

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

Final Packet

Special Committee



Washington Model
Organization of American States

Institute for Diplomatic Dialogue in the Americas



OAS

More rights for more people

April 3 - 7, 2023

CREATING A BILL OF RIGHTS OF NATURE AND ENABLING SERVICE IN THE INTEREST OF THE RIGHTS OF NATURE

Special Committee
Draft Resolution Presented by the Delegation of Colombia

Topic No. 2 of the Agenda

THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY,

HAVING SEEN:

Article 34 of the Charter of the Organization of American States (OAS), which asserts that for Member States, “full participation of their peoples in decisions relating to their own development are, among others, basic objectives of integral development”;

Article 45(d) of the Charter of the OAS, which urges the application of “Fair and efficient systems and procedures for consultation and collaboration among the sectors of production, with due regard for safeguarding the interests of the entire society”;

Article 45(f) of the Charter of the OAS, which promotes “The incorporation and increasing participation of the marginal sectors of the population, in both rural and urban areas, in the economic, social, civic, cultural, and political life of the nation, in order to achieve the full integration of the national community, acceleration of the process of social mobility, and the consolidation of the democratic system. The encouragement of all efforts of popular promotion and cooperation that have as their purpose the development and progress of the community”;

Article 47 of the Charter of the OAS, which affirms that “The Member States will give primary importance within their development plans to the encouragement of education, science, technology, and culture, oriented toward the overall improvement of the individual, and as a foundation for democracy, social justice, and progress”;

BEARING IN MIND:

Bolivia’s laudable passage of “The Mother Earth Law,” which realizes the Rights of Nature “to not be affected by mega-infrastructure and development projects that affect the balance of ecosystems and the local inhabitant communities”;

Article XIX of the American Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples, which affirms the “right to protection of a healthy environment”;

AG/RES. 2347 (XXXVII-O/07) “Inter-American Meeting on the Economic, Social, and Environmental Aspects of the Availability of, and Access to, Drinking Water”, which prompted the cooperation of Member States through an Inter-American meeting to tackle economic, social and environmental aspects related to the “Availability of and Access to Drinking Water in 2008”;

AG/RES. (XXXVII-O/07) “Water, Health, and Human Rights”, which in accordance with the provisions of the Protocol of San Salvador, states that there is a right human right to health and living in a healthy environment;

The second commitment of the Ninth Summit of the Americas, which promotes “environmental justice, protection, and conservation, and prevention of environmental degradation in our communities, in keeping with domestic legislation”;

The fourth commitment of the Ninth Summit of the Americas, which works to “Enhance environmental education, through research and active and inclusive participation from all stakeholders to build capacities for climate change adaptation and mitigation for current and future generations, including youth, indigenous peoples, persons of African descent, civil society, women’s organizations, the private sector, policymakers, practitioners, and persons working in related industries”;

RECOGNIZING:

That COVID-19 has, according to the OAS Inter-American Program for Sustainable Development (PIDS), “accelerated environmental degradation in rural areas”;

That Indigenous communities are essential to safeguarding the natural world, as according to the United Nations (UN) Environment Program, both land and marine environmental degradation is “less severe or avoided in areas held or managed by Indigenous Peoples and Local Communities”;

The Department of International Law (DIL) adopted a Program of Action on Indigenous Peoples in the Americas with the intention of “promoting and strengthening the participation of indigenous peoples” in regard to international decision-making processes to increase awareness in relation to issues specific to the development of their communities as well as “establishing indigenous issues as a cross-cutting theme in the Organization’s different projects and activities”:

CONSCIOUS:

Of reports according to the UN that, at minimum “a quarter of the world’s land area is owned, managed, used or occupied by indigenous peoples and local communities” and that in these areas, the environment as a whole is deteriorating at a slower rate despite the challenges of climate change;

That indigenous communities have “strong” or personal connections to natural resources maintained through separate social, economic, and political ecosystems that are deeply tied to the community's identity through observing traditional concepts in relation to environmental preservation;

Of National Geographic’s recognition of the role that indigenous and local communities play in the conservation of biodiversity and “climate change resilience” including the acknowledgement that although “the world’s 370 million indigenous peoples make up less than 5% of the total human population, they manage or hold tenure over 25% of the world’s land surface and support about 80% of the global biodiversity”; in light of this inherent familiarity and great efforts of these communities, it is apparent that indigenous peoples should lead the charge to strengthen environmental protections in the wake of Covid-19 exacerbated climate change; and

RECALLING:

The ongoing goal of Department of Sustainable Development (DSD), under the umbrella of the General Secretariat of the OAS, to support Member States in “the design and implementation of policies, programs and projects oriented to integrate environmental priorities with poverty alleviation, and socio-economic development goals, as to achieve sustainable development”;

The Inter-American Commission on Human Rights (IACHR) and the Office of the Special Rapporteur on Economic, Social, Cultural and Environmental Rights (REDESCA) Resolution No. 3/21, which asserts climate change induced “risk of harm is particularly high for those segments of the population that are currently in a situation of marginalization or vulnerability”;

The UN 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development, whose aims are “to protect the planet from degradation, including through sustainable consumption and production, sustainably managing its natural resources and taking urgent action on climate change, so that it can support the needs of the present and future generations”;

Member States’ commitment to the UN Framework Convention on Climate Change and the Paris Agreement, the goal of which are to “limit global warming to well below 2.0, preferably to 1.5 degrees Celsius, compared to pre-industrial levels” (FCCC/CP/2015/L.9);

The Escazú agreement on access to information, public participation and justice in environmental matters, which further reinforces principles supported in Inter-American legislation on the right to a healthy environment, highlighting the need to guarantee ‘access to rights’ to further ensure its validity, such as the effective protection of the right for people to defend the environment,

RESOLVES:

1. To commend Member States for their continued commitment to safeguarding the environment and enacting measures to counteract effects of climate change.
2. To encourage Member States to work through the Department of Sustainable Development (DSD) to enhance clarity on the Rights of Nature by:
 - a. Drafting a comprehensive “Bill of Rights of Nature”.
 - b. Exploring what is required to protect these rights.
3. To recommend Member States and the Department of Sustainable Development (DSD) collaborate with indigenous and scientific communities, to create a universal curriculum module that will educate on:
 - a. The “Bill of Rights of Nature”.
 - b. The harmful effects of climate change.
 - c. Humanity’s responsibility to safeguard the environment.

4. To empower indigenous communities to, with the aid of the Department of Sustainable Development (DSD), create environmental service programs, which encourage Member States to:
 - a. Call for the participation of all schoolchildren.
 - b. Enable indigenous-led service, allowing programs to be catered to the specific needs of the environment, be it planting trees or collecting and properly disposing of garbage, among others.
 - c. Schedule these service projects to take place each year on April 22nd during the holiday of Earth Day.
5. To request the secretary general report on the service programs and outcomes of these discussions at the following regular session of the General Assembly.

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

Cosignatories: 1. _____ (Signature of Delegate) _____ (Country Represented)
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ADDRESSING THE ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACTS OF COVID-19 THROUGH THE ADOPTION OF SHARED DIALOGUE AND VIRTUAL INFORMATION MEETINGS

Special Committee
Draft Resolution Presented by the Delegation of Belize

Topic No. 1 of the Agenda

THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY,

HAVING SEEN:

Article 15 of the Inter-American Democratic Charter which asserts that “the exercise of democracy promotes the preservation and good stewardship of the environment...” so “it is essential that the states of the Hemisphere implement policies and strategies to protect the environment, including application of various treaties and conventions, to achieve sustainable development for the benefit of future generations; ”

Article 38 of the 1948 Charter of the Organization of American States (OAS) which states that “the Member States shall extend among themselves the benefits of science and technology by encouraging the exchange and utilization of scientific and technical knowledge in accordance with existing treaties and national laws;”

Article 47 of the OAS Charter which stresses that “the Member States will give primary importance within their development plans to the encouragement of education, science, technology, and culture, oriented toward the overall improvement of the individual, and as a foundation for democracy, social justice and progress;”

CONSIDERING:

The 2030 Agenda and the Sustainable Development Goals (SDG) of the United Nations (UN), particularly Goals 7, 8, and 9, which refer to the development of sustainable energy, economic development, and infrastructure innovation;

That according to the UNESCO Sustainable Development Goals analysis, education on clean energy “promotes energy efficiency teaching us to develop technologies that waste less energy, and encouraging us to work together to research and develop renewable and other clean energy resources;”

The World Bank and UN’s advocacy of the concept of a “Blue Economy” and the goal of “promoting economic growth, social inclusion and preservation or improvement of livelihoods while at the same time ensuring environmental sustainability of the oceans and coastal areas;” and

RECALLING:

Resolution No. 4/2020, in which the Inter-American Commission on Human Rights (IACHR) agreed to protect the rights of persons with COVID-19 as the pandemic created negative impacts on economic, social, cultural, and environmental rights (ESCR);

AG/RES. 2904 (XLVII-O/17) inviting Member States to organize conversations and align policies of Member States to ensure integrated development of innovation and technological advances, to create goods and services that promote economic activity and cooperation to provide quality, inclusive, and equitable education in the Americas and to support the member States efforts,

RESOLVES:

1. To thank the Member States for their efforts to mitigate the environmental impacts of COVID-19 through innovative and transformative technology, as well as planning for future technological advances.
2. To encourage Member States to continue to share information on:
 - a. The environmental impacts of COVID-19.
 - b. Efforts to prepare for future pandemics.
 - c. Existing programs for the acquiring and analyzing of data on the environment.
3. To invite Ministerial staff from the Inter-American Committee for Sustainable Development (PIDS) and Inter-American Committee of Science and Technology (COMCyT) to participate in information exchanges about the environment and technology.
4. To request Member States to lead the creation of programs that encourage the discussions for the need of digital connectivity, to mitigate the impacts on the environment.
5. To invite the Member States to convene virtual meetings about the environmental impacts of COVID-19 on ocean and coastal areas by:
 - a. Establishing a virtual dialogue between member states in which experts in the relevant areas from the relevant national ministries participate.
 - b. Hold a virtual meeting with those experts no later than six months post-closing of this meeting.
 - c. Produce a report of the finding of the meetings to each participating member state within nine months.

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

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

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PAN-AMERICAN RECOGNITION OF THE RIGHTS OF NATURE

Special Committee
Draft Resolution Presented by the Delegation of Bolivia

Topic No. 2 of the Agenda

THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY,

HAVING SEEN:

Article 15 of the Inter-American Democratic Charter, which asserts that “It is essential that the states of the Hemisphere implement policies and strategies to protect the environment, including application of various treaties and conventions, to achieve sustainable development for the benefit of future generations”;

Article 2 (f) of the Charter of The Organization of American States (OAS), which asserts “To promote, by cooperative action, their economic, social, and cultural development”;

Article 10 of the Social Charter of the Americas, which establishes that “Member states, in partnership with the private sector and civil society, will promote sustainable development by means of economic growth, social development, and conservation and sustainable use of natural resources”;

CONSIDERING:

That Latin America and the Caribbean are home to about half of the world’s biodiversity, as well as 25% of all forests and 30% of all freshwater, making this region one of the most species and resource rich areas on Earth, including the Amazon region in Latin America which houses 10% of the world’s biodiversity alone;

This biodiversity contributes to many of the industries in Latin America, significantly increasing the region's GDP per capita and supporting the livelihoods of socio-economically underprivileged groups;

Aichi Goal 11 of the Convention on Biological Diversity seeks to protect “at least 17 percent of terrestrial and inland water, and 10 percent of coastal and marine areas” by 2020;

The 2030 Agenda and the Sustainable Development Goals calls for a halt to deforestation and the restoration of degraded forests by 2020, but neither of these goals has been accomplished;

That there are approximately 50 million indigenous people spread across 500 different ethnic groups in Latin America, making up 8% of the region’s total population while also accounting for 14% of the population living in poverty and 17% of the population living in extreme poverty making indigenous people in Latin America severely susceptible to environmental changes such as displacement caused by a loss of biodiversity and diseases caused by pollution and that indigenous people have also incurred a loss of jobs due to industries being disrupted by climate change;

That 21.4% of Latin America and the Caribbean's land area is terrestrial and marine protected areas that strive to conserve each nation’s environment, stressing the importance of safeguarding biodiversity;

TAKING INTO ACCOUNT

The resolution of the United Nations A/HRC/RES/48/13 (2021), which recognizes “the right to a clean, healthy and sustainable environment as a human right that is important for the enjoyment of human rights”;

The World People's Conference on Climate Change (2010), which led to the passing of Article 7 of the "Law of the Rights of Mother Earth", passed by Bolivia's Chamber of Senators, "Mother Earth has the following rights: To Life, To the diversity of life, To water, To clean air, To equilibrium, To restoration, To pollution-free living";

The Convention on Environmental Impact Assessment In A Transboundary Context, created by the United Nations Economic Commission for Europe, which establishes clear processes for evaluating environmental impacts of economic development across borders;

Article 4 of the Convention on Wetlands of International Importance especially as Waterfowl Habitat, which promotes the conservation of wetlands and waterfowl by establishing nature reserves;

The Amazon Cooperation Treaty states "that both socio-economic development as well as conservation of the environment are responsibilities inherent in the sovereignty of each State"; and

DEEPLY CONCERNED:

With the knowledge that South America has the second largest deforestation rate in the world with an 138 million hectares over thirty years, according to Economic Commission for Latin America and the Caribbean;

With the knowledge that the outrageous overexploitation of fish stocks and rapid urbanization as a whole in Latin America has caused pollution contributing to multiple dead zones in the ocean, according to Economic Commission for Latin America and the Caribbean;

With the knowledge that illegal wildlife and timber trade in Latin America has become a multi-billion dollar business and has severely harmed the environment in Latin America based on data from the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime report on World Wildlife Crime;

Regarding the fact that Latin America produces 12% of the total global waste according to World Bank statistics which comes down to 17,000 tons per day of plastic disposed of in open dumpsites in Latin America, which encroaches on natural ecosystems;

Regarding that climate change in Latin America has led to massive environmental catastrophes including the Andean glaciers incurring a 30% loss in area in less than 50 years as well as a 13 year long drought in parts of South America, according to the World Meteorological Organization;

Regarding the fact that as of the 2022 World Wildlife Foundation Report, Latin America has lost 94% of its vertebrae groups in the last 50 years,

RESOLVES:

1. To recognize Member States' efforts on making effective change in the fields of sustainability and conservancy.
2. To recognize the right to a clean, healthy, and sustainable environment as a fundamental human right, and calls on Member States to promote and protect this right.
3. To call upon all Member States to recognize the rights of nature and take effective measures to protect and conserve our planet's ecosystems, resources, and biodiversity.

4. To call upon all Member States to confer legal rights and protections to nature and the environment, as per individual judicial processes.
5. To call upon all Member States to establish and enforce legal measures and an export application process that prohibits endangered animal and timber trafficking and the exotic animal trade, and to work collaboratively to prevent and combat these practices.
6. To call upon all Member States to create legally protected habitat conservation areas, irrespective of geopolitical boundaries.
7. To call upon Member States to collaborate and exchange best practices and experiences related to the recognition and implementation of the Rights of Nature and Protected Areas, including through the exchange of information, capacity building, and technical assistance.
8. To emphasize the hemispheric need for a conservation of biodiversity and a shift to cleaner energy sources that reduce reliance on natural resources.
9. To suggest the creation of intra-state conventions on indigenous people's representation and rights to better understand the impact of environmental projects.
10. Requests the Secretary-General of the Organization of American States report on the progress made by Member States in the implementation of this resolution/directive at the next regular session of the General Assembly.

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

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

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**ADDRESSING THE ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACTS OF COVID-19 THROUGH
MODERNIZING THE OAS**

Special Committee

Topic No. 1 of the Agenda

Draft Resolution Presented by the Delegation of St. Vincent and the Grenadines

THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY,

HAVING SEEN:

Article 2 of the Charter of the Organization of the American States calls for the “economic, social, and cultural development” of Member States through the means of “cooperative action”;

Article 15 of the Inter-American Democratic Charter states, “The exercise of democracy promotes the preservation and good stewardship of the environment.. It is essential that the states of the Hemisphere implement policies and strategies to protect the environment”;

Article 22 of the Social Charters of the Americas establishes, “Member States also commit to face the impact of climate variability... and the adverse effects of climate change that represent a risk increase in all countries of the Hemisphere, particularly for developing countries”;

NOTING:

The OAS Fifty-First Regular Session declares a “Renewed Commitment to Sustainable Development in the Americas Post COVID-19” that includes offering “technical assistance to member states in their efforts to enhance national capacity to achieve sustainable development”;

The Ninth Summit of the Americas calls upon the OAS to “encourage the rational, efficient use of energy” and further reduce the impacts of climate change by supporting Sustainable Development within Member States;

The Paris Agreement of the United Nations initiates an intergovernmental effort to limit global temperatures through a long-term reduction in the emission of greenhouse gasses and assist underdeveloped Member States in becoming technologically and financially capable of combatting climate change; and

RECOGNIZING:

The OAS Department of Sustainable Development is tasked with “Translating sustainable development and environmental protection goals into concrete actions” by assisting Member States in implementing strategies for sustainable development;

The need for accurate data on greenhouse gas emissions to assess the condition of the global climate and adopt sustainable strategies that will reduce observed emissions;

The urgency of problems presented by climate change and the need for the Americas to develop plans that reduce the effects of climate change;

The temporary reduction in carbon emissions by as much as thirty percent in 2020 as a result of global commitments to the limited use of transportation and decreases in travel because of COVID-19,

RESOLVES:

1. To applaud the Member States and the United Nations on their efforts to combat the effects of climate change through adopting the Paris Agreement, reducing carbon emissions, committing to sustainable development, and natural disaster response planning.
2. To urge the OAS to reduce its contributions to global warming through the adoption of sustainable technology at the OAS headquarters in Washington, D.C., and limiting excessive and unnecessary travel of delegates.
3. To call upon Member States to invest in local economies and decrease the harmful effects of large-scale tourist operations on the environment by:
 - a. Creating jobs that promote sustainable development by limiting the impact of pollution through waste management, countering the impacts of harm to the land by protecting biodiversity, or reducing deforestation through land management and restoration of developed land.
 - b. Investing in sustainable technologies to reduce any further effects of climate change.
4. To advise the Department of Sustainable Development to initiate regional efforts to continue to limit the release of harmful emissions into the atmosphere:
 - a. The Department of Sustainable Development will reduce emissions by carrying out the following tasks:
 - i. Reporting the annual levels of fossil fuels consumed by Member States.
 - ii. Reporting the annual levels of carbon emissions throughout the region.
 - iii. Ensuring that the regional efforts outlined in the third operative clause are being carried out with the intention of reducing global warming.
 - b. The Director of the Department of Sustainable Development will be responsible for appointing a minimum of five new members who will help administer those tasks.
 - c. The Department of Sustainable Development is encouraged to collaborate with the United Nations and World Bank in the collection of its data.
5. To implement operative clauses two and four of this resolution through a 10 percent reduction of the budget of the Department of Economic Development allocating funds to retrofit the headquarters and properties of the OAS to be carbon neutral and adhere to strict environmental standards.

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

Cosignatories:

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**DECREASING THE RATE OF DEFORESTATION IN AN EFFORT TO COMBAT
CLIMATE CHANGE**

Special Committee
Draft Resolution Presented by the Delegation of Haiti

Topic No.2 of the Agenda

THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY,

HAVING SEEN:

Article 95 (c) of the Charter of the OAS which encourages “Promote, coordinate, and assign responsibility for the execution of development programs and projects to the subsidiary bodies and relevant organizations, on the basis of the priorities identified by the Member States, in areas such as: (1) Economic and social development, including trade, tourism, integration, and the environment;”

REAFFIRMING:

Article 5 of the Paris Climate Agreement, which states that “1. Parties should take action to conserve and enhance, as appropriate, sinks and reservoirs of greenhouse gases as referred to in Article 4, paragraph 1 (d), of the Convention, including forests and 2. Parties are encouraged to take action to implement and support, including through results-based payments, the existing framework as set out in related guidance and decisions already agreed under the Convention for: policy approaches and positive incentives for activities relating to reducing emissions from deforestation and forest degradation, and the role of conservation, sustainable management of forests and enhancement of forest carbon stocks in developing countries;”

CONSIDERING THAT:

The Assistant Secretary General Albert Ramdin of the Organization of American States (OAS) in 2007 requested in a seminar that “Member countries have recognized the urgency of addressing the existing and mounting threats of water scarcity, deforestation, and climate change, and of ensuring that efforts among organizations and agencies within the Inter-American system work in tandem to provide tangible deliverables to member countries;”

RECALLING:

The yearly review done by Environmental Justice Initiative for Haiti; National Lawyers Guild-Environmental Justice Committee (2011), 92% of Haiti's land has been deforested is more than a prima facie indication that the country's land use planning has failed; it also positions an increasing number of vulnerable people in vulnerable locations;

Deforestation leads to soil erosion, resulting in decreased agricultural yields and deadly landslides. Haiti faces a severe deforestation problem which puts the country on the verge of a serious ecological disaster. As much as 95% of Haiti's forests have been lost. Today, forests cover less than 2% of the country, and many mountain hillsides have been denuded and reduced to bedrock, making Haiti one of the most deforested countries in the world;

ACKNOWLEDGING:

That the Environmental Justice Initiative for Haiti; National Lawyers Guild-Environmental Justice Committee (2011) found that most Haitians still depend on wood and charcoal as their primary fuel

source, and many Haitian farmers have had to turn to tree cutting as an alternative source of income. According to the U.S. Agency for International Development, as much as 75% of the fuel consumed in Haiti was wood or charcoal in 2000. In a country of just over 9 million people, Haitians burn as much as 31 million trees worth of charcoal annually;

According to the United Nations Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs in 2016, dependency on charcoal and firewood is a critical threat to air quality and a driver of deforestation and production of greenhouse gases. Roughly 90 percent of Haitians rely on charcoal – produced from burning wood – as their primary source of energy. The lack of access to clean, affordable energy options disproportionately affects urban areas where consumption of charcoal and firewood mostly occurs;

NOTING:

That the OAS member states emphasized in the 2010 Declaration of Santo Domingo the need to “continue strengthening cooperation between member states on matters relating to the sustainable and comprehensive management of forests, emphasizing, among others, enhanced action under the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change;

The OAS Department of Sustainable Development (DSD) has been developing a number of initiatives to build a sustainable forest agenda over a solid base of both technical and political knowledge in member states. Initiatives include the regional exchange of information, experiences, and lessons learned to strengthen efforts to protect ecosystems, and the incorporation of sustainable systems of agriculture and forest management at the national level; and

TAKING INTO ACCOUNT:

The United Nations Conference on Environment and Development (UNCED) in 1992, the countries of the Americas and other countries around the world have joined together in forums, initiatives, treaties, and accords designed to enhance the sustainability of forest resources. The Summit of the Americas (Miami 1994), called for partnerships throughout the Americas to enhance the establishment of democracy and free trade, to eliminate poverty and discrimination, and to guarantee sustainable development and the conservation of our natural environment for future generations,

RESOLVES:

1. To congratulate the OAS Department of Sustainable Development (DSD) for the efforts and accomplishments made to build a sustainable forest agenda in all member states.
2. Educate citizens on the effects of deforestation and the effects of burning wood to the environment through means of the national newspaper, national television and national radio advertisements, online web pages/ blogs.
3. Encourage the use of solar, wind, ocean thermal and geothermal and/or locally produced energy by Member States to achieve energy independence and security.
4. To educate citizens about the use of Briquette and promote it as a substitute for charcoal by:
 - a. Promoting the benefits of Briquette via television advertisements, radio advertisement, as well as newspaper.
 - b. Having a section on television and radio health programs about the properties, uses and benefits of Briquette 2 times weekly.

- c. Compiling brochures with the above mentioned and distribute in public places such as hospitals, transportation parks and shops.
- 5. Develop and share information among Member States on Sustainable Forest Management through means of newspaper, television and radio advertisements, online web pages/ blogs.
- 6. To foster Inter-American Dialogue on Sustainable Forest Management at the OAS Summit in June 2023.

Approved for form and substance:

(Signature of Faculty Advisor)

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

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**INCREASING HEMISPHERIC REFORESTATION AND LAND
CONSERVATION EFFORTS IN PREVIOUSLY THREATENED AREAS**

Special Committee
Draft Resolution Presented by the Delegation of Paraguay

Topic No. 2 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 95(c)(1) of the Charter of the OAS, which states that the Inter-American Council for Integral Development shall “promote, coordinate, and assign responsibility for the execution of development programs and projects to the subsidiary bodies and relevant organizations, on the basis of the priorities identified by the Member States, in areas such as economic and social development, including trade, tourism, integration, and the environment”;

Article 110 of the Charter of the OAS, which states that “the Secretary-General may bring to the attention of the General Assembly or the Permanent Council any matter which in his opinion might threaten the peace and security of the Hemisphere or the development of the Member States”;

TAKING INTO CONSIDERATION:

The formation of the Sharm el-Sheikh Implementation Plan at the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (Decision -/CP.27[2022]), which adopted the decision to help vulnerable countries deal with losses and damages from the impacts of climate change;

That the Sharm el-Sheikh Implementation Plan states: “noting the importance of ensuring the integrity of all ecosystems, including in forests, the ocean and the cryosphere, and the protection of biodiversity, recognized by some cultures as Mother Earth, and also noting the importance of ‘climate justice’, when taking action to address climate change”;

Article 38 from the Glasgow Climate Pact (Decision -/CP.26[2021]), which “emphasizes the importance of protecting, conserving and restoring nature and ecosystems to achieve the Paris Agreement temperature goal, including through forests and other terrestrial and marine ecosystems acting as sinks and reservoirs of greenhouse gases and by protecting biodiversity, while ensuring social and environmental safeguards”; and

CONSCIOUS OF:

The continued adverse environmental health effects caused by deforestation, research showing that roughly 50,000 species go extinct each year, and that the world loses nearly 137 species of plants and wildlife each year,

RESOLVES:

1. To commend Member States for their participation in the Sharm el-Sheikh Climate Change Conference, and for their efforts to conserve land, forests, ecosystems, and the environment.
2. To encourage the continued efforts of Member States to comply with commitments made as part of the Paris Climate Agreement by:
 - a. Commending Member States who have signed the Sharm el-Sheikh Implementation Plan; and their efforts to help vulnerable countries deal with losses and damages from the impacts of climate change, and
 - b. Encouraging Member States who have not yet joined the Sharm el-Sheikh Implementation Plan to do so.
3. To invite Member States to combat deforestation by increasing or implementing regulations to prevent illegal logging, mining, and other harmful environmental practices.
4. To strongly urge Member States to consider the implementation of programs that:
 - a. Educate governing bodies on the adverse environmental health effects of deforestation in their local communities.
 - b. Work with local communities to avoid deforestation by improving agriculture conditions, training locals, and generating awareness among the population about the seriousness of deforestation.
 - c. Provide opportunities for citizens to get involved in efforts to decrease the effects of deforestation, and
 - d. Aid in the passing of laws that encourage reforestation.

Approved for form and substance: _____

(Signature of Faculty Advisor)

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

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**FORMATION OF THE INTER-AMERICAN COMMITTEE TO REGULATE
PESTICIDE USAGE**

Special Committee
Draft Resolution Presented by the Delegation of Panama

Topic No.2 of the Agenda

THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY,

HAVING SEEN:

Article 34 (d) of the Charter of the Organization of American States which states that one of the goals of integral development is the modernization of rural life and reforms leading to equitable and efficient land- tenure systems, increased agricultural productivity, expanded use of land, diversification of production and improved processing and marketing systems for agricultural products; and the strengthening and expansion of the means to attain these ends;

Article 15 of the Inter-American Democratic Charter, which states that the exercise of democracy promotes the preservation and good stewardship of the environment, it is essential that the states of the Hemisphere implement policies and strategies to protect the environment, including application of various treaties and conventions, to achieve sustainable development for the benefit of future generations;

Article 9 of the Inter-American Democratic Charter, which states that every person has the right to the preservation of his health through sanitary and social measures relating to food, clothing, housing and medical care, to the extent permitted by public and community resources;

Article 10 of the Social Charter of the Americas, which states that member states, in partnership with the private sector and civil society, will promote sustainable development by means of economic growth, social development, and conservation and sustainable use of natural resources;

Likewise, they recognize that public and private investment in human capacity building, in physical infrastructure, and in scientific and technological research and innovation are fundamental to reducing inequalities and to promoting inclusive, just, and equitable economic development;

CONSIDERING:

The fact that The Latin America and the Caribbean region accounts for 14 percent of global agricultural production, while having less strict pesticide regulation than other regions;

The increase and indiscriminate use of personal care products, food products, fertilizers, pesticides, and health products, among others, have resulted in and are actively resulting in extensive environmental contamination, as well as adverse health effects to populations of the area;

TAKING INTO ACCOUNT:

EU regulation 1107/09 (2009) “to ensure a high level of protection of both human and animal health and the environment and to improve the functioning of the internal market through the harmonization of the rules on the placing on the market of plant protection products, while improving agricultural production”; and

RECOGNIZING:

A considerable lack of action made by the OAS compared to other international organizations regarding the uniform regulation of pesticides;

A study by the NGO Environmental Health Perspectives, covering South and Central America, indicating with confidence that the pesticide usage currently implemented in the region has clear adverse effects on the population's individual health through indirect and direct exposure;

The Environmental Health Perspectives' 2022 study which states that "exposure to pesticides may adversely impact the health of [Latin American and Caribbean] populations. For instance, (Environmental Health Perspectives) observed that occupational and residential exposure to OP pesticides or several pesticide classes was consistently associated with higher levels of increased chromosomal aberration frequency, nuclear buds, oxidative stress, or cell death.",

RESOLVES:

1. To suggest the formation of an inter-American subcommittee for the overseeing of uniform regulation of pesticide usage in both amount and substance and the gradual implementation of large-scale alternatives to pesticides, largely in farming practices, such as crop diversification, crop rotation, and companion planting.
2. To urge the general secretariat and OAS member states to jointly fund and oversee the formation of a new committee, the Supervisory Subcommittee on Pesticide Usage (SSPU), overseen by the Inter-American Institute for Cooperation on Agriculture (IICA), whose purpose will be:
 - a. To regularly review the substance and the rate of usage of pesticides commonly used in OAS member states.
 - b. To regularly reassess if the usage of pesticide substances is in the best interest of the natural ecosystems and the local affected populations.
 - c. To discover, encourage, and aid in the implementation of alternative farming methods.
3. To request that the SSPU shall consist of a team of eight members who fulfill the following criteria:
 - a. Five independent experts in the fields of proteomics and/or public health, elected by a simple majority at the General Assembly from a pool of independent experts assigned by the IICA.
 - b. Three formal and non-permanent observers delegated by the ambassador the OAS of a rotating pool of afflicted countries, with countries represented rotating annually.
4. To request OAS Member States, who have expressed clear consent to the recommendations of the SSPU, to aid the SSPU's collection of data within their jurisdiction and to abide by regulatory pesticide usage recommendations from the SSPU, as to best ensure pesticide reform that would effectively aid the health and well-being of the region's ecosystems and inhabitants.
5. To request additional funding come from volunteer donations from OAS member states, World Bank, Permanent observers, and the Pan-American Health Organization, and other Non-governmental Organizations.
6. To strongly recommend for the time frame of the formation of the SSPU under the supervision and authority of the IICA, including allocation of funds, recruitment and selection of experts and authorities to be within 18 months of the approval from the OAS, with an absolute deadline October 1, 2024.

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

Cosignatories: 1. _____
(Signature of Delegate) (Country Represented)
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PROPOSAL OF PUBLIC POLICIES IN ORDER TO COMPENSATE THE ECOLOGICAL DAMAGE TO OCEANS AND SEAS DURING THE COVID-19 PANDEMIC

Special Committee
Draft Resolution Presented by the Delegation of the Republic of Costa Rica

Topic No. 1 of the Agenda

THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY,

HAVING SEEN:

Article 95 (c) (i) of the Charter of the Organization of American States (OAS), which claims that “In order to achieve its various goals, especially in the specific area of technical cooperation, the Inter-American Council for Integral Development shall (...) promote, coordinate, and assign responsibility for the execution of development programs and projects to the subsidiary bodies and relevant organizations, on the basis of the priorities identified by the Member States, in areas such as (...) economic and social development, including trade, tourism, integration and the environment”;

Article 15 of the Inter-American Democratic Charter, which emphasizes that “The exercise of democracy promotes the preservation and good stewardship of the environment. It is essential that the states of the Hemisphere implement policies and strategies to protect the environment, including application of various treaties and conventions, to achieve sustainable development for the benefit of future generations”;

Article 11 (1) of the Additional Protocol to the American Convention on Human Rights in the area of Economic, Social and Cultural rights "Protocol of San Salvador", which states that “Everyone shall have the right to live in a healthy environment and to have access to basic public services”;

Article 11 (2) of the Additional Protocol to the American Convention on Human Rights in the area of Economic, Social and Cultural rights "Protocol of San Salvador", which asserts that “The States Parties shall promote the protection, preservation, and improvement of the environment”;

CONSIDERING:

That the formulation and implementation of environmental public policies can prevent or solve the environmental necessities and problems of states, striving for environmental sustainability;

That cooperation between governments of American states, joining efforts to develop plans aimed at charting a more sustainable future, is the most efficient way to address the environmental emergency caused by the COVID-19 pandemic;

TAKING INTO ACCOUNT:

The Resolution of the General Assembly of the United Nations A/RES/45/94 (1991) “Need to ensure a healthy environment for the well-being of individuals”, which recognizes “That all individuals are entitled to live in an environment adequate for their health and wellbeing”;

Framework principle 1 of the Report of the Special Rapporteur on the issue of human rights obligations relating to the enjoyment of a safe, clean, healthy and sustainable environment A/HRC/37/59 (2018), which claims that “States should ensure a safe, clean, healthy and sustainable environment in order to respect, protect and fulfil human rights”;

UNDERLINING:

The efforts of the Inter-American Program for Sustainable Development (PIDS) and of the Executive Secretariat for the Integral Development (SEDI) to implement strategic actions for the management of water resources focused on promoting dialogue, technical cooperation, information exchange, and exchanges of experiences and best practices among Member States to develop public policies on integrated water resources management; and,

DEEPLY CONCERNED:

Regarding of the United Nations alert on the increase in the use and manufacture of single-use plastics due to the use of masks, gloves and other products such as hydroalcoholic gel;

With the knowledge that approximately 75% of the plastic generated due to the COVID-19 pandemic such as masks, gloves and bottles of hand sanitizer will become waste that will end up in the ocean, representing a serious cost to the environment, as reported by the United Nations Conference on Trade and Development,

RESOLVES:

1. To congratulate Member States for the efforts and accomplishments to establish strategic actions in order to ensure the implementation of the 2030 Agenda on the Sustainable Development Goals in the Hemisphere.
2. To reiterate the necessity to protect the seas and oceans from the pollution produced by the increase in the use and manufacture of single-use plastics due to the COVID-19 pandemic.
3. To continue coordinating the efforts to support the management of Member States in the correct disposal and recycling process of single-use plastic waste, used as COVID-19 preventive measure, in order to stop discarding waste into the oceans.
4. To suggest the Executive Secretariat for Integral Development (SEDI) to make a report for Member States that includes relevant information on the negative impact of the COVID-19 pandemic on the environment, focusing on the impact that the disposal of bio-sanitary waste has had in the seas and oceans of the Hemisphere.
5. To suggest the Department for Effective Public Management and the Environmental Law, Policy and Governance Program provide assistance for Member States in the formulation of public policies to compensate the ecological damage to water bodies such as seas and oceans, which were affected by the increase of the use of single-use plastics due to the COVID-19 pandemic.

6. To create a Hemispheric Cooperation program for matters related to the impact on the oceans and seas that were caused by the COVID-19 pandemic in the Americas, that will have the following functions:
 - a. The purpose of this program is to contribute to the process of achieving the Sustainable Development Goals, specifically number 13, which proposes to the States to adopt urgent measures to combat climate change and its effects, ensuring that the Hemisphere accomplishes with implementation of the 2030 Agenda on the Sustainable Development Goals.
 - b. This program will work jointly with the Department for Effective Public Management, Integrated Water Resources Management Section (IWRM) from the Department of Sustainable Development and the Environmental Law, Policy and Governance Program, to assist Member States during the formulation of public policies whose main objective is the protection and compensation of water bodies that were negatively affected by the contamination during the pandemic.
 - c. The program will monitor compliance with the formulated public policies.

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

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

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DEVELOPING AN AMERICAN DECLARATION ON THE RIGHTS OF NATURE

Special Committee

Topic No. 2 of the Agenda

Draft Resolution Presented by the Delegation of the Republic of Argentina

THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY,

NOTING:

The Preamble of the 1948 Charter of the Organization of American States (OAS) which states that “the historic mission of America is to offer to man a land of liberty and a favorable environment for the development of his personality and the realization of his just aspirations”;

Article 2(a) is to “strengthen the peace and security of the continent”;

Article 2(f) to “promote, by cooperative action, their economic, social, and cultural development”;

Article 30 which establishes a “united effort to ensure international social justice in their relations and integral development for their peoples, as conditions essential to peace and security” across the Americas;

The 1940 Convention On Nature Protection And Wild Life Preservation In The Western Hemisphere Article V (1) that states “(t)he Contracting Governments agree to adopt, or to propose such adoption to their respective appropriate law-making bodies, suitable laws and regulations for the protection and preservation of flora and fauna within their national boundaries”;

RECOGNIZING:

The Declaration of Asunción (1990) reaffirms the body’s mission to “cooperate on hemispheric environmental issues so as to meet the needs of the present generation” while working on missions that also help the future generations living within the Americas;

The Preambles of the 2006 Declaration of Santa Cruz that says “in the framework of domestic legislations, that the development and implementation of strategies for managing protected areas as well as their buffer zones and conservation corridors should take into account the active participation of all stakeholders, particularly local communities, including indigenous peoples, in the local socio-political and cultural context”;

Resolve III (39) of the Declaration of Santa Cruz which commits to “. . .strengthen efforts at the national level towards the protection of ecosystems and the services they provide and the valuation of their contribution to sustainable agriculture, sustainable forest management and sustainable tourism, and to facilitate the regional exchange of information, experiences and lessons learned”;

GUIDED BY:

The 2022 Ninth Summit of the Americas Commitment titled “Our Sustainable Green Future” commitment 1(a), where the Heads of State and Government reaffirms its purpose to strengthen their efforts in, “[stimulating] sustainable development and promote equal opportunity for populations affected by climate change, including indigenous peoples and local communities”;

The 2014 Law No. 10208. Environmental Policy Law Of The Province Of Córdoba, Argentina Article 5(a), (b), and (c) that dictate environmental policies must be created out of “respect for human dignity and the continuous improvement of the quality of life of the population,” “the protection of people's health by preventing risks or environmental damage,” and “the protection, rehabilitation and recovery of the environment, including the components that make it up”;

CONVINCED:

That environmental issues should be at the forefront of Member States’ priorities and is essential towards creating a more stable and developed region in response to climate change, deforestation, mining, and other issues within the Americas;

REAFFIRMING:

The Department of Sustainable Development’s (DSD) mission to “fulfill its mission by supporting the development and use of sustainable energy alternatives... and increasing regional cooperation and trans-boundary interconnections” to further solidify the rights of nature as an integral part of the OAS mission;

The Declaration of Santo Domingo for the Sustainable Development of the Americas (2010) Paragraph 43 states Members will “continue to strengthen the exchange of information, experiences, best practices and lessons learned in member states on integrated water resources management sustainable energy, disaster risk management, climate change adaptation, and policies, strategies and legal and institutional frameworks on sustainable development, through inter-American networks established in the framework of the OAS on these issues”;

ACKNOWLEDGING:

The efforts of the governments of Chile, Mexico, Ecuador, and other countries who have adopted or are in the process of adopting constitutional rights to nature;

The 1994 amendments to the 1853 national constitution of Argentina that grant and protect environmental rights within Argentina and Article 41 reaffirms that “all inhabitants are entitled to the right to a healthy and balanced environment fit for human development in order that productive activities shall meet present needs without endangering those of future generations; and shall have the duty to preserve it . . . The authorities shall provide for the protection of this right, the rational use of natural

resources, the preservation of the natural and cultural heritage and of the biological diversity, and shall also provide for environmental information and education”; and

CONCERNED BY:

Reports from National Institute of Health that found in between 1970 and 2010, Latin America has lost more than “500,000 square kilometers of forest, equal to the size of Spain”;

Rising temperatures with an average of 1.1°C rising since 1960 and a significant loss of glaciers within Argentina, impacting a critical source of freshwater; and

The lack of clear policies regarding the rights of nature and the environment within the OAS charter as environmental justice grows to be a larger issue globally and within the Americas,

RESOLVES:

1. To congratulate the work of the OAS in promoting policies that support the environment and in creating mandates that promote an eco-friendlier Americas.
2. To encourage all Member States who have not already done so to sign and ratify the “Convention On Nature Protection And Wild Life Preservation In The Western Hemisphere.”
3. To convene a Specialized Conference dedicated to the creation of an American Declaration on the Rights of Nature:
 - a. To instruct the Permanent Council to set the agenda to include topics such as:
 - i. Issues of environmental justice.
 - ii. Environmental protection.
 - iii. Sustainable development.
 - iv. Other relevant topics concerning the rights of nature.
 - b. Each Member State is invited to send representatives and/or experts in the field of sustainability and environmental issues to form an exhaustive assembly across professions.
 - i. Representatives from each Member State to help aid in the construction and content of the Declaration.
 - ii. Delegates hold one vote each when writing the draft and to decide by majority vote on issues.
 - c. For the week-long conference to be held in Buenos Aires, Argentina beginning on April 22, 2024.
4. Authorizing the attendance of special guests and for the General Secretariat to invite organs of the Organization relating to the agenda, such as Inter-American Institute for Cooperation on Agriculture, Inter-American Council for Integral Development, and Inter-American Agency for Cooperation and Development.

5. To request support and funding from voluntary donations by Member States, observer states, and registered non-governmental organizations.
6. To request the Secretary General to produce a report and inform the Fifty-Fifth Regular Session of the General Assembly on the implementation of the resolution, subject to the availability of financial resources in the program-budget of the Organization and other resources.

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

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

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RECOGNIZING THE RIGHTS OF NATURE BY AN AMENDMENT TO THE OAS CHARTER AND PROPOSING AN OAS SPECIAL ENVIRONMENTAL COMMISSION

Special Committee
Draft Resolution Presented by the Delegation of Ecuador

Topic No. 2 of the Agenda

THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY,

ACKNOWLEDGING:

That the OAS Founding Charter states that “There may be established, in addition to those provided for in the Charter and in accordance with the provisions thereof, such subsidiary organs, agencies, and other entities as are considered necessary” (Article 53);

The objectives of the OAS to continually amend its governing documents to promote democratic ideals and human flourishing, as noted in the OAS Charter;

NOTING:

That the preamble of the OAS Inter-American Democratic Charter recognizes “a safe environment [to be] essential to the integral development of the human being, which contributes to democracy and political stability”;

That the OAS Inter-American Democratic Charter states, “the exercise of democracy promotes the preservation and good stewardship of the environment” and “it is essential that the states of the Hemisphere implement policies and strategies to protect the environment, including application of various treaties and conventions, to achieve sustainable development for the benefit of future generations” (III.15);

That the OAS Inter-American Democratic Charter states that “the promotion and protection of human rights of indigenous peoples... contribute[s] to strengthening democracy and citizen participation” (II.9);

DEFINING:

The rights of nature as “the right of nature to exist, persist, evolve, and regenerate” and “the right of any person or organization to defend, protect, and enforce those rights on behalf of nature, and for payment of recovered damages to government to provide for the full restoration of nature” according to the International Joint Commission of Canada and the United States;

CONSIDERING:

The scale of the climate crisis and its consequential impact on the environment of the Americas, such as the depleting biodiversity of the Amazon rainforest and the destruction of other ecological systems such as the Galapagos Islands;

The damage caused by natural and man-made disasters in the Hemisphere, such as hurricanes and oil spills;

The effects of the climate crisis have harmed millions of people across the Americas, and have placed disproportionate and undue burden on Indigenous communities; and

WELCOMING:

The willingness of OAS Member nations to pursue environmental protection and progress whenever possible for the sake of protecting and promoting democratic ideals,

RESOLVES:

1. To congratulate OAS member states that have already acknowledged the rights of nature through constitutional amendments, environmental legislation, or public policy. Also, to express continued support for the efforts of governments to protect the environment and natural resources throughout the Hemisphere.
2. To officially recognize the rights of nature, as defined in the preamble, and commit to its preservation as the Organization of American States by adding a provision to Article 2 of the OAS Charter:
 - a. This amendment reads that one of the essential purposes of the OAS is: “i) To promote and protect the environment and natural resources of the Western hemisphere, in recognition of humanity’s indissoluble relationship with nature, which has the right to be respected and maintained”.
3. To establish a Special Environmental Commission within the OAS, which will:
 - a. Advance environmental policy initiatives throughout the hemisphere by:
 - i. Partnering with Indigenous communities to empower them to be stewards of their ancestral lands.
 - ii. Conducting research on environmental issues throughout OAS member states;
 - iii. Advising on policy improvements in order to more effectively protect the rights of nature throughout the Hemisphere.
 - iv. Drafting further resolutions to be proposed to the OAS General Assembly at its annual gatherings.
 - b. Include one committee member from each member state that wishes to participate.
 - c. Rotate its headquarters throughout each participating member state once every two years.
 - d. Have a proposed annual operating budget estimated at \$3 million to cover personnel salary, office space, travel funds for member state delegates, and research projects in member states.

Approved for form and substance: _____

(Signature of Faculty Advisor)

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

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SUSTAINING DECLINES IN AIR POLLUTION IN THE AMERICAS AFTER THE COVID-19 PANDEMIC

Special Committee
Draft Resolution Presented by the Delegation of El Salvador

Topic No. 1 of the Agenda

THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY,

HAVING SEEN:

ARTICLE 37 of the Charter of the Organization of American States (OAS), in which “the Member States agree to join in seeking a solution to urgent or critical problems that may arise whenever the economic development or stability of any Member State is seriously affected by conditions that cannot be remedied by the efforts of that State”;

ARTICLE 22 of the OAS Charter, which states that “Natural and man-made disasters affect populations, economies, and the environment. Reducing the vulnerabilities of countries to these disasters, with particular attention to the most vulnerable regions and communities, including the poorest segments of society, is essential to ensuring nations’ progress and the pursuit of a better quality of life”;

ARTICLE 33 of the Social Charter of the Americas, which states that “Integral development encompasses, inter alia, the economic, ...technological, labor, health, and environmental fields”;

ARTICLE 15 of the Inter-American Democratic Charter, which affirms that “It is essential that the states of the Hemisphere implement policies and strategies to protect the environment, to achieve sustainable development for the benefit of future generations”;

BEARING IN MIND:

According to the World Health Organization, 7 million people a year die prematurely due to exposure to ambient and household air pollution; poor and middle-income nations account for 89% of premature deaths, and in 2019, 99% of the world’s population resided in places where World Health Organization air quality guidelines were not reached;

According to the National Library of Medicine in Latin America and the Caribbean, 26.5% of the population is exposed to air pollution, including 30 million children, 47 million adults, and 4 million seniors. This exceeds the levels recommended by the World Health Organization;

According to the United Nations Environment Program, 104 of the 124 nations with air quality regulations have no monitoring infrastructure in place, which severely limits the utility and impact of those regulations;

RECOGNIZING:

That alongside the many negative effects of the Covid pandemic, reductions in economic activity associated with the pandemic did have one positive consequence: widespread declines in air pollution levels;

That during the Covid shut down of April 2020, Statista reported a significant drop in nitrogen dioxide air pollution levels in Member States, ranging from 68% to 16%;

That the World Meteorological Organization Bulletin found sulfur dioxide concentrations in the air were 25-60% lower in 2020 than in 2015-2019 for the Western Hemisphere. At the same time, carbon monoxide levels were reduced throughout the Western Hemisphere, with South America experiencing the greatest reduction of up to 40%;

ACKNOWLEDGING:

That several nations have successfully reduced air pollution levels through a combination of innovative regulatory policies, behavior-changing incentives, and technological innovations;

That Nordic nations have significantly cut air pollution through strongly enforcing environmental regulations, investing in renewable energy, promoting electric vehicle use, and requiring filters on heavy duty vehicles that produce particulate emissions;

That the city of Bogota, Colombia has launched a program to sustain the air pollution drops that took place during the Covid pandemic. The plan includes increasing bicycle infrastructure, electrifying the mass transportation system, encouraging people to walk, restricting heavily-polluting vehicles, and strengthening air quality monitoring; and

REAFFIRMING:

The mandates on “Accelerating the Clean, Sustainable, Renewable, and Just Energy Transition,” ratified by Member States at the IX Summit of the Americas (Los Angeles, 2022) These mandates included pledges to “promote energy efficiency in new public and private infrastructure plans,” and “share best practices on inclusive and equitable energy-efficient transportation infrastructure”;

The emphasis these Summit of the Americas mandates placed on collaborative air pollution reduction efforts, including “cooperation to increase the share of all forms and types of renewable energy in the countries of the Americas,” and working with “the private sector, multilateral development banks, and multilateral climate funds, as appropriate, to identify, facilitate access to, and finance quality energy efficiency and clean and sustainable energy infrastructure plans and projects,”

RESOLVES:

1. To commend the OAS member states for their commitment to the Energy and Climate Partnership of the Americas (ECPA) and the Climate and Clean Air project in Latin American Cities (CALAC+), which promote regional cooperation to strengthen pollution regulations, promote renewable energy, achieve cleaner and more efficient use of traditional energy sources, and improve energy infrastructure.
2. To propose that the OAS Department of Sustainable Development (DSD) work with the ECPA and the United Nations Environmental Program (UNEP) Climate and Clean Air Coalition (CCAC) to help member states develop cooperative strategies to sustain the reductions in air pollution that took place during Covid-related lockdowns.
3. To recommend that the DSD and the UNEP CCAC organize a Post-Covid Clean Air Conference, which would be held virtually, to be hosted by El Salvador, which would bring together key stakeholders to share best practices and plan future collaborations. Participants in the Clean Air Conference would include:

- a. Representatives from participating Member States’ Ministries of the Environment;
 - b. Researchers and scientists with expertise in developing clean air technologies;
 - c. Officials from existing hemispheric clean air initiatives, such as the ECPA and the Climate and Clean Air project for Latin American Cities (CALAC+);
 - d. Representatives from multilateral development banks and other potential funders; and
 - e. Private sector producers of innovative clean technologies, such as soot-free engine technology for urban public transportation.
4. To propose that the Post-Covid Clean Air Conference include the following:
- a. Evaluation of data on participating Member States’ air quality before, during and after the Covid-19 pandemic, using statistics provided by the World Health Organization’s Air Pollution Data Portal;
 - b. Presentations from air pollution experts on the most cost-effective, high-impact options for mitigating air pollution and expanding clean and renewable energy production capacities;
 - c. Workshops with staff from ongoing hemispheric clean air initiatives to share their best practices and lessons learned;
 - d. Sessions with private sector investors interested in partnering with Member States to implement clean air technologies; and
 - e. Strategy sessions, facilitated by UNEP CCAC and ECPA, to:
 - 1. Analyze obstacles to preventing a rebound in regional air pollution levels following the pandemic;
 - 2. Help participating Member States strengthen and harmonize the monitoring and enforcement of air quality regulations; and
 - 3. Help participating Member States build citizen awareness of and support for air pollution mitigation programs.
5. To propose that funding for the Clean Air Conference and follow-up activities be sought from the World Bank, the Inter-American Development Bank, the Caribbean Development Bank, the Development Bank of Latin America, and the Central American Bank for Economic Integration (CABEI).
6. To call on participating Member States to submit one-year progress reports on air pollution levels and on the implementation of clean air initiatives arising from the Conference. Based on these reports, Member States can determine whether a follow-up conference should be held to share best practices.

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

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

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DEVELOPMENT PLAN FOR HEMISPHERIC COOPERATION TO MONITOR THE PROTECTION OF WATER POLLUTION WITHIN THE OAS FRAMEWORK

Special Committee
Draft Resolution Presented by the Delegation of Barbados

Topic No. 3 of the Agenda

THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY,

HAVING SEEN:

Article 30 of the Organization of American States (OAS) Charter, which establishes that “The Member States, inspired by the principles of InterAmerican solidarity and cooperation, pledge themselves to a united effort to ensure international social justice in their relations and integral development for their peoples, as conditions essential to peace and security. Integral development encompasses the economic, social, educational, cultural, scientific, and technological fields through which the goals that each country sets for accomplishing it should be achieved”;

Article 15 of the Inter-American Democratic Charter, which establishes that "The exercise of democracy promotes the preservation and good stewardship of the environment. It is essential that the states of the Hemisphere implement policies and strategies to protect the environment, including application of various treaties and conventions, to achieve sustainable development for the benefit of future generations";

Article 20 of the Social Charter, which finds that “Member states recognize that water is fundamental for life and central to socioeconomic development and environmental sustainability and that non-discriminatory access by the population to safe drinking water and sanitation services, in the framework of national laws and policies, contributes to the objective of combating poverty. Member states, in keeping with their national realities, undertake to continue working to ensure access to safe drinking water and sanitation services for present and future generations”;

TAKING INTO ACCOUNT:

The United Nations (UN) Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs), Goal number 6; ensuring availability and sustainable management of water and sanitation for all, focusing on the “Access to safe water, sanitation and hygiene is the most basic human need for health and well-being. Billions of people will lack access to these basic services in 2030 unless progress quadruples. Demand for water is rising owing to rapid population growth, urbanization and increasing water needs from agriculture, industry, and energy sectors. Decades of misuse, poor management, overextraction of groundwater and contamination of freshwater supplies have exacerbated water stress. In addition, countries are facing growing challenges linked to degraded water-related ecosystems, water scarcity caused by climate change, underinvestment in water and sanitation and insufficient cooperation on transboundary waters”;

RECALLING:

The UN General Assembly (UNGA) A/RES/76/300, “Recognizing the right to a clean, health, and sustainable environment as a human right”, which “called upon States, international organizations, business enterprises and other relevant stakeholders to adopt policies, enhance international cooperation, strengthen capacity-building and continue to share good practices in order to scale up efforts to ensure a clean, healthy and sustainable environment for all”; and

DEEPLY CONCERNED:

That, according to the latest report of UN statistics, only one percent of 76,000 water bodies assessed with good quality are in the poorest countries, and over 3 billion people rely on water resources for which water quality data is unknown due to a lack of monitoring;

About the fact that “many major lakes and river basins from North to South America are under great strain from growing populations and resulting of accumulated agricultural and industrial run-off”, according to the World Water Council (WWC);

With the fact that “Significant coverage gaps persist in the region regarding access to quality drinking water and sanitation in which 1 in 4 people do not have access to safely managed drinking water (161 million people), and even greater concern is that 7 out of 10 people do not have access to safely managed sanitation (431 million people)”, according to the latest regional report by the Comisión Económica para América Latina y el Caribe (CEPAL);

On the water distribution situation of Latin America and the Caribbean, exposed by the United Nations Environment Programme, that the hemisphere possesses 30% of the world’s water resources but that distribution of safe water is “highly irregular or inequitable”;

With existing economic inequalities, regional scarcity, water pollution, and the lack of regulations that still exist within the hemisphere,

RESOLVES:

1. To congratulate Member States for the dedication and efforts made to protect the water sources of the hemisphere.
2. To encourage all nations of the hemisphere to continue monitoring and promoting a healthy and sustainable environment, and to respect human rights, including in all actions undertaken to address environmental challenges.
3. To suggest the creation of a Plan for Hemispheric Cooperation to Monitor and Protect Water Pollution. This development plan is advised to be supported and supervised under the OAS Executive Secretariat for Integral Development (SEDI) and its Department of Sustainable Development, the organizations responsible for the implementation, monitoring, and evaluation of the plan; in

coordination with the assistance of the Inter-American Program for Sustainable Development (PIDS). The plan will cover the following issues:

- a. To encourage the Inter-American networks dedicated to protect and preserve biological diversity and migratory species in both marine and terrestrial environments, as well as freshwater ecosystems and their environmental services in the Hemisphere.
 - b. To support the exchange of information and data related to oil spills, water pollution, and water management; with the aim of improving decision-making, including those related to water pollution.
 - c. To suggest assistance to Member States in their efforts to promote collaboration between the public and private sectors in the development of infrastructure related to integrated water resource management.
 - d. To provide technical assistance and strengthen training policies to Member States in order to build and improve the national capacities to promote strategies for integrated water pollution monitoring and protection practices. This can be carried out through programs, transfer of information, and technology.
 - e. To monitor and provide expertise for the progress of this plan through the Ministries of Environmental protection, or the equivalent organisms in charge of environmental issues in each country.
4. To recommend an annual virtual meeting commending all Member States to share experiences, and evaluate the progress of the Plan:
- a. English would be the language of the meeting and have a translator if necessary.
 - b. The meeting will be composed of the group of experts and political leaders responsible for environmental issues in the Americas.
 - c. To provide an overall report in order to exchange information, share experiences and results as feedback for future meetings.

5. To seek out advice and funding on environmental matters and water treatment from the following international organizations: the UN, The Inter-American Development Bank (IADB), The Pan American Health Organization (PAHO) and The World Health Organization (WHO), as well as registered NGOs with expertise in these ideas

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

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

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COMPREHENSIVE POST-COVID 19 PANDEMIC WASTE MANAGEMENT AND A STRATEGIC PLAN TO CREATE A PANDEMIC ENVIRONMENTAL TEAM

Special Committee

Topic No. 1 of the Agenda

Draft Working Group Resolution Presented by the Delegations of Guyana, Peru, and Honduras

THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY,

HAVING SEEN:

Article 95(c) of the Organization of American States (OAS) Charter, which states that the Inter-American Council for Integral Development (IACID) shall “promote, coordinate, and assign responsibility” for programs and projects in areas including “economic and social development, including trade, tourism, integration and the environment”;

The Inter-American Democratic Charter (IADC), which recognizes that “a safe environment is essential to the integral development of human being, which contributes to democracy and political stability”;

Article 15 of the IADC proclaims, “The exercise of democracy promotes the preservation and good stewardship of the environment. The states of the Hemisphere must implement policies and strategies to protect the environment, including applying various treaties and conventions, to achieve sustainable development for the benefit of future generations”;

Article 25 of the Declaration on Social Progress and Development affirms “The establishment of legal and administrative measures for the protection and improvement of the human environment, at both national and international level”;

Article 12 of the International Covenant on Economic, Social, and Cultural Rights affirms “the right of everyone to the enjoyment of the highest attainable standard of physical and mental health,” including “the prevention, treatment, and control of epidemic, endemic, occupational and other diseases”;

RECOGNIZING:

The Introduction and Article 4 of The Paris Agreement on Climate Change, which states “Climate change is a common concern of humankind, and that Parties should, when taking action to address climate change, respect, promote and consider their respective obligations on human rights, the right to health, the rights of local communities, [...] and the right to development and intergenerational equity”;

The Omnibus Resolution of the United Nations A/RES/74/306 (2020) “Comprehensive and Coordinated Response to the Coronavirus Disease (COVID-19) Pandemic”, which recognizes the negative impact on global humanitarian needs, including disruption to environments, and reaffirms its full commitment to the 2023 Agenda for Sustainable Development;

DEEPLY CONCERNED:

That the SARS-COVID-2 (COVID-19) pandemic has led to a relaxation on environmental regulations and policies due to an unstable economy focused primarily on pandemic-related issues;

That the COVID-19 pandemic has led to an increase in environmental, medical, and solid infectious waste in Latin America and the Caribbean region (LAC) and a challenge on effective waste management and disposal;

Due to the COVID-19 outbreak, face masks, hand gloves, and other safety equipment have increased. Subsequent to the attack of COVID-19, the production and use of plastic-based personal protective equipment (PPE) have increased globally;

The sudden increase of hazardous and infectious waste caused by the COVID-19 pandemic has contributed to thirty percent of all municipal waste (approximately 145,000 tons) found in landfills, the burning and inadequate disposal of which result in severe environmental issues such as water contamination, increased greenhouse gas emissions, and soil pollution according to the United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP);

APPLAUDING:

The World Health Organization (WHO) for addressing the issues of medical waste by developing training modules on this topic and publishing the comprehensive document “Safe management of wastes from health care activities”;

The Sanitation and Water for All (SWA) for their commitment to improving sanitation and water quality in developing countries;

The leadership of OAS Member States for their commitment to promoting human rights, sustainable development, and efforts to combat climate change and achieve a more equitable and prosperous future for the hemisphere; and

REAFFIRMING:

The commitments made by member states under such international agreements, conventions, and treaties, the need for coordinated action to address the environmental challenges that have arisen from COVID-19,

RESOLVES:

1. To applaud the efforts of the OAS and Member States on mitigating the effects of the COVID-19 pandemic.
2. To reaffirm Member States’ obligations under the OAS Charter, IADC, and IACHR to implement policies to protect the environment and promote sustainable development.

3. To remain prepared to respond to a similar pandemics with more environmentally-responsible response plans, to encourage citizens in OAS states into proper waste management habits including:
 - a. To take communal action for community cleanliness, proliferation of recycling programs
 - b. To emphasize the importance of environmental preservation through incentivizing and implementing environmental care and recycling into public education systems.
 - c. To support use of waste disposal receptacles in densely populated areas, in conjunction with equally present recycling receptacles.
 - d. To encourage various official government statements and mass media coverage.
 - e. To sponsor the use of environmentally friendly alternatives to single-use plastics and other trash, and other public support initiatives.

4. To request that the OAS Department of Sustainable Development partner with the Pan American Health Organization (PAHO) to conduct and oversee a project that develops sustainable waste systems in LAC countries with special attention on healthcare waste by following the subsequent objectives proposed by the UNEP:
 - a. Focus on gradually eliminating dumpsites by:
 - i. Replacing landfills with facilities that manage healthcare waste more effectively and safely with the introduction of new technology.
 - b. Prioritize sound waste prevention and recycling practices by:
 - i. Optimizing waste collection routes that ensures all populations have access to basic waste collective services, especially in rural and marginal areas.
 - ii. Creating a waste management system more capable of differentiating between hazardous waste and household waste.
 - iii. Promoting recycling post-COVID-19 to reduce waste generation by expanding the recycling sector and increasing the amount of waste pickers.
 - iv. Ensuring a safe working environment for waste workers by offering appropriate training and providing adequate personal protective equipment.
 - c. Ensure the waste sector is more prepared for unforeseen challenges by:
 - i. Securing investments into a strengthened waste management system geared towards lasting sustainability measures.
 - ii. Certifying that the new waste management system is capable of responding to unforeseen circumstances that may lead to sudden increases in the amount and type of waste.
 - iii. Developing national policies and planning documents that include waste management plans in the event of environmental or natural disasters such as a pandemic.

5. To recommend the creation of the Environmental Pandemic Organization for Future Pandemics (EPOFP) with a specific mandate of reducing the environmental threat posed by the generation and disposal of medical waste.
 - a. The EPOFP will assemble an interdisciplinary team of experts in environmental policy, law, sciences, and socio-economic development for a two-year term.

- b. The team will comprise one member from each nation state and one member from the Executive Secretariat for Integral Development (SEDI).
 - c. Team will be tasked with exploring strategies to minimize environmental contamination from medical waste, strategies will include but not limited to:
 - i. Switch from traditional plastics to organically and biodegradable polymers especially as it pertains to medical usage.
 - ii. Investigate new and innovative recycling technologies to repurpose PPEs.
 - iii. Evaluate existing resources both at the national and hemispheric level that can be used to mitigate the negative impact of medical waste.
 - iv. Develop effective communication strategies to educate member states on best practices on medical waste disposal especially during an epidemic or a pandemic.
 - v. Increase awareness of the negative health impacts of medical waste especially the co- mingling of medical with household waste.
6. The team will convene monthly virtual meeting to review their progress in accomplishing the mandate of EPOFP:
 - a. The team will report its findings, conclusions, and recommendations in a document which will be shared with SEDI and all of the OAS member states.
7. To call on the Inter-American Development Bank (IADB), the World Bank, the Global Environment Facility (GEF), nongovernmental organizations (NGOs), private health organizations, and additional grant programs to provide financial support for the OAS-PAHO project on improving waste management systems in LAC countries and the EPOFP on reducing the negative impact of future pandemics, outlined as follows:
 - a. Establish an emergency fund to increase waste management preparedness for unforeseen events such as a future pandemic.
 - b. Provide the crucial funding for LAC countries struggling to rebound their economies post-pandemic to implement and develop new waste management systems.
 - c. Allow the OAS, PAHO, and EPOFP to redistribute fundings amongst LAC countries in an equitable manner, prioritizing the ones most in need.

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

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

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**ESTABLISHING AN ENVIRONMENTAL EDUCATION COMMITTEE
REGARDING WATER SECURITY**

Special Committee

Topic No. 2 of the Agenda

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

THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY,

HAVING SEEN:

Article 31 of the Charter of the Organization of American States (OAS) establishes, “Inter-American cooperation for integral development is the common and joint responsibility of the Member States, within the framework of the democratic principles and the institutions of the InterAmerican system. It should include the economic, social, educational, cultural, scientific, and technological fields, support the achievement of national objectives of the Member States, and respect the priorities established by each country in its development plans, without political ties or conditions.”;

Article 51 of the Charter of the Organization of American States (OAS) states that, “The Member States will develop science and technology through educational, research, and technological development activities and information and dissemination programs. They will stimulate activities in the field of technology for the purpose of adapting it to the needs of their integral development. They will organize their cooperation in these fields efficiently and will substantially increase exchange of knowledge, in accordance with national objectives and laws and with treaties in force”;

AG/RES. 2349 (XXXVII O/07) Water, Health, and Human Rights which provides that the Inter-American Program has the objective of improving water resources management practices in order to assure quality water for human consumption and ensure its sustainable use for the current and future generations without damaging the environment;

Article 22 of the Social Charter of the Americas, “Natural and man-made disasters affect populations, economies, and the environment. Reducing the vulnerabilities of countries to these disasters, with particular attention to the most vulnerable regions and communities, including the poorest segments of society, is essential to ensuring nations’ progress and the pursuit of a better quality of life. Member states commit to improving regional cooperation and to strengthening their national, technical, and institutional capacity for disaster prevention, preparedness and response, rehabilitation, resilience, risk reduction, impact mitigation, and evaluation. Member states also commit to face the impact of climate variability, including the El Niño and La Niña phenomena, and the adverse effects of climate change that represent a risk increase in all countries of the Hemisphere, particularly for developing countries”;

NOTING:

The Rights of Nature law recognizes that an ecosystem has the right to exist, flourish, regenerate its vital cycles, and naturally evolve without human-caused disruption. The environment should legally have the same protection as people and corporations; that ecosystems and species have legal rights to exist, thrive, and regenerate;

The legalized use of the environment has treated nature as infinite, able to provide for endless growth and development. But nature is not infinite, and the consequence of this system of law has proven destructive of ecosystems, species, and biodiversity. Today, we know that species extinction rates are occurring 1,000 times faster than natural background rates, which prompted the United Nations to warn that a sixth mass species extinction is in the cards; and

RECOGNIZING:

Saint Vincent and the Grenadines, along with other small island states in the Caribbean and across the world, is acutely vulnerable to the adverse impacts of climate change, including rising sea levels, storm surges, changes in precipitation patterns, and the increasing intensity of extreme weather events such as hurricanes;

Water shortages, steady drying of river streams, and degrading water quality is rapidly increasing as populations increase as well. Almost 54% of Saint Vincent and the Grenadines' population lives in urban areas throughout the nation and pollution of the island's coastal waters is a major concern,

RESOLVES:

1. To commend the various accomplishments by the Department of Sustainable Development to promote and protect environmental law among Member States.
2. To appreciate the importance of addressing water quality concerns throughout the Caribbean region.
3. To recognize the need for democratic cooperation to prioritize water security, especially for developing nations.
4. To further recommend that the Department of Sustainable Development establishes an Environmental Water Protection Education Committee through the following:
 - A. The purpose of this committee would be to educate all Member States on the Rights of Nature when it comes to water protection and other environmental concerns.
 - B. The committee will educate member states on:
 - i. The impacts of water pollution.
 - ii. Water conservation management.
 - iii. How to decrease coastal erosion.
 - iv. Water-related natural disaster recovery.
 - C. The Environmental Water Protection Education Committee will work alongside universities among Member States, NGOs, and representatives from indigenous and Afro-descendent communities to formulate this educational material.
5. To acknowledge that membership in the committee would be voluntary for Member States willing to participate and the committee will meet yearly in a virtual setting.

6. To establish that the committee would be funded by the voluntary Member State donations, Inter-American development bank, various NGOs, including but not limited to World Wide Fund for Nature, Earth Justice, and Greenpeace.

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

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

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**INTER-AMERICAN INITIATIVES FOR SUSTAINABLE TOURISM MODELS TO
ADDRESS THE COVID-19 RECOVERY AND OTHER
FUTURE ENVIRONMENTAL SHOCKS**

Special Committee
Draft Resolution presented by the Delegation of Jamaica.

Topic No 1. of the Agenda

THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY,

REAFFIRMING:

Articles 17 and 22 of the Charter of the Organization of American States (OAS), which establish the importance of cooperation for a safe environmental development and the provision of a safe environment for everyone;

The commitment of the OAS Member States to working together to enhance regional coordination in terms of the addressing of natural disasters and other environmental crises, including their agreement to strengthen the national institutional and technical capacities for the prevention, preparation, respond, rehabilitation, risk reduction and evaluation, associated to natural disasters and environmental crises;

CONSIDERING:

Article 10 of the 2012 Social Charter of the Americas, in which Member States agree that they, “in partnership with the private sector and civil society, will promote sustainable development by means of economic growth, social development, conservation and sustainable use of natural resources”, and how this commitment proved to be critical to address the consequences of the COVID-19 pandemic;

HAVING SEEN:

CP/RES. 1151 (2280/20) "OAS Response to the COVID-19 Pandemic" in which the OAS instructed to “continue engaging relevant multilateral institutions under the Joint Summit Working Group in order to promote coordinated interinstitutional responses and to support national efforts of member states in addressing the social, economic, environmental, health and security impacts of the COVID-19 pandemic”;

CONCERNED ABOUT:

The extent to which too many countries in the Americas have loosened their environmental safeguards as mechanisms to respond to the COVID-19 pandemic, and the implications of this situation for the state of Human Rights in the region;

National analyses conducted in Jamaica, and in many other countries in the hemisphere, according to which the global socio-economic disruptions caused by the pandemic have a direct and indirect impact on the environment, including policy areas such as air and water quality, reduction of noise, restoration of ecology, and the worsening of recycling policies and waste generation via biomedical materials;

How the production of medical and personal protective equipment (PPE) associated to the COVID-19 pandemic increased plastic waste pollution, generating the use and disposal of approximately 65 billion gloves and 129 billion face masks every month, and how this resulted in greenhouse gas emissions (GHG) equivalent to 14 to 33.5 tons of CO₂ per ton of equipment;

RECOGNIZING:

The discussions conducted within the OAS about the impact of the COVID-19 pandemic in the context of sustainable development, including how Member States have “a sound basis for promoting the establishment of whole-of-government approaches” to dealing with natura, environmental, technological, biological and humanmade hazards and risks;

The work conducted by the Department of Sustainable Development of the OAS Executive Secretariat for Integral Development, designing and implementing multiple interventions to support Member States in addressing the COVID-19 pandemic, including the strengthening of existing and the promotion of new partnerships for the “implementation of integrated water resources management and climate change mitigation and adaptation projects, providing technical cooperation for capacity building, and encouraging technology transfer on voluntary and mutually agreed terms”; and

WELCOMING:

The new Environmental program established in Jamaica, aiming at the implementation of a more diversified, inclusive, and sustainable tourism activity, centered in the empowerment and resilience of tourism entrepreneurs and Medium, Small and Micro enterprises (MSME), developed with the support of the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP),

RESOLVES:

1. To recognize the work of the OAS, its Member States, and other regional, national and local organizations in responding to the unprecedented environmental challenges that resulted of the COVID-19 pandemic, as well as in promoting the resilience of their economies and their societies during these difficult times.
2. To reaffirm the need for new and innovative hemispheric strategies that address pandemic preparedness and their environmental dimensions, including the development of social and economic strategies that consider the impact on industries dependent on natural resources, such as tourism, and the effects natural and biological risks on economic growth and sustainable development.
3. To request to the OAS Department of Sustainable Development (SDD) to work with the Department of Economic and Social Development (DESD), the Committee on Hemispheric Security, and other specialized agencies of the Inter-American system on the design and implementation of an Inter-American Shielding Mechanism for the Tourism Industry, as a policy action framework oriented but not limited to:
 - a. The definition of comprehensive legal, social, cultural, scientific, technological, and environmental frameworks to prepare the tourism industry for the environmental impact of future natural and biological crisis.
 - b. The design of specific mechanism for the provision of institutional resources to respond to the environmental consequences of future global pandemics.
 - c. The establishment of a regional Task Force to support the actions of the Shielding Mechanism, providing information, research, and fundraising strategies, among other actions.
4. To suggest that the Task Force of the Inter-American Shielding Mechanism for the Tourism Industry works with government and representatives from civil society and the private sector, and with the Department of Sustainable Development (SSD) as the technical rapporteur, focusing their proposed strategies and mechanisms on the following areas:
 - a. Protocols for the adjustment in environmental regulation and safeguards for the tourism industry to maintain their environmental dimensions in the case of eventual future lockdowns.

- b. Creation of an emergency fund for increased and long-standing investments for the prevention of environmental shocks, the preparedness of the tourism industry, and the reduction of the still impacting consequences of the COVID-19 pandemic.
 - c. Social innovation practices to diversify regional tourism economies and their sources of financial resources.
 - d. Inclusion of biodiversity conservation and sustainable development strategies as part of the prevention and preparation mechanisms for the protection of the environment and its contribution to the tourism industry.
5. To propose that the Task Force also engages with academic and research institutions from Member States to conduct research projects that improve the existing mechanisms for the environmental management of waste, specifically in the tourism industry, but in the overall economy, including the collection of efficient, effective data and monitoring mechanisms.
 6. To request to the Executive Secretariat for Integral Development (SEDI) presents a report on the implementation of this resolution to the 55th meeting of the General Assembly that will take place in 2025.

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

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

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CONFERENCE ADVANCING BALANCED EPIDEMIOLOGICAL RESPONSES AND NET ENVIRONMENTAL TRENDS (CABERNET)

Special Committee
Draft Resolution Presented by the Delegation of Argentina

Topic No. 1 of the Agenda

THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY,

BEARING IN MIND:

Article 1 of the Organization of American States (OAS) Charter (1948), “[i]s to achieve order of peace and justice, to promote solidarity, to strengthen collaboration, and to defend sovereignty, their territorial integrity, and their independence”;

Article 31, which states that "Inter-American cooperation for integral development is the common and joint responsibility of the Member States, within the framework of the democratic principles and the institutions of the inter-American system. It should include the economic, social, educational, cultural, scientific, and technological fields, support the achievement of national objectives of the Member States, and respect the priorities established by each country in its development plans, without political ties or conditions";

CONSIDERING:

Argentina is the second most state in the hemisphere in regards to COVID-19 cases at 10,044,957 and "In total, the region had registered more than 82 million diagnosed patients, as well as a growing number of fatal COVID-19 cases." based on Statista;

The methods of Argentina back in December 2019 when the pandemic hit, they “took early, bold decisions regarding public health measures, including the closure of borders, schools, public spaces, and businesses as part of a comprehensive 'lockdown' to slow the spread of COVID-19. Simultaneously, the government increased social protection measures to try to mitigate the severe socio-economic consequences resulting from a prolonged lockdown of more than 2 months, especially among populations in vulnerable situations.” according to reports from the World Health Organization (WHO) from their Situation Report on 20 May 2020;

RECALLING:

That "The COVID-19 pandemic and resulting limitations on travel and other economic sectors by countries around the globe drastically decreased air pollution and greenhouse gas emissions within just a few weeks. That sudden change gave scientists an unprecedented view of results that would take regulations years to achieve." according to a news article by The National Aeronautics and Space Administration (NASA);

AG/RES. 1114 (XXI - O/91), "Inter-American Program of Action for Environmental Protection" which promote OAS participation and cooperation and communication on environmental problems;

AG/RES. 1241 (XXIII - O/93), "The Inter-American Program of Action for Environmental Protection" which is a re-visit of the previous resolution and recommends the organs, agencies, and entities of the Organization and Permanent Council to take some action;

AG/RES. 2952 (L-O/20), "Advancing The Hemispheric Response To Climate Change In The Context Of The COVID-19 Pandemic" which addresses the understanding of how COVID-19 impacts the environment

and recovery "will require enhanced multilateral cooperation to meet financing needs and build resilience against future shocks for a durable recovery";

AG/RES. 2956 (L-O/20), "The Challenges To Food Security And Nutrition In The Americas In The Context Of The COVID-19 Pandemic Within The Framework Of The Plan Of Action Of Guatemala 2019" which Guatemala made a plan of action with regard of the COVID-19 pandemic in 2019;

AWARE OF:

That most countries in the world and Latin America have relaxed their restrictions which leads to processes regularly used before the pandemic to start again which begins to harm the environment like before, or even worse;

Statistics from Pan American Health Organization (PAHO), as of March 14, 2023 there are 190,933,060 cumulative cases and 2,936,859 cumulative deaths in the region of the Americas;

As provided in PAHO's Weekly COVID-19 Epidemiological Update -EW10- 14 March 2023, we see the cases and death decrease, but the total number of cases and death are stil very high that is very concerning;

That according to United Nations (UN) Environment Issues in the Latin American Region paper under Department of Economic and Social Affairs under VIII Conclusions during August 27-29, 2007, it mentions "Industrial activities, the use of toxic pesticides, dams, and use of the land for agricultural non sustainable use, logging, tourism and other development activities have produced environmental pollution in Indigenous Peoples' lands, territories and their resources"; and

GUIDED BY:

The World Health Organization (WHO) on their official website stating that "the COVID-19 pandemic remains an acute global emergency. Many governments face uncertainties about how to prioritize at a time when the pandemic appears to be in transition but when the risk of emergence of new variants and future surges remains real." and updated their Global Preparedness, Readiness and Response plan in 2022,

RESOLVES:

1. To congratulate Member States that have taken measures to reduce the harmful effects from COVID-19 on the environment.
2. To task the Department of Sustainable Development (DSD) under Executive Secretariat for Integral Development (SEDI) to compile an annual report of net environmental degradation in the Americas, with the first report placing special emphasis on COVID-19 including information such as:
 - a. Data on Carbon Emissions due to COVID-19.
 - b. Increase of waste due to lockdowns.
 - c. Changes in use of nonrenewable resources.
 - d. Adjustment in environmental regulations.
3. The DSD can adjust the scope of each report to account for hemispheric developments.
4. To recommend the report incorporate a variety of sources from:
 - a. Member States.
 - b. OAS and other international organizations.
 - c. Non-Governmental Organizations (NGOs).

- d. Publicly available information.
- 5. To create an annual conference organized by the DSD:
 - a. The first conference will be hosted in Buenos Aires, Argentina.
 - b. The conference will share the findings of the report.
 - c. The conference will discuss strategies for addressing environmental issues.
 - d. The conference will invite qualified experts to provide insight on new approaches.
- 6. To request funding from willing Member States, Observer States, PAHO, WHO, UNICEF, and relevant non-governmental organizations.
- 7. To instruct the General Secretariat to report to the 55th regular session of the General Assembly at the implementation of this resolution, the execution of which shall be subject to the availability of financial resources.

Approved for form and substance

(Signature of Faculty Advisor)

Cosignatories: 1. _____
(Signature of Delegate)

(Country Represented)

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ADDRESSING THE ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACTS OF COVID-19

Special Committee
Resolution presented by the Delegation of the Republic of Suriname

Topic No. 1 of the Agenda

THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY,

HAVING SEEN:

Article 2 of the Charter of the Organization of American States (OAS) which proclaims a mission “to promote by cooperative action, their economic, social, and cultural development”;

Article 32 of the Charter of the Organization of American States declaring that Inter-American cooperation for integral development “should be continuous and preferably channeled through multilateral organizations, without prejudice to bilateral cooperation between Member States”;

Article 37 of the Charter of the Organization of American States, stating that the Member States “agree to join together in seeking a solution to urgent or critical problems that may arise whenever the economic development or stability of any Member State is seriously affected by conditions that cannot be remedied through the efforts of that State”;

REAFFIRMING:

The commitment of Member States to working together on the solution of critical problems in accordance with their capabilities and resources, using key advancements in fields such as science and technology to seek development and stability in the Americas;

FULFILLING:

Article 17 of the Charter of the Organization of American States as it indicates the agreement of Member States to cooperate in the provision of the environmental impact COVID-19 has had;

Article 95, Paragraph (c) of the Charter of the Organization of the American States discloses that the Inter-American Council for Integral Development shall “promote, coordinate, and assign responsibility for the execution of development programs and projects to the subsidiary bodies and relevant organizations, on the basis of the priorities identified by the Member States, in areas such as: 1) Economic and social development, including trade, tourism, integration and the environment”;

RECALLING:

AG/RES. 2952 (L-O/20) “Advancing the hemispheric response to climate change in the context of the COVID-19 pandemic” in which the OAS instructed “To call on all member states to take robust and integrated action to prevent and address the negative impacts of the COVID-19 pandemic, drive growth, and build resilience in their economic response to the pandemic, while making finance flows consistent with a pathway towards low greenhouse gas emissions and climate-resilient development, as well as respecting the human rights of individuals in situations of vulnerability”;

WELCOMING:

The active role of the Pan American Health Organization during the pandemic through multiple mechanisms, alliances and resolutions such as the CD59/INF/1 which stated that “As of 7 May 2021, 33

INCENTIVE PROGRAM TO PROMOTE ECO-TOURISM IN ORDER OF AMERICAN STATE MEMBER STATES IN THE AFTERMATH OF THE COVID-19 PANDEMIC

Special Committee
Draft Resolution Presented by the Delegation of Dominica

Topic No.1 of the Agenda

THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY,

HAVING SEEN:

Article 95 (c) of the Charter of the Organization of American States, affirms that the OAS will “Promote, coordinate, and assign responsibility for the execution of development programs and projects to the subsidiary bodies and relevant organizations, on the basis of the priorities identified by the Member States, in areas such as economic and social development, including trade, tourism, integration, and the environment”;

Article 4 Section 13 of the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change, affirms that it will “promote environmental integrity, transparency, accuracy, completeness, comparability, and completeness” when contributing to environmental development and contributions;

NOTING:

The 5th Session of the United Nations Environment Assembly proposing 14 resolutions to “curb pollution, protect and restore nature worldwide,” as well as Deputy Secretary-General of the UN, Amina J. Mohammed, and her acknowledgment that more strides must be made by the committee and that the “planet deserves a multilateral solution that speaks from source to sea”;

The Social Charter of the American States maintaining the ideals that “a safe environment is essential to integral development” and

RECOGNIZING:

The Organization of American States Department of Sustainable Development oversees “the design and implementation of policies, programs, and projects oriented to integrate environmental priorities with poverty alleviation, and socio-economic development goals”;

The need to better national parks and increase the economic revenue of OAS Member States,

RESOLVES:

1. To collect funds from NGOs and IGOs and allocate the funds to be used by the OAS to create a video advertisement promoting ecotourism and addressing possible questions arising from the aftermath of Covid-19 regarding travel and health concerns.
2. To help participating OAS Member States that have small businesses promote tourism to wildlife centers and national parks receive a lower business tax determined by the committees’ discretion:
 - a. This will incentivize the growth of grassroots businesses that are environmentally friendly and economically important to the rebuilding and preservation of OAS states ecosystems.
 - b. The committee consisting of the Member States will be able to debate and figure out the best tax rate for businesses per state, this is because some states may not be economically able to tax businesses as high as other states.

- 3. To allocate funds received from NGOs and IGOS and then divide them equally while allocating them to their respective state's environmental departments for preservation, upkeep, job training, and youth education:
 - a. The goal is reinvestment back into the environmental infrastructure of each Member State participating in the committee.
 - b. The Committee responsible for the NGO and IGO grants and loans will allocate funds fairly between Member States needing renovation to their environmental infrastructure:
 - i. Environmental infrastructure includes job training that will consist of helping train park rangers and employees of the national parks.
 - ii. Environmental infrastructure also includes youth education that will consist of allowing sites to be built to explain the history of the national parks and how the history relates to each state.

- 4. To establish a committee that works with Non-Government Organizations and Intergovernmental Organizations to fund programs and works on outreach for grants and loans:
 - a. This committee would consist of each Member State participating to appoint officials to the committee that they believe have a vast understanding of the environment, and economic impacts of Covid-19, and can network to gain funds. Meetings will be held monthly and will report annually to the OAS about funds gained as well as keep the Member States informed and updated about the progress being made.
 - b. These Non-Governmental Organizations and IGOS would be the Environmental Defense Fund, PROGREEN, and Earthjustice because these organizations have helped OAS states in the past and are structured around the idea of improving climate conditions in the Caribbean and Latin America.

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

Cosignatories: 1. _____ (Signature of Delegate) _____ (Country Represented)
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IMPROVING WASTE MANAGEMENT POST-COVID-19 PANDEMIC

Special Committee
Draft Resolution Presented by the Delegation of Peru

Topic No. 1 of the Agenda

THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY,

HAVING SEEN:

Article 95(c) of the Charter of the Organization of American States (OAS), which states that the Inter-American Council for Integral Development (IACID) shall “promote, coordinate, and assign responsibility” for programs and projects in areas including “economic and social development, including trade, tourism, integration and the environment”;

Article 15 of the Inter-American Charter, which finds it “essential that the states of the Hemisphere implement policies and strategies to protect the environment”;

Article 11 of the Inter-American Commission on Human Rights (IACHR), which recognizes the right to a healthy environment in which “The States Parties shall promote the protection, preservation, and improvement of the environment”;

The Inter-American Democratic Charter (IADC), which recognizes that “a safe environment is essential to the integral development of human being, which contributes to democracy and political stability”;

Article 15 of the IADC, which states that Member States shall “implement policies and strategies to protect the environment, including application of various treaties and conventions, to achieve sustainable development for the benefit of future generations”;

DEEPLY CONCERNED:

That the SARS-COVID-2 (COVID-19) pandemic has led to a relaxation on environmental regulations and policies due to an unstable economy focused primarily on pandemic-related issues;

That the COVID-19 pandemic has led to an increase in environmental, medical, and solid infectious waste in Latin American countries and the Caribbean region (LAC) and a challenge on effective waste management and disposal;

The suspension of recycling programs in many countries, resulting in recyclable materials being disposed in landfills instead;

The sudden increase of hazardous and infectious waste caused by the COVID-19 pandemic has contributed to thirty percent of all municipal waste (approximately 145,000 tons) found in landfills, the burning and inadequate disposal of which result in severe environmental issues such as water contamination, increased greenhouse gas emissions, and soil pollution according to the United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP);

CONSIDERING:

Many Latin American countries lack the economic and technological means to manage the disposal of healthcare waste produced by outbreaks of COVID-19;

RECOGNIZING:

The finding by the Organization for Economic Cooperation and Development (OECD) that the COVID-19 pandemic likely has significant long-term effects on the structure and functioning of the economy, which affects the implementation of environmental policies;

The Forum of Ministers of Environment of Latin America and the Caribbean designates waste management as a priority of action;

The OAS has a Department of Sustainable Development with one of its main focuses being environmental protections;

The UNEP considers waste management a vital element of pandemic response and “an essential service in Latin America and the Caribbean” for post-COVID-19 recovery; and

TAKING INTO ACCOUNT:

The Omnibus Resolution of the United Nations A/RES/74/306 (2020) “Comprehensive and Coordinated Response to the Coronavirus Disease (COVID-19) Pandemic”, which recognizes the negative impact on global humanitarian needs, including disruption to environments, and reaffirms its full commitment to the 2023 Agenda for Sustainable Development,

RESOLVES:

1. To applaud the efforts of the OAS and Member States on mitigating the effects of the COVID-19 pandemic.
2. To reaffirm Member States’ obligations under the OAS Charter, IADC, and IACHR to implement policies to protect the environment and promote sustainable development.
3. To establish a waste management framework to address the ongoing problem of increased healthcare waste due to the COVID-19 pandemic.
4. To request that the OAS Department of Sustainable Development partner with the Pan American Health Organization (PAHO) to conduct and oversee a project that develops sustainable waste systems in LAC countries with special attention on healthcare waste by following the subsequent objectives proposed by the UNEP:
 - a. Focus on gradually eliminating dumpsites by:
 - i. Replacing landfills with facilities that manage healthcare waste more effectively and safely with the introduction of new technology.
 - b. Prioritize sound waste prevention and recycling practices by:
 - i. Optimizing waste collection routes that ensures all populations have access to basic waste collective services, especially in rural and marginal areas.
 - ii. Creating a waste management system more capable of differentiating between hazardous waste and household waste.
 - iii. Promoting recycling post-COVID-19 to reduce waste generation by expanding the recycling sector and increasing the amount of waste pickers.
 - iv. Ensuring a safe working environment for waste workers by offering appropriate training and providing adequate personal protective equipment.
 - c. Ensure the waste sector is more prepared for unforeseen challenges by:

- i. Securing investments into a strengthened waste management system geared towards lasting sustainability measures.
 - ii. Certifying that the new waste management system is capable of responding to unforeseen circumstances that may lead to sudden increases in the amount and type of waste.
 - iii. Developing national policies and planning documents that include waste management plans in the event of environmental or natural disasters such as a pandemic.
5. To call on the Inter-American Development Bank, the World Bank, nongovernmental organizations (NGOs), and private health organizations to provide funding towards programs and projects geared to healthcare waste management as outlined above:
- a. Establish an emergency fund to increase waste management preparedness for unforeseen events such as a future pandemic.
 - b. Provide the crucial funding for Latin American countries struggling to rebound their economies post-pandemic to implement and develop new waste management systems.
 - c. Allow the OAS and PAHO to redistribute fundings amongst LAC countries in an equitable manner, prioritizing the ones most in need.
6. To urge the IACHR to continue its efforts to oversee cases of environmental abuse in terms of the rights of nature and its relations to human rights violations.

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

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

2. _____

3. _____

4. _____

5. _____

**EMPOWERING INDIGENOUS COMMUNITIES AND OTHER
MARGINALIZED GROUPS IN ENVIRONMENTAL JUSTICE MATTERS
THROUGH A GOVERNMENT ACCOUNTABILITY
ALLIANCE PROGRAM**

Special Committee

Topic No. 3 of the Agenda

Draft Resolution Presented by the Delegates of the Special Committee

THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY,

HAVING SEEN:

ARTICLE 45 (i) of the Charter of the Organization of American States (OAS), 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 of liberty, dignity, equality, and economic security”;

ARTICLE 10 of the Social Charter of the OAS, which states that member states will promote sustainable development by means of economic growth, social development, and sustainable use of natural resources;

ARTICLE 15 of the Social Charter of the OAS, which calls for member states to respect the contributions of indigenous peoples, Afro-descendants, and migrant communities while “recognizing the need to adopt policies to promote inclusion and to prevent, combat, and eliminate all forms of intolerance and discrimination”;

ARTICLE 15 of the Inter American Democratic Charter, which emphasizes the importance of implementing “policies and strategies to protect the environment... to achieve sustainable development for the benefit of future generations”;

DEEPLY CONCERNED BY:

Global Witness’s finding that at least 1,733 land and environmental protectors have been slain around the world in the past decade, with over two-thirds of the murders in Latin America, and 39% of the victims identified as Indigenous;

United Nations Development Program (UNDP) data documenting that poverty affects 43 percent of Indigenous households in Latin America;

Reports from the United Nations’ Food and Agricultural Organization (FAO) and the Fund for the Development of Indigenous Peoples of Latin America and the Caribbean (FILAC) that “nearly half of the forest in the Amazon basin and 35% of all forest in Latin America is protected by Indigenous peoples,” and yet Indigenous communities’ ability to protect these forests is under threat;

The Washington Rights and Resources Initiative’s finding that up to 65% of the world’s land is communally held by Indigenous peoples and contains 80% of the world’s biodiversity, but only 10% of those groups’ land rights have been legally recognized;

The many illegal mining, deforestation, oil drilling, and other environmental crimes throughout the LAC region that go unpunished due to private pay-offs to government officials for untitled lands that have historically belonged to Indigenous communities;

BEARING IN MIND:

The Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change's (IPCC) conclusion that forests that are owned and/or designated for use by Indigenous peoples are linked to lower rates of deforestation and forest degradation, reduced conflict, lower carbon emissions, greater investment in forest maintenance activities, and more benefits for more people;

ACKNOWLEDGING:

Article 10 of the UN Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples, which states that no relocation for Indigenous communities "shall take place without the free, prior and informed consent of the indigenous peoples concerned and after agreement on just and fair compensation and, where possible, with the option of return";

Article 7 of the International Labor Organization's Indigenous and Tribal Peoples Convention, which states that governments shall carry out studies in cooperation with Indigenous peoples to assess the environmental and human impact of planned development activities in order to ensure the protection of the territories they inhabit;

Article 22(3) of the International Labor Organization's Indigenous and Tribal Peoples Convention, stating that environmental preservation training programs shall be carried out in cooperation with Indigenous peoples, who shall be consulted on the organization and operation of such programs;

RECALLING:

The IX Summit of the Americas in Los Angeles (2022), in which member states agreed to strengthen the protection of human rights for Indigenous peoples working on environmental matters, to collect information from environmental defenders about threats or incidences of violence; and to "enact and enforce laws to protect human rights defenders working on environmental matters and the resources they defend";

Article XIX(2) of the American Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples, which states that "indigenous peoples have the right to conserve, restore, and protect the environment and to manage their lands, territories and resources in a sustainable way";

Article XXIII of the American Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples, which asserts that Indigenous peoples have the right to full and effective participation in decision-making through representatives they choose in accordance with their own institutions; and which calls on member states to consult and cooperate in good faith with these representatives in order to obtain their prior informed consent before adopting measures that may affect them, and

APPLAUDING:

The creation of a UN Working Group on Indigenous Populations within the Subcommission on Prevention of Discrimination and Protection of Minorities, which supports the

participation of representatives of Indigenous peoples, communities, and organizations in implementing the Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples,

RESOLVES :

1. To commend OAS member states for their work in protecting the rights of Indigenous peoples, Afro-descendants and other marginalized groups, and for recognizing the importance of sustainable development for their communities.
2. To request that member states collaborate with the Department of Sustainable Development (DSD) Environmental Law, Policy, and Government Program, the OAS Department of International Law, The International Work Group for Indigenous Affairs, the International Indian Treaty Council, and the INTERPOL Environmental Security Unit to establish a multi-pronged initiative to empower Indigenous and marginalized communities through trainings, consultative committees, and online reporting systems.
3. To encourage the International Work Group for Indigenous Affairs and DSD's Environmental Law, Policy, and Government program to help Indigenous peoples, peoples of African descent,
 - a. and other marginalized groups establish Environmental Justice Committees within member states. These committees would:
 - b. Advocate for their inclusion in environmental and development policymaking.
 - c. Push for lawmakers and businesses to consult with the Indigenous, Afro-descendant, and other marginalized communities and their legal representatives of in decision-making for infrastructure projects, resource harvesting and extraction operations, and other development projects that affect the environmental health of Indigenous lands, Afro-descendant other marginalized communities.
4. To propose that member states collaborate with the International Work Group for Indigenous Affairs, IACHR Rapporteurship on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples, the Rapporteurship on the Rights of Persons of African Descent and against Racial Discrimination, and the United Nations' Indigenous Peoples and Development Branch to develop Environmental Justice educational programs for Indigenous peoples, people of African descent, and marginalized groups.
 - a. The educational programs will be customized to the particular circumstances of Indigenous peoples, Afro-descendants, and other marginalized communities and will inform their citizens and of their property rights, voting rights, and rights to organize as they relate to the environment.
 - b. Equitable access to the educational programs will be promoted across all member states.
5. To request that the Department of Sustainable Development (DSD) Environmental Law, Policy, and Government Program and the OAS Department of International Law provide trainings for government and law enforcement officials involved in environmental

policymaking and implementation. These trainings will give officials the tools and knowledge they need to:

- a. Eliminate institutionalized discrimination against Indigenous peoples, people of African descent, and marginalized communities in environmental matters;
 - b. Effectively promote existing legal protections for the environment and marginalized communities;
 - c. Protect the rights of environmental defenders in Indigenous communities, communities of Afro-descendants, and other marginalized communities.
6. To encourage Indigenous communities, communities of Afro-Descendants, other marginalized representatives, and government officials who have completed the educational and training programs to have open communications to:
- a. Collaborate with scientists from environmental research institutions to study emerging best practices in environmental protection and environmental justice.
 - b. Ensure the inclusion of indigenous representatives, representatives of Afro-descendants, and other marginalized groups in future consultations on all development projects with environmental implications, including the extraction of natural resources.
7. To propose that participating member states partner with the International Work Group for Indigenous Affairs, INTERPOL, and the Department of International Law (DIL) to develop an online reporting system for environmental crimes.
- a. The online reporting system would allow representatives of Indigenous, representatives of Afro-descendants, and other marginalized communities to anonymously submit evidence and file cases against illegal resource extraction operations.
 - b. The online report system would help track progress in shutting down environmentally-harmful activities, would help ensure governments are held to their environmental commitments, and would make it easier to enact punitive measures against those who violate environmental laws.
8. To request that law makers consult environmental health organizations, such as the Interamerican Association for Environmental Defense and the UN Environment Program, to assess the impact of the above initiatives on the environmental health of indigenous peoples, people of African descent, and other marginalized communities.
9. To propose that these efforts be funded by the UN, the IPCC, the World Bank, the FILAC, the World Wildlife Fund, the Inter-American Development Bank, and other non-registered governmental organizations.