ministries, which will be funded by MESECVI’s resources, as established in article eleven of Statute Of The Mechanism To Follow Up On The Implementation Of The Inter-American Convention On The Prevention, Punishment, And Eradication Of Violence Against Women, “Convention Of Belém Do Pará.”
4. Participating members of the FPT should begin to meet no later than six months after the adoption of this resolution and the FPT may be dissolved upon completion of their resource publication.

Approved for form and substance: _____

(Signature of Faculty Advisor)

Cosignatories:

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	(Signature of Delegate)	(Country Represented)
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**HEMISPHERIC INITIATIVE TO STRENGTHEN THE ROLE OF THE PERSONS OF
AFRICAN DESCENT IN THE AMERICAS**

General Committee
Draft Resolution Presented by the Delegation of Jamaica

Topic No. 1 of the Agenda

THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY,

HAVING SEEN:

Article 34 of the 1948 Charter of the Organization of American States (OAS), in which Member States agree “that equality of opportunity, the elimination of extreme poverty, equitable distribution of wealth and income and the full participation of their peoples in decisions relating to their own development are, among others, basic objectives of integral development”;

Article 9 of the 2001 Inter-American Democratic Charter, which states 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 12 of the 2012 Social Charter of the Americas, according to which “member states have the responsibility to promote and achieve social development with equality and social inclusion for all”;

KEEPING IN MIND:

AG/RES. 2891 (XLVI-O/16) “Plan of Action for the Decade for People of African Descent in the Americas (2016-2025)”, which established as one of its objectives the gradual adoption of “public policies and administrative, legislative, judicial, and budgetary measures to enable people of African descent to access and enjoy their rights”, and includes specific measures in terms of education and awareness, to “promote acknowledgment of the history of people of African descent, particularly with respect to the consequences or legacies of the historical injustices of the enslavement of Africans in the Americas”;

OEA/Ser.ECA-IX/doc.5/22 “Inter-American Action Plan on Democratic Governance”, the Plan of Action of the IX Summit of the Americas, in which member states agreed to “recognize, respect, and protect the rights of all...with particular emphasis on persons of African descent, taking into account their inherent human rights, history, cultures, and traditions, and taking into account, where applicable, and according to domestic law, public policy arrangements for their empowerment, inclusion, participation, and representation”;

CONSIDERING:

The work of the Inter-American Commission on Human Rights (IAHCR), specifically that of the Rapporteurship on the Rights of Persons of African Descent and against Racial Discrimination, which is dedicated to “generate awareness regarding States’ duty to respect the human rights of afro-descendants and on the elimination of all forms of racial discrimination, analyzing the current challenges that confront countries of the region in this area, formulating recommendations designed to overcome the obstacles, identifying and sharing best practices in the region with respect to this matter, and providing any technical assistance requested by member States in the implementation of the recommendations in national law and practice”;

NOTING WITH CONCERN:

The pressing need to address the long-standing and systemic discrimination faced by people of African descent in the Americas and the Caribbean, as evidenced by the fact that people of African descent continue to experience disproportionately high levels of poverty, unemployment, and social exclusion;

That according to the Economic Commission for Latin America and the Caribbean (ECLAC), the poverty rate among Afro-descendants in the region is 30.2 percent, compared to 22.2 percent for the general population;

The persisting inequalities and obstacles faced by people of African descent in accessing education, employment, healthcare, and other essential services;

HIGHLIGHTING:

The importance of promoting and safeguarding the rights, leadership, and inclusion of people of African descent in all spheres of society; following the principles of the OAS, more rights for more people; and

AFFIRMING:

The principles of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights and the International Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Racial Discrimination,

RESOLVES:

1. To encourage Member States to adopt and implement policies for the promotion of equality and non-discrimination, including allocating the necessary institutional and financial resources to address the different challenges people of African descent face at all stages of their lives related to poverty, racism, and exclusion.
2. To request that the Secretariat for Access to Rights and Equity (SARE) through its Department of Social Inclusion works on the design and implementation of a hemispheric initiative to strengthen the capacity of national institutions to promote the rights, leadership, and inclusion of the persons of African descent, working with the Ministries of Justice, Social Security, and Education or their equivalents.
3. To recommend that the mandate of the Hemispheric Initiative includes, but is not limited to, the following functions:
 - a. Working with human rights commissions, and national councils on diversity to monitor and investigate cases of discrimination;
 - b. Designing and creating specific regional working groups that will create a technical framework and provide aid in implementing common measurable standards;;
 - c. Developing public awareness campaigns promoting equality and education on the history, culture, and contributions of people of African descent;
 - d. Combatting negative stereotypes and prejudices through media, education, and cultural programs;
 - e. Increasing the involvement of persons of African descent in all decision-making processes, including those that affect the political, economic, and social spheres;
 - f. Creating spaces in which the persons of African descent are heard and fairly represented.

4. To propose that the Hemispheric Initiative starts discussions about a regional mechanism for reparatory justice for the persons of African descent, considering the importance of this issue for the development aspirations of the region, and the promotion of an inclusive and non-discriminatory future.
5. To further invite Member States to collaborate with civil society organizations and other stakeholders in developing and implementing effective strategies, and to share best practices and experiences in addressing the challenges faced by people of African descent.
6. To offer the City of Kingston, Jamaica for a future meeting of this initiative, that would take place no later than 2025, and in which Member States and stakeholders can work together to discuss progress on the mandate of the Hemispheric Initiative and define new strategies to ensure that the rights, leadership, and inclusion of people of African descent are fully respected and promoted in the Americas and the Caribbean.
7. To request that the Secretariat for Access to Rights and Equity (SARE) presents a report on the implementation of this initiative to the 56th session of the General Assembly in 2026.

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

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

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**RECOMMENDATION FOR AN ADOPTION OF
A HEMISPHERIC PROGRAM TO RESTRICT GENDER-BASED VIOLENCE**

General Committee
Draft Resolution Presented by the Delegation of Uruguay

Topic No. 3 of the Agenda

THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY,

HAVING SEEN:

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

Article 17 of the OAS Charter, which declares “each state has the right to develop its cultural, political, and economic life freely and naturally” and should include the state’s respect towards “the rights of the individual and the principles of universal morality”;

Article 45(a) of the OAS Charter, which establishes 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 in which include “liberty, dignity, equality of opportunity, and economic security”;

TAKING INTO ACCOUNT:

OAS Resolution CP/RES. 1069 (2094/16) underscores “the importance of continuing and deepening the debates on the challenges faced by the countries of the Hemisphere in reducing crime, violence, and insecurity, and how to address them comprehensively to achieve higher levels of security therein and efficient and effective regional cooperation”;

OAS Resolution CP/RES 1149 (2278/20) recognizes “the important role that women play in the consolidation of a representative, plural, and inclusive democracy, and underscoring the importance that they participate on an equal footing in (i) the various OAS mechanisms that contribute to strengthening democracy, human rights, integral development, and multidimensional security and (ii) the special mechanisms for addressing political situations and humanitarian emergencies, particularly within the framework of missions, commissions, and special panels”; and

CONSIDERING:

In recent years, approximately 80% of Uruguayan women have encountered some form of gender-based violence within their lifetime;

Uruguay ranks 62nd in the Gender Inequality Index which reflects inequality between women and men in three different dimensions: reproductive health, empowerment, and labor market participation;

According to the Gender Equality Observatory, 11 Latin American countries registered a rate equal to or greater than one victim of femicide per 100,000 women. More specifically, Uruguay ranks eleventh in femicide in Latin America and the Caribbean,

RESOLVES:

1. To commend the Member States for their recognition and ongoing efforts to combat femicide and gender-based violence.
2. To collaborate with the Committee of Experts established by the Belém do Pará Convention (MESECVI):
 - a. Ensure the State reports evaluated by MESECVI are fulfilled and provide data for an effective State response where human rights and fundamental freedoms are prioritized.
 - b. Reassure citizens and Member States that the consolidated hemispheric reports made by MESECVI's Committee of Experts will establish State recommendations to prevent and eradicate violence against women.
3. Work towards the implementation of a subcommittee through MESECVI which aims to analyze the persistent challenges brought forth by gender-based violence:
 - a. Improve early detection of severe intimate partner violence through appropriate planning and training:
 - i. To work with the public sector on establishing education programs that highlight the signs of gender-based violence, introduce examples of healthy family relationships, and provide remedies;
4. Call upon Member States to increase visibility to the efforts to combat femicide and gender-based violence by:
 - a. Supporting cooperative efforts of the early detection subcommittee.
 - b. Raising awareness of gender-based violence through the use of campaigning methods.
 - c. Considering to work in collaboration with the MESECVI Committee of Experts.

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

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

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PROMOTING THE EDUCATIONAL SYSTEM BY INCLUDING MAJOR SPOKEN LANGUAGES, BUILDING SCHOOLS IN RURAL AREAS, AND PROVIDING RESIDENTIAL FACILITIES FOR TEACHERS

General Committee
Draft Resolution Presented by the Delegation of Suriname

Topic No. 1 of the Agenda

THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY,

HAVING SEEN:

Article XV (1) of The American Declaration on The Rights of Indigenous Peoples establishes that “Indigenous peoples and individuals, particularly indigenous children, have the right to all levels and forms of education, without discrimination”;

Article XV (2) of the American Declaration on The Rights of Indigenous Peoples establishes that “States and indigenous peoples, in keeping with the principle of equality of opportunity, shall promote the reduction of disparities in education between indigenous and non-indigenous peoples”;

Article XV (3) of the American Declaration on The Rights of Indigenous Peoples establishes that “Indigenous peoples have the right to establish and control their educational systems and institutions providing education in their own languages, in a manner appropriate to their cultural methods of teaching and learning”;

Article XV (4) of the American Declaration on The Rights of Indigenous Peoples establishes that “States, in conjunction with indigenous peoples, shall take effective measures to enable indigenous individuals living outside their communities, particularly children, to have access to education in their own languages and cultures”;

Article XV (5) of the American Declaration on The Rights of Indigenous Peoples establishes that “States shall promote harmonious intercultural relations, ensuring that the curricula of state educational systems reflect the pluricultural and multilingual nature of their societies and encourage respect for, and knowledge of, the different indigenous cultures. States, in conjunction with indigenous peoples, shall promote intercultural education that reflects the cosmovision, histories, languages, knowledge, values, cultures, practices, and ways of life of those peoples”;

RECALLING:

Article 38 (1) of the Suriname Constitution which states that “Everyone has the right to education and cultural expression”;

Article 38 (2) of the Suriname Constitution which highlights that “Education shall be free, subject to State supervision of all public educational institutions, in order that the national education policy and the educational standards laid down by the State shall be observed”;

Article 38 (4) of the Suriname Constitution which provides that “The State shall promote the kind of education and the conditions under which school education and other forms of education can contribute to the development of a democratic and socially just society”;

Article 39 (a) of the Suriname Constitution which highlights that "To guarantee compulsory and free elementary education”;

Article 39 (c) of the Suriname Constitution which provides that “To grant access to the highest levels of education, scientific research, and artistic creation to all on the basis of merit”;

Article 39 (d) of the Suriname Constitution which states that “To provide, in phases, free education on all levels”;

Article 39 (e) of the Suriname Constitution which highlights that “To harmonise education to the productive and social needs of the society”;

TAKING INTO ACCOUNT:

That Article 14 (1) of the United Nations Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples declares that “Indigenous peoples have the right to establish and control their educational systems and in situations providing education in their own languages, in a manner appropriate to their cultural methods of teaching and learning”;

That Article 14 (3) of the United Nations Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples provides that “States shall, in conjunction with indigenous peoples, take effective measures, in order for indigenous individuals, particularly children, including those living outside their communities, to have access, when possible, to an education in their own culture and provided in their own language...Indigenous peoples have the right to the dignity and diversity of their cultures, traditions, histories, and aspirations which shall be appropriately reflected in education and public information”;

That Article 17 (2) of the United Nations Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples declares that “States shall in consultation and cooperation with indigenous peoples take specific measures to protect indigenous children from economic exploitation and from performing any work that is likely to be hazardous or to interfere with the child’s education, or to be harmful to the child’s health or physical, mental, spiritual, moral or social development, taking into account their special vulnerability and the importance of education for their empowerment”;

ACKNOWLEDGING:

The United Nations Sustainable Development Goal 4 expresses that “Ensure inclusive and equitable quality education and promote lifelong learning opportunities for all”; and

CONSIDERING:

The 2020 Global Education Monitoring Report, “Latin America and the Caribbean – Inclusion and Education: All Means All,” which noted Suriname has been struggling with an education system characterized by high drop-out and repetition and low passing rates from primary to secondary education (the national average hovers between 50 and 60%) with deep educational disparities between urban and rural areas;

The same report noted that Indigenous people of Suriname constitute 3.8 percent of the total population, and the Maroon (descendants of African enslaved people who escaped to the interior part of the country) constitute 21.7 percent of the total population and are the most discriminated group with the highest illiteracy number in the country;

Around 85 percent of children complete primary education according to a 2019 report by the United Nations’ Children’s Fund (UNICEF). However, completion rates decline steeply at higher levels of education, with only 23 percent of all children completing upper secondary education. This implies that

compared to primary education, lower and upper secondary education has higher rates of dropouts, repetition, or delayed conclusions, which results in low completion rates;

UNICEF notes that Suriname's schools generally are in poor condition. Many schools in rural areas lack toilet facilities, running water, or electricity, and many damaged during the civil war in the 1980s remain unrepaired. When instructional supplies are provided, if they are not stolen, they arrive many weeks after school begins. Conditions are so dire that the government has instituted a national construction plan, with financial assistance from other countries. The interior regions have no junior or senior secondary schools. The quality of instruction also varies between the urban and interior areas. Whereas about half of students in the Paramaribo area qualify for entrance to the academic track of junior secondary school, only about 30 percent of students in the interior do so,

RESOLVES:

1. To applaud the efforts of all OAS Member States for their continued commitment to ensuring a quality education for all, regardless of their skin color, tribe, and gender.
2. To reaffirm the commitment of Member States Ministry of Education Working Group's Working Plan to "Identify and disseminate best practices in education management and pedagogy to promote quality, inclusion and social equity."
3. To urge Member States to adopt inclusive multilingualism and multiculturalism curriculum.
 - a. Member States' education programs should emphasize the curriculum being taught in the mother tongue.
 - b. Member States' curriculum should be as representative as possible of the diversity of their populations.
4. To promote social equality among Member States' urban and rural populations through access to education by eliminating disparities by providing quality education to all students from kindergarten through secondary school.
 - a. Access to schools can be achieved by either providing transportation or building schools within a reasonable walking distance.
 - b. Providing residential communities for skilled teachers who travel to rural areas.
 - c. Providing a healthy meal for the students for the purpose of persuasion to attend schools regularly.
5. To request funding from voluntary member state contributions as well as NGO's such as, but not limited to the World Kitchen and World Health Organization.

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

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

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**PROMOTING ECONOMIC AND POLITICAL EMPOWERMENT OF PEOPLES OF
AFRICAN DESCENT IN THE AMERICAS**

General Committee
Draft Resolution Presented by the Delegation of Peru

Topic Number 1 of the Agenda

THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY,

HAVING SEEN:

Article 106 of Inter-American Commission on Human Rights which advances the central principles of equality and universal human rights championed by the Organization of American States;

Article 1 of the Inter-American Democratic Charter which states member states must “undertake to respect the rights and freedoms recognized herein and to ensure to all persons subject to their jurisdiction the free and full exercise of those rights and freedoms, without any discrimination for reasons of race, color, sex, language, religion, political or other opinions, national or social origin, economic status, birth, or any other social condition”;

Article 90 of the Durban Declaration and Programme of Action, which “Urges States, as appropriate, to establish, strengthen, review and reinforce the effectiveness of independent national human rights institutions, particularly on issues of racism, racial discrimination, xenophobia, and related intolerance, in conformity with the principles relating to the status of national institutions for the promotion and protection of human rights, annexed to General Assembly resolution 48/134 of 20 December 1993, and to provide them with adequate financial resources, competence, and capacity for investigation, research, education, and public awareness activities to combat these phenomena”;

RECALLING:

AG/RES 68/237, proclaiming the International Decade for People of African Descent (2015-2024) and its goals to ensure the fulfillment of all fundamental human rights and freedoms for people of African descent;

REAFFIRMING:

The rights outlined by the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights, the International Covenant on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights, the International Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Racial Discrimination, and the Durban Declaration and Programme of Action that promote the equality and rights of individuals, solely based on being a human being;

NOTING:

A report by the Economic Committee for Latin America and the Caribbean Division of Statistical Databases and Publications which emphasizes the extreme barriers and hardships facing people of African descent in Latin America and the Caribbean, such that over 70% of this population lives below the poverty line in most countries, making up a disproportionate amount of the overall 12.9% of the total population of Latin America and the Caribbean who live in poverty;

RECOGNIZING:

A report by the United Nations which highlights the economic and social power of Latin Americans of African descent, who constitute 48% of the Latin American and Caribbean population and but whose economic

participation only constitutes 20% of the regional GDP, will result in a three-fold growth of the economy, thus profiting all peoples of Latin America and the Caribbean;

IDENTIFYING:

The hardships and discrimination faced by people of African descent, including, marginalization, systemic racism, and poverty, and recognizing the need to reconcile these challenges and create a just society; and

ACKNOWLEDGING:

The extensive work that civil society in the Americas which has been done to address the strategies to strengthen the rights, leadership, and inclusion of persons of African descent by the OAS and UN General Assembly;

RESOLVES:

1. To establish an Inter-American Forum on Afro-Latin Peoples, sponsored by the Inter-American Human Rights Council, as a bi-annual regional conference to address issues that face those of African descent in Latin America, which will be attended by Member States who opt into this forum, hoping to serve as a laboratory for policy creation regarding issues that arise to multilateral relations; including:
 - a. To encourage policy and program creation, either regionally or domestically, to stimulate civil, political, and economic freedoms for Afro-Latin peoples by way of, for example, elevating the social status, increasing job quotas, establishing more safety nets, and create jobs;
 - b. To be funded in part by the United Nations Economic Committee of Latin America and the Caribbean;
 - c. To alternate locations between different Member States who attend each year, as a means to readdress mechanism implementation from the first meeting, in February, to the second meeting, in August;
 - d. To require Member States to comprehensively collect data regarding the living situation of people of African descent, including health, education, socio-economic level, and employment to understand shortfalls within the communities better and adequately address issues.

2. To create the Afro-Latin Financial Freedom Initiative (AFFI), which will be under the Inter-American Development Bank, to provide microfinance services to people of African descent who are experiencing financial hardships and fulfill infrastructural needs in underserved areas; including:
 - a. To identify individuals of African descent in need of financial support via microloans to promote economic development by using statistical data collected by the Statistical Data and Publications subdivision of the United Nations Economic Committee for Latin America and the Caribbean; to help define intersectional divides of Afro-Latin peoples who have limited economic freedoms, access to credit, informal working situations, financial hardships, and live in poverty.
 - b. To work under the Inter-American Development Bank, to make public-private partnerships with independent banks and loaning agencies domestically and regionally to offer more economic opportunities to Afro-Latin peoples.
 - c. To address the gaps in infrastructure that hinder economic activity in impoverished areas and build upon existing resources to promote the creation of safe jobs.
 - d. To create a subsidiary program within AFFI which will offer micro consignment loans by exploring the intersectionality for Afro-Latina women, to provide sustainable and profitable income-providing opportunities.

3. To reaffirm the importance of providing the equal protection of fundamental human rights to all persons of African descent in all Member State countries.
4. To urge Member States to reevaluate their current policies and reassess them to be in accordance with existing resolutions including but not limited to the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights, the International Covenant on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights, the International Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Racial Discrimination, and the Durban Declaration and Programme of Action.
5. To implore the Member States and Observer States of the OAS to provide annual contributions to the newly incorporated Fund for Afro-Latin Empowerment to contribute to relief programs, Inter-American Forum on Afro-Latin Peoples, and other campaigns that come as a product of it to uplift Afro-Latin peoples sociopolitical and economic statuses; including:
 - a. The financial expectation of each Member State and Observer State will be calculated by taking into account the percentage of their population threshold which identifies as Afro-Latin and the Gross Domestic Product of the nation at large to determine an appropriate annual contributions for all Member States with an Afro-Latin population over 60%, a donation to this fund will become compulsory if it is consented to by the committee and each Member State.
 - b. Annual contributions will be analyzed and determined by a Board of Overseers of the Fund who will be responsible for appropriate allocation and management.

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

Cosignatories:

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**COMBATTING THE HEMISPHERIC MIGRANT CRISIS IN MEMBER STATES
THROUGH LOCAL AND SOCIAL INTEGRATION**

General Committee

Topic No. 2 of the Agenda

Draft Resolution Presented by the Delegates of the General Committee

THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY,

HAVING SEEN:

Article 30 of the Organization of American States (OAS) Charter, in which Member States “pledge themselves to a united effort to ensure international social justice in their relations and integral development for their peoples,” and commit to “fair wages, employment opportunities, and acceptable working conditions for all”;

Article 45(b) of the OAS Charter, which affirms that “work is a right and a social duty, it gives dignity to the one who performs it, and it should be performed under conditions, including a system of fair wages, that ensure life, health, and a decent standard of living for the worker and his family”;

BEARING IN MIND:

The preamble of the Social Charter of the Americas, which affirms “the universality, indivisibility, and interdependence of all human rights,” and emphasizes that “these essential rights are not derived from one’s being a national of a certain state, but are based upon attributes of the human person”,

The statistics regarding migration in relation to the Covid-19 Pandemic stated in the 2022 World Migration Report that state: “Despite the challenges posed by the pandemic, migration continues to be a major global issue, with an estimated 281 million international migrants worldwide in 2020.”

CONCERNED BY:

The principles and beliefs stated in the Center for Immigration Studies’ report, Western Hemisphere Comprises Larger Share of New Immigrants that states: “Immigration to the United States has shifted significantly from its early 20th-century pattern, when most immigrants came from Europe. Since the 1960s, the Western Hemisphere, which includes Central and South America, the Caribbean, and Canada, has contributed growing numbers of immigrants. In 2019, 45 percent of new arrivals came from the Western Hemisphere, which is a larger share than any other region of the world. This pattern has important implications for border security, visa policy, and refugee resettlement.”;

That the mobility issues that migrants have faced as a consequence of the Covid-19 Pandemic as stated in the 2022 World Migration Report: “Migrants around the world became stranded in transit and destination countries for reasons that go beyond international travel restrictions. Loss of jobs and income, lack of employment, lack of flights, loss of residence permits and lack of resources to return home are among the factors that have affected mobility.”;

That the inform presented by the International Organization for Migration (IOM), “ which stated that “... Over the past 15 years, the number of international migrants in Latin America and the Caribbean has more than doubled from around 7 million to 15 million, making it the region with the highest growth rate of international migrants and the destination for 5.3 per cent of all international migrants... ”;

That the UN estimates that in 2023 there will be 18.4 million “persons of concern” in the Western Hemisphere which includes refugees, asylum seekers, and other internally displaced persons.;

That the Human Rights Watch points out that migrants face discrimination from governments and the right to asylum, abuses such as trafficking, abuses that violate their basic human rights, and being cut off from their families;

RECOGNIZING:

That the United Nations High Commissioners for Refugees (UNHCR) has made it their responsibility to work with countries in protecting uprooted people and finding them permanent solutions, making the UNHCR crucial in the resettlement of refugees around the world;

The UN 1951 Refugee Convention and 1967 Protocol states, “The core principle is non-refoulement, which asserts that a refugee should not be returned to a country where they face serious threats to their life or freedom. This is now considered a rule of customary international law.”;

That the UNHCR, the International Organization for Migration (IOM), and the R4V have been working with Latin American governments and non-governmental partners to ramp up the humanitarian response for the growing number of migrants and refugees;

That Member States have taken major steps to integrate displaced individuals into their economies through opening pathways to residency and issuing permits that allow to obtain work; and

ACKNOWLEDGING:

That the International Committee of the Red Cross works to “assist people once they have started their journeys, helping families stay in touch, visiting those who find themselves detained, and helping identify the bodies of the many for whom the quest for a new life ends in death,”

That the Inter-American Development Bank (IDB) is focused on “Promoting inclusive development in Latin America and the Caribbean” with a specific focus of “Implementing a comprehensive agenda to transform the challenges of migration into development opportunities”,

RESOLVES:

1. To commend member states on their efforts to seek solutions for the migrant crisis in the hemisphere.
2. To implement a hemispheric initiative to combat the inhumane treatment of migrants upon arrival to host countries by promoting the social inclusion of said migrants via programs with the goal of integrating migrants into host communities and societies.
3. To urge member states to establish a local integration program in order to promote social integration and inclusion of refugees and migrants, including both measures to combat discrimination, and opportunities for diverse growth.
 - a. This integration includes, but is not limited to;
 - i. Providing access to free education, health care, and other essential services, and by ensuring their protection from violence, exploitation, and abuse.
 1. Provide child-care and pre-k services to support the positive growth of children intellectually and socially.
 2. Provide and require completion of vocational training programs for refugees and asylum seekers to gain hands-on application of skills required for existing careers.
 - b. Encouraging member states not to engage in refoulement and provide adequate resources to support asylum seekers and refugees. These resources include but are not limited to:
 - i. Providing accessibility to free counseling session with mental health experts
 - ii. Priority for younger age groups, under 21 in additional support groups and programming that fosters community amongst residents

- iii. Language and cultural enrichment programming to aid assimilation into a new environment and help establish professional skills necessary to successfully integrate in the new host country.
 - c. Establishing a Parole program for the resettlement processes that would encourage asylum seekers/refugees to work in different government sectors for a period of 2 years ensuring the prevention of refoulement or forcible return of asylum-seekers and refugees.
 - d. Urge Member States to create resources for food insecure migrant communities through the following strategy:
 - i. The establishment of Urban Farming, whose mission is to create an abundance of food for people in need by supporting and encouraging the establishment of gardens on unused land and space while increasing diversity, raising awareness for health and wellness.
 - ii. Creating an economically sustainable system to uplift all communities around the globe, especially migrant communities that are seeking self-reliance in food sources.
 - iii. Migrants will sustain their own urban farm with the assistance of Food and Agriculture Organizations of the United Nations.
- 4. To Propose, within the framework of the CAM, the inclusion of the topic “mechanisms of international finance and technical assistance” and “sustainable migration governance” in the next trimester Work Plan of the Commission and in the proposed thematic sessions to:
 - a. Look for ways to reduce the social and economic pressure due to big immigrant flows suffered by those Member States that in an act of good faith have been receiving and providing humanitarian aid to the increased number of immigrants as a result of the democratic crisis facing the hemisphere.
 - b. Start the coordination with the Department of External and Institutional Relations for funding and to strengthen the relationship with the permanent observers.
 - c. Coordinate with SEDI and SARE via the Inter-American Commission on Women (CIM) to assist Member States to help them implement this program.
- 5. To ensure that localized- funding for Member States and migrants in need, come from interested Countries or NGOs such as the International Labor Union (ILO), UNHCR, International Organization of Migration (IOM), and Inter-American Development Bank (IDB):
 - a. To make funding from NGOs more accessible through education on application processes and pertinent qualifications for migrants and member states in need provided by OAS offices in individual member states.

6. To urge Member States to take actions regarding the application of migration policies and to assume an attitude with respect to the migration crisis that the hemisphere is going through in accordance with the principle of solidarity established in the OAS Charter carrying out a close international cooperation that allows but is not limited to:
 - a. Compliance with the four pillars of the OAS, democracy, human rights, Multidimensional Security and Integral Development in the management of the migration crisis in the Americas.
 - b. Identify the conditions under which immigrants are leaving their countries of origin and the reasons that prompted them, taking into consideration that for the proper management of the migration crisis it is necessary to provide an effective solution to those problems that cause immigrants to leave their country of origin.
 - c. To adequately address the problem of the process that immigrants undergo in their journey from the country of origin to the country of destination under the consideration that this journey poses a risk to their physical and psychological integrity threatening with the violation of their human rights.