

**2024 Washington Model Organization of
American States General Assembly**

Electronic Packet

First Committee



Washington Model

Organization of American States

Institute for Diplomatic Dialogue in the Americas



OAS

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April 8-12, 2024

**HEMISPHERIC CONFERENCE ON THE IMPLEMENTATION OF ARTIFICIAL
INTELLIGENCE TECHNOLOGIES IN ELECTORAL PROCESSES**

First Committee

Topic No. 3 of the Agenda

Draft Resolution Presented by the Delegation of Costa Rica

THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY,

HAVING SEEN:

Article 38 of the OAS Charter which states, “The Member States shall extend among themselves the benefits of science in accordance with existing treaties and national laws”;

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

Article XX of the American Declaration of the Rights and Duties of Man which asserts, “Every person having legal capacity is entitled to participate in the government of his country, directly or through his representatives, and to take part in popular elections, which shall be by secret ballot, and shall be honest, periodic and free”;

CONSIDERING:

That in 2024, a record number of countries will be holding elections, amounting to 41 percent of the world’s population and 42 percent of global GDP, including 6 countries that identify as OAS Member States;

That Artificial Intelligence (AI) can perform advanced functions that can enable governments to use AI to perform essential functions within the election administration space, which can potentially affect the quality, consistency, and transparency of local and state elections, threatening the free exercise of democracy in the Americas;

That there have been recent instances of AI implementation in democratic processes, such as the implementation of algorithmic systems used to maintain voter registration databases and for the verification of mail ballot signatures, which have led to inaccurate identification; and

TAKING INTO ACCOUNT:

The 2001 Plan of Action of the Third Summit of the Americas, which urges Governments to note “that access to existing and emerging information and communications technologies has an increasingly significant impact on the lives of individuals and offers important opportunities for

democratic development, and that the media has an important role to play in promoting a democratic culture”;

The efforts of the United Nations Secretary-General for convening an AI Advisory Board in 2023, which has preliminarily identified that “AI governance needs to be anchored in the UN Charter, International Human Rights Law, and the Sustainable Development Goals”;

AG/RES. 3004 (LIII-O/23) “Strengthening Democracy,” which has urged “the General Secretariat to continue producing and disseminating—as well as updating, when necessary—the different guides on electoral processes, and that in that framework it continue considering international standards and existing best practices, including contributions from member states and their electoral bodies and authorities”;

RESOLVES:

1. To reaffirm the commitment of OAS Member States to respond to emerging technologies as agreed upon in Article 47 of the OAS Charter.
2. To request a Meeting of Consultation of Ministers of Foreign Affairs to be held in San Jose, Costa Rica, from June 3 through 10, 2024.
3. To direct the Permanent Council to set the agenda for the Meeting to discuss the urgent need to address AI technologies in elections and electoral processes, including:
 - a. Coordinating regional AI regulations and policies concerning elections within Member States;
 - b. Studying the contributors of AI implementation in election administration space, including the negative outcomes seen in Member States thus far;
 - c. Instructing the Department of Electoral Cooperation and Observation (DECO) and other international actors to observe the electoral processes that are assisted by AI technologies:
 - i. Directing Electoral Observation Missions (EOM) with the task of verifying voter identification that was verified via AI technologies; and
 - ii. Coordinating EOMs to record statistics on AI technology errors in electoral processes;
 - d. Encouraging DECO and the Inter-American Committee of Science and Technology (COMCYT) to jointly develop projects and services that inform local and national governments of the dangers of AI implementation without proper trials.
 - e. To advise Member States to pursue a national AI strategy grounded in ethics and cognizant of best practices established within the region and by other States around the globe.
4. That funding for this Meeting of Consultation of Ministers of Foreign Affairs will be provided by the host country, and donations by willing Member States.

5. To request the General Secretariat report to the General Assembly at its Fifty-Fifth Regular Session on the execution of this resolution, to report the findings and suggested policies that Member States should take concerning implementing AI technologies in electoral processes.

Approved for form and substance: _____

(Signature of Faculty Advisor)

Cosignatories: 1.	_____	_____
	(Signature of Delegate)	(Country Represented)
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**ESTABLISHING AN ANNUAL SUMMIT TO CELEBRATE, HONOR, AND PROTECT
FREEDOM OF SPEECH**

First Committee
Draft Resolution Presented by the Delegation of Brazil

Topic No. 2 of the Agenda

THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY,

HAVING SEEN:

The preamble 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 3 section 1 of the OAS charter, which states that “the American States proclaim the fundamental rights of the individual without distinction as to race, nationality, creed, or sex”;

Article 13 of the American Convention on Human Rights, which asserts that “everyone has the right to freedom of thought and expression. This right includes freedom to seek, receive, and impart information and ideas of all kinds, regardless of frontiers, either orally, in writing, in print, in the form of art, or through any other medium of one's choice”;

Article 30 from the Social Charter of the Americas, which affirms that “member states will foster participation in artistic and cultural activities where arts and culture flourish and contribute to cultural enrichment. It is both necessary and appropriate for member states to generate and ensure a climate conducive to freedom of thought, expression, and information, as well as conditions that facilitate creative expression and promote research and imagination in an environment of tolerance”; and

RECALLING:

Freedom of expression has been a key principle of the OAS from the onset; however, the right must be continually defended. Such is the mission of the Office of the Special Rapporteur for Freedom of Expression, created during the 97th period of sessions, held in October 1997. That office asserted “that a free press plays a fundamental role in (the area of human rights) and we reaffirm the importance of guaranteeing freedom of expression, information and opinion”;

The importance of freedom of expression has been repeatedly reiterated by this body, such as in 2011 with resolution 2679 (XLI-O/11) that insisted on the importance of “freedom of expression for the exercise of democracy and reaffirming that free and independent media are fundamental for democracy, for the promotion of pluralism, tolerance and freedom of thought and expression, and for the facilitation of free and open dialogue and debate in all sectors of society, without discrimination of any kind”; and

BEARING IN MIND:

The delegation of Brazil seeks to transcend political lines on this issue. The right to freedom of expression must be beyond party or faction in government. Freedom of speech is a fundamental freedom, no matter the country or continent.

RESOLVES:

1. To congratulate and commend the efforts of Member States to protect freedom of expression in their respective nations and in this body.
2. To reaffirm the commitment of every Member State to the Universal Declaration of Human Rights (UDHR) and foster a climate of liberty and freedom of expression.
3. To hold an annual summit of artists, journalists, academics, and others to highlight, celebrate or draw attention to issues related to freedom of expression.
 - a. The summit will promote a multitude of events related to free speech;
 - i. Half of the events will be dedicated specifically to the speech of journalists and citizens.
 - ii. The other half of events will be art related (highlighting artists, poets, and academic works).
 1. Art shown by the summit will include, but is not limited to, literature, music, paintings, movies, abstract art, etc.
 2. There will be a selection process from noted practitioners in each field of art to select pieces that will be shown.
 - b. The event will take place once every three years.
 - i. The event will take place in different countries through a lottery-style system.
 - ii. If a country wins the lottery and does not wish to host it, then another round of the lottery will select another country.
4. To urge member states to request private donations and international arts promotion charities fund he summit will not be paid for with OAS funds. Instead, private donations and fundraising from various international organizations, as well as the host nation, will be responsible for funding the event.

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

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

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**THE THREAT OF ARTIFICIAL INTELLIGENCE TO FREE ELECTIONS AND
DEMOCRACY**

First Committee

Topic No. 3 of the Agenda

Draft Resolution Presented by the Delegation of Argentina

THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY,

HAVING SEEN:

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

The preamble to the Inter-American Democratic Charter which states “the Organization of American States recognizes that representative democracy is indispensable for the stability, peace, and development of the region”;

Article 3 of the Inter-American Democratic Charter, which specifies that “Essential elements of representative democracy include, inter alia, respect for human rights and fundamental freedoms, access to and the exercise of power in accordance with the rule of law, the holding of periodic, free, and fair elections based on secret balloting and universal suffrage as an expression of the sovereignty of the people”;

Article 23 of the Inter-American Democratic Charter, affirming that “Member states are responsible for organizing, conducting, and ensuring free and fair electoral processes”;

Article 24 of the Inter-American Democratic Charter articulates “The member state shall guarantee conditions of security, free access to information, and full cooperation with the electoral observation mission [of the OAS]”;

TAKING INTO ACCOUNT:

The *24 Top AI Statistics* survey from Forbes Advisor states that over 75% of consumers are concerned about misinformation from AI;

The State of AI in 2023 from the McKinsey Global Survey, which explains the rising popularity of generative Artificial Intelligence in creating digital media and the startlingly realistic visual quality of such media;

That the Global Economic Forum ranks the use of AI to spread misinformation and disinformation as the highest risk to economy in the next two years, and therefore democracy;

That AI has already been used to mislead the public by impersonating government officials. A 2023 article from Freedom House which states “Over the past year, the new technology [AI] was utilized in at least 16 countries to sow doubt, smear opponents, or influence public debate”;

That the accomplishment of the goals established requires a coordinated and collective response from all Member States that arises from full participation and dialogue;

EXPRESSING CONCERN:

That disinformation and propaganda are often designed and implemented so as to mislead a population, as well as to interfere with the public’s right to know and the right of individuals to seek and receive, as well as to impart, information and ideas of all kinds, regardless of frontiers, protected under international legal guarantees of the rights to freedom of expression and to hold opinions;

That this artificial media, even if not widely believed to be genuine, has the power to influence public opinion;

EMPHASIZING:

That some forms of disinformation and propaganda may harm individual reputations and privacy, or incite to violence, discrimination or hostility against identifiable groups in society;

NOTING WITH SATISFACTION:

The acknowledgement and action Member States have taken to encourage the development of science and technology, oriented towards the overall improvement of the individual, and as a foundation of democracy; and

RECOGNIZING:

That, according to Transparency International, most countries in Central and Latin America have a Corruption Perception Index (CPI) below the global average. The CPI from Transparency.org indicates the level of corruption in the public sectors of these countries as perceived by citizens and experts;

That, according to a study carried out by the Reuters Institute, general trust in news outlets has declined in Latin America since 2017,

RESOLVES:

1. To congratulate all Member States for the effort and progress already made in preventing and fighting against misinformation and disinformation in the Western Hemisphere.
2. To encourage Member States to evaluate the power and potential of new and developing technologies and their possible effect on transparency and misinformation.

3. To encourage each Member State to review and develop their respective domestic legal framework to ensure the most vulnerable sectors of civil society are protected from misinformation and deceptive actions.
4. To encourage Member States' election officials to be transparent about when, for what, and how AI tools will be used. Before deployment, election offices should work with the AI developers to prepare and publish documentation in nontechnical language, which would facilitate public awareness.
5. To create a committee, the Anti-Misinformation Committee of the Americas (AMCA) as a subcommittee under the administrative supervision of the Inter-American Juridical Committee, whose chief goals and elements will be:
 - a. To promote regional dialogue and cooperation among all Member States and to collectively address misinformation while fostering a culture of transparency and political integrity across the Western Hemisphere.
 - b. Comprised of judiciary representatives from each Member State, nonpolitical stakeholders, agents from the private sector, and representatives from international organizations and nongovernmental organizations such as the United Nations, Transparency International, and Freedom House. This is in an effort to bring diverse agents from civil society together to provide a better understanding of misinformation and give an active voice to the most vulnerable sectors of the population.
 - c. Funding for the AMCA may be sought from various voluntary donation organizations, including but not limited to the World Bank, Member States, Permanent Observer States, and Freedom House. However, funding shall ultimately be sourced from the budget of the InterAmerican Juridical Committee.

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

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

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**PROMOTING DEMOCRATIC ELECTORAL PROCESSES THROUGH COMBATING
THE THREAT OF AI**

First Committee.

Topic No.3 of the Agenda

Draft Resolution Presented by the Delegation of Belize

THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY,

HAVING SEEN:

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

Article 31 of the Charter of the Organization of American States (OAS), which establishes as one of its main purposes to reaffirm 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 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 47 of the Charter of the Organization of American States (OAS), which establishes as one of its main purposes to reaffirm that: “The Member States will give primary importance within their development plans to the encouragement of education, science, technology, and culture, oriented toward the overall improvement of the individual, and as a foundation for democracy, social justice, and progress”;

Article 1 of the Inter-American Democratic Charter, which establishes as one of its main purposes to reaffirm that: “The peoples of the Americas have a right to democracy and their governments have an obligation to promote and defend it”;

Article 23 of the Inter-American Democratic Charter, which establishes as one of its main purposes to reaffirm that: “Member states are responsible for organizing, conducting, and ensuring free and fair electoral processes.. and.. in the exercise of their sovereignty, may request that the Organization of American States provide advisory services or assistance for strengthening and developing their electoral institutions and processes, including sending preliminary missions for that purpose”;

CONSIDERING:

Based on the example from an article of the United States’ Cybersecurity and Infrastructure Security agency focusing on the Generative A.I. and the 2024 Election Cycle, artificial intelligence has become more widely adopted in recent years;

AI has been able to provide opportunities that increased productivity, potentially enhancing both election security and election administration;

Governments have worked to use technology to their advantage but also protect the rights and freedoms involved in their election systems;

TAKING INTO ACCOUNT:

The high-level committee on management from the United Nations 01/11/2024 on a “Task Force to Develop a System-wide Normative and Operational Framework on the use of AI in the UN System” has stated its intent on taking a “proactive, ethical, human rights based, and mandate led approach to adopting AI internally in its work”; and

DEEPLY CONCERNED:

Based on International IDEA recommendations about protecting democratic elections through safeguarding information integrity, evolving technology poses a risk to the information individuals receive;

The ability for AI to be abused by actors with bad purposes, can allow them to distort facts, develop deepfakes, create noise and microtarget audiences with hyper segmented messages;

That the major global elections that are to be casted throughout the world, safeguarding these elections with reliable information and credible sources provides an important part to continuing to install integrity into these elections,

RESOLVES:

1. To congratulate all Member States for their efforts in upholding democratic processes of campaigns and elections.
2. To encourage all Member States to continue to prioritize democracy by identifying the deceptive role that AI can play in the electoral process.
3. To call for an informative project to understand the risk of AI on elections in the Americas under the Secretariat for Strengthening Democracy:
 - a. To survey Member States about the perceived threat of AI to their individual electoral processes.
 - b. To produce a report on the risk of AI in upcoming elections in the hemisphere, no later than January 2025.
4. To identify a group of technical specialists prepared to train the electoral management bodies of member states who request support by:
 - a. Reaching out to consultants willing and prepared to support the OAS in their efforts to identify threatening uses of AI in electoral processes.

- b. Pending the additional support from a special fund, allowing Member States to connect their electoral management bodies with designated experts on the subject of AI electoral intervention.
5. To encourage Member States to seek funding through a special fund created to solicit donation from OAS member states and observer countries.

Approved for form and substance: _____

(Signature of Faculty Advisor)

Cosignatories: 1. _____

(Signature of Delegate)

(Country Represented)

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**STRENGTHENING ELECTORAL SYSTEMS BY PROMOTING SAFE RISK
MANAGEMENT STRATEGIES OF ARTIFICIAL INTELLIGENCE**

First Committee
Draft Resolution Presented by the Delegation of Bolivia

Topic No. 3 of the Agenda

THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY,

HAVING SEEN:

Article 95(3) of the Charter of the Organization of American States (OAS) calls for “strengthening of the civic conscience of the American peoples as one of the bases for the effective exercise of democracy and for the observance of the rights and duties of man”;

Article 13 (1) of the OAS American Convention on Human Rights on Freedom of Thought and Expression states that “everyone has the right to freedom of thought and expression. This includes freedom to seek, receive, and impart information and ideas of all kinds, regardless of frontiers, either orally, in writing, in print, in the form of art, or through any other medium of one’s choice”;

Article 24 of the Inter-American Democratic Charter states that “the member state shall guarantee conditions of security, free access to information, and full cooperation with the electoral observation mission” and that “they shall be conducted in an objective, impartial, and transparent manner and with appropriate technical expertise”;

Article 4 of the Inter-American Democratic Charter states that “transparency in government activities, probity, responsible public administration on the part of governments, respect for social rights, and freedom of expression and of press are essential components of the exercise of democracy. The constitutional subordination of all state institutions to the legally constituted civilian authority and respect for the rule of law on the part of all institutions and sectors of society are equally essential to democracy”;

Article 13 (2) of the American Convention on Human Rights states that “the exercise of the right to [freedom of thought and expression] shall not be subject to prior censorship but shall be subject to subsequent imposition of liability, which shall be expressly established by law to the extent necessary to ensure: a. Respect for the rights or reputations of others; or b. the protection of national security, public order, or public health or morals”;

The 12th article of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights which states, “No one shall be subjected to arbitrary interference with his privacy, family, home or correspondence, nor to attacks upon his honor and reputation. Everyone has the right to the protection of the law against such interference or attacks”;

CONSIDERING:

That artificial intelligence heavily relies on generated data to make decisions, and the software system is vulnerable to algorithmic bias causing incorrect predictions to be made;

That artificial intelligence is an ongoing development used by large corporations to improve business operations, but also poses a threat to the security of individuals as limited restrictions are in place that ethically guide the extent to which AI can be used;

TAKING INTO ACCOUNT:

The UN Interim Report on Governing AI for Humanity which states, “[m]any AI systems are opaque, either because of their inherent complexity or commercial secrecy as to their inner workings,” and adds that “[r]esearchers and governance bodies have difficulty in accessing information or fully interrogating proprietary datasets, models, and systems and ‘do not fully’ understand how advanced AI systems behave”;

RECOGNIZING:

The Latin American Artificial Intelligence Index (ILIA) categorized each Latin American country’s AI capabilities and found that most Latin American countries lack essential features, with Brazil and Mexico accounting for 95% of AI patents;

AI Democracy Projects gathered 40 experts from around the world to create software that analyzed the top 5 AI companies and their ability to interact with election-related questions from voters, and they found that over half the responses that the Chatbots gave were inaccurate and 40% were harmful; and

DEEPLY CONCERNED:

Regarding the fact that AI threatens the privacy and spread of information that is easily manipulated, largely affecting the perception of candidates and parties in elections not just locally and domestically, but globally,

RESOLVES:

1. To congratulate all Member States on their continued efforts to protect and promote free and fair elections as citizens confidently take part in the democratic process.
2. To uphold initiatives by the OAS and partnering international organizations that generate awareness surrounding the uncertainty of artificial intelligence by continuing effective research on public safety and risk management strategies.

3. To create a new subcommittee within the Secretariat for Strengthening Democracy's Department of Electoral Cooperation and Observation, dedicated to spreading awareness of the possibilities of AI (Artificial Intelligence Oversight Committee - AIOC); where the use of AI by Member States is overseen and monitored during electoral processes to ensure transparency and whose chief functions consist of:
 - a. The Member States will be encouraged to collaborate in efforts to oversee the electoral process, considering the risks associated with AI interference.
 - b. The subcommittee will investigate suspicions of electoral fraud in the affected country(s), promoting regulations that allow for the equal exercise of democracy.
 - c. The creation of channels for the collective growth of consistent artificial intelligence guidelines to ensure productivity and inclusivity as new information surfaces.
4. To ensure that intellectual freedoms are protected from the misconstrued perceptions of artificial intelligence and respected on the grounds of moral integrity for the betterment of democracy and security of our Member States.
5. To request funding from the Inter-American Development Bank for the purpose of reinforcing guaranteed conditions of security to maintain free access to authentic and reputable information.

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

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

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**ENCOURAGING THE FREEDOM OF EXPRESSION THROUGH TECHNOLOGICAL
ADVANCEMENTS IN TELECOMMUNICATIONS AND FIXED-LINE INTERNET**

First Committee

Topic No.2 of the Agenda

Draft Resolution Presented by the United Mexican States

THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY,

HAVING SEEN:

The contents of Article II (b) of the Charter of the Organization of American States, which reaffirms the commitment to promote and consolidate Representative Democracy. Said commitment is considered essential in which the preambulatory clause under Article Two within the Charter of the Organization of American States proclaims;

Article I of the Social Charter of the Americas, which reaffirms the obligations that memberstates have in accordance with universal-respect and the observance of human rights, the rights to a standard living and observance of fundamental freedoms to achieve social justice and strengthen representative democracy;

RECOGNIZING:

The significant role that fixed-line internet access has in today's global economy. For example, a study performed by Alice M. Rivlin and Robert E. Litan, residents at the Brookings Center for Economics, has shown that continued advancements in communications technology will result in faster productivity growth and lower prices for consumers resulting in higher standards of living, such as the Freedom of Expression, Cost of Housing, and the continued advancement of the Democratic Process;

The significant disparities in access to fixed-line internet within the various national-groups in member-state countries; For example, it is estimated that in the United Mexican States, around thirty percent of Mexican households do not have access to broadband internet;

TAKING INTO ACCOUNT:

The Sustainable Development Goals introduced by the United Nations to significantly increase access to information and communications technology by the year 2030;

RECOGNIZING:

The significant importance of access to information on expanding representative democracy within member-state countries. For example, researchers from the United States Department of State have written: “The free flow of information via the internet and social media contributes to open debate and the exchange of ideas, two crucial tenants of democracy”;

UNDERSTANDING:

The role that information technology plays in a people’s ability to access information and the part that it has in a people’s fundamental right to express themselves;

That the further expansion of information and communications technology allows a population to advance further and develop integral parts of Member State economies. For example, in 2021 the revenue generated by broadband internet services in Mexico alone amounted to 3.1 billion USD. It is estimated that by 2026, the expected revenue will amount to 3.6 billion USD;

RESOLVES:

1. To thank the Member States for their concentrated efforts to expand representative democracy and continuing the expansion of the freedoms to access information.
2. To encourage the Member States to provide fiscal-incentives such as subsidizing the cost of fixed-line internet and reducing taxes and customs on low-cost internet capable devices.
3. To encourage the Member States to promote the expansion of fixed-line internet from multinational companies by introducing temporary investment tax incentives.
4. To acknowledge that access to fixed line internet not only expands representative democracy and promotes a citizen’s freedom to information but is also an integral right in today's globalized information economy.
5. To request the Permanent Council of the Organization of American States to convene a special meeting to induce the discussion on the topics of freedom of expression and access to information technology in the Americas.
 - a. Further, to establish the “Pan-American Telenet Initiative,” a permanent council with delegations from member state countries to undertake the challenge of solving challenges posed to the freedom of expression and how they may be resolved with the advancements of telecommunications technologies.
 - b. The committee, composed of representatives of member state countries, shall be chaired by the country receiving a simple majority vote of the representatives.

- i. The United Mexican States, recognizing its role in the formation of the Pan-American Telenet Initiative, shall host and undertake the task of chairing the introductory meeting of the permanent council.

Approved for form and substance: _____

(Signature of Faculty Advisor)

Cosignatories: 1. _____

(Signature of Delegate)

(Country Represented)

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**PROTECTING CITIZENS FROM VIOLENCE AND INTIMIDATION
BY ENFRANCHISING EMIGRANTS WHO EXPERIENCED PUSH FACTORS**

First Committee
Draft Resolution Presented by the Delegation of Haiti

Topic No. 2 of Agenda

THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY,

HAVING SEEN:

The Preamble of the Charter of the Organization of American States (OAS), which states “that representative democracy is an indispensable condition for the stability, peace and development of the region”;

Article 17 of the Inter-American Democratic Charter, which specifies that when a government or member state feels its democratic political institutional process is “at risk, it may request assistance from the Secretary-General or the Permanent Council for the strengthening and preservation of its democratic system”;

Article 16 of the Charter of the OAS, which states: “The jurisdiction of States within the limits of their national territory is exercised equally over all the inhabitants, whether nationals or aliens”;

Article 23(1)(b) of the American Convention on Human Rights, which promises the right “to vote and to be elected in genuine periodic elections, which shall be by universal and equal suffrage and by secret ballot that guarantees the free expression of the will of the voters”;

Article 33 of the Social Charter of the Americas, which emphasizes: “Every state is responsible for its own development. Hemispheric cooperation contributes to the strengthening of regional integration, political dialogue, and multilateralism, and complements national efforts aimed at building human and institutional capacities to achieve integral development”;

BEARING IN MIND:

Resolution CP/RES.1237 (2469/23) adopted on November 17, 2023, recognizing; “the continued worsening of the security, humanitarian, and human rights situation in Haiti including sexual and gender-based violence, and violence against children and adolescents, with the further intensification of the numerous and new challenges, such as extremely high levels of gang violence, and other criminal activities, as well as the recent increased incidence of internally displaced persons (IDPs) experienced by the people of Haiti”, and “the necessity to include the political dimension within a sustainable solution to the current multidimensional crisis in Haiti with the urgent and widest achievable participation and consensus among all stakeholders in the Haitian political process, such as the government, the opposition, civil society, community-based organizations, including women and youth organizations, and the private and religious sectors”;

CONSIDERING:

The Annual Meeting of the Academic Council on the United Nations System (ACUNS), which proposed: “By facilitating the engagement of diaspora through Out of Country Voting, these groups can, potentially, see themselves as stakeholders in the peace- and democracy-building efforts in their home countries. This in turn can enhance the democratic legitimacy of any post-conflict political arrangement and contribute to the consolidation of peace and democracy. Furthermore, if citizens abroad are not allowed to exercise any political rights, then there is a risk that national policies will not reflect their interests, as politicians are likely to ignore the interests of groups lacking electoral rights”; and

DEEPLY CONCERNED THAT:

As of 2022, nearly 731,000 Haitians reside in the United States, 496,000 reside in the Dominican Republic, 237,000 reside in Chile, 101,000 reside in Canada, 85,000 reside in France, and 33,000 reside in Brazil;

More than 7 million Venezuelans have fled the country since 2015 due to alarming levels of poverty, persistent food shortages, skyrocketing hyperinflation, and widespread violence;

As of 2020, there are at least 42.9 million emigrants from Latin America and the Caribbean residing outside of their native countries,

RESOLVES:

1. To congratulate and commend Member States who have made efforts to protect citizens from violence and intimidation by enfranchising emigrants who experienced push factors.
2. To facilitate conversation and cooperation between Member States on the implementation of accessible out-of-country voting for emigrants who have experienced push factors such as, but not limited to: violence, intimidation, lack of socio-economic opportunities, human rights violations, and unstable governmental institutions.
3. To instruct the Inter-American Juridical Committee (IAJC) and the Department of Electoral Cooperation and Observation (DECO) of the Secretariat for Strengthening Democracy, to create a working group of legal experts and stakeholders, which should discuss, and make recommendations, on the following:
 - a. Maintenance of respect sovereignty and non-intervention as outlined in the OAS Charter.
 - b. Strategies and methods that ensure that emigrants who wish to participate in their home country elections have an accessible way to do so, such as, but not limited to:
 - i. Creating a timeline to be followed to ensure that governments do not delay implementation.
 - ii. Accepting an array of valid identification documents.
 - iii. Creating a controlled, safe environment by having multiple in-person, speciallycreated sites that are not geographically manipulative.

- iv. Implementing alternative voting methods to in-person voting, such as, but not limited to, postal, proxy, and electronic.
 - v. Ensuring that alternative voting methods are accessible.
 - vi. Establishing a security protocol to be negotiated between the host and sending countries to ensure that both electronic systems and human systems monitor all ballots.
- c. Working with each Member State to determine the following mechanisms to be reasonably applied;
- i. Requirements for eligibility.
 - ii. Requirements to register.
 - iii. Types of elections to be considered.
 - iv. Manner of voting.
4. To urge Member States to implement programs of accessible out-of-country voting for emigrants—in coordination with and monitored by the Department of Electoral Cooperation and Observation (DECO)—employing professional assistance through hemispheric and global Non-Governmental Organizations (NGOs) for the purposes of interpretation, translation, and data-finding.
5. To request that the General Secretariat supply the necessary aid to the Working Group to achieve its designated responsibilities.
6. To strongly urge the Working Group to send periodic updates to the Committee on Juridical and Political Affairs, and then provide a report to the General Assembly as soon as possible, or by its annual meeting in 2026.

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

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

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**INTRODUCING THE E.V.A.J. (ELIMINATING VIOLENCE AGAINST JOURNALISTS)
INITIATIVE TO PROMOTE THE PROTECTION OF JOURNALISTS AND CITIZENS FROM
VIOLENCE AND INTIMIDATION**

First Committee
Draft Resolution Presented by the Delegation of Guyana
THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY,

Topic No. 2 of the Agenda

HAVING SEEN:

Article 4 of the American Declaration of the Rights and Duties of Man which asserts that “Every person has the right to freedom of investigation, of opinion, and of the expression and dissemination of ideas, by any medium whatsoever”;

Article 13 of the American Convention on Human Rights which declares that “The right of expression cannot be restricted by indirect methods or means, such as the abuse of official or private controls on newsprint, radio frequencies, or equipment and devices used in the dissemination of information or by any other means aimed at preventing the communication and circulation of ideas and opinions”;

REAFFIRMING:

The Inter-American Commission on Human Rights (IACHR)’s Declaration of Principles on Freedom of Expression which recognizes that “freedom of the press is essential for the realization of the full and effective exercise of freedom of expression and an indispensable instrument for the functioning of representative democracy, through which citizens exercise their right to receive, disseminate and seek information”;

Principle 5 of the Declaration of Principles on Freedom of Expression which states that “Prior censorship, direct or indirect interference in or pressure exerted upon any expression, opinion or information transmitted through any means of oral, written, artistic, visual or electronic communication must be prohibited by law. Restrictions to the free circulation of ideas and opinions, as well as the arbitrary imposition of information and the imposition of obstacles to the free flow of information violate the right to freedom of expression”;

CONSIDERING:

That eight or more countries in the OAS will hold either presidential elections or major municipal elections in 2024 and that political campaigning for elections often coincides with a spike in political violence that targets journalists and government curtailment of free speech;

ACKNOWLEDGING:

That with more than 80 countries set to hold elections in 2024, the UN Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization (UNESCO) has urged governments to ensure that journalists are protected throughout the entire period leading up to elections;

RECALLING:

AG/RES. 2287 (XXXVII-O/07) “Right to Freedom of Thought and Expression and the Importance of the Media” which recommends that Member States “reaffirm that free and independent media are fundamental for democracy and for the promotion of pluralism, tolerance, and freedom of thought and expression; and to facilitate dialogue and debate, free and open to all segments of society, without discrimination of any kind”;

DEEPLY CONCERNED:

That between January 2019 and June 2022, UNESCO documented 759 individual attacks against journalists, including five murders, during 89 elections in 70 countries; and

According to the 2022 joint report by UNESCO and the International Center for Journalists (ICFJ) titled “Global Survey on Online Violence against Women Journalists,” 73 percent of women journalists surveyed reported experiencing online attacks connected to their work, 25 percent had received threats of physical violence, and 18 percent had been threatened with sexual violence; and 20 percent reported being attacked offline in connection with online violence they had experienced,

RESOLVES:

1. To applaud the efforts of Member States to bolster multi-stakeholder collaboration to develop and implement strategies to protect journalists and ensure that the human right to free expression is upheld and defended in the region through initiatives that facilitate dialogue between government representatives, international organizations, academics, and civil society.
2. To encourage Member States to implement and operationalize UNESCO’s “Intervention and Interaction Model Protocol for Security Forces regarding journalists, communicators and the media” throughout Member States, in particular:
 - a. Requiring police and military training on the freedom of expression, freedom of the press and the protection of journalists.
 - b. Training journalists regarding police duties and training police investigators on standards for investigating homicides and crimes against journalists and citizens targeted for the exercise of free speech.
 - c. Providing journalists with training by security forces on the risks and self-protection measures against threats, attacks and other crimes.
3. To strongly recommend the creation of a special committee “**Eliminating Violence Against Journalists**” (E.V.A.J.) under the auspices of the IACHR and the Special Rapporteur for Freedom of Expression:
 - a. This committee will be tasked with creating and maintaining a database to monitor and document instances of:
 - i. Arbitrary detention of journalists.
 - ii. Harassment highlighting aggression and attacks through social media and other outlets against women journalists.
 - iii. Acts of violence against journalists iv. Censorship of civilians through violence or other means
 - v. Digital surveillance of journalists and civilians by governments.
 - b. The committee will be composed of qualified individuals including:

**STRENGTHENING THE ROLE OF ELECTORAL OBSERVATION MISSIONS IN PROTECTING
CITIZENS' FREEDOM OF EXPRESSION**

First Committee

Topic No. 2 of the Agenda

Draft Resolution Presented by the Delegation of Jamaica

THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY,

HAVING SEEN:

Article 2 of the Organization of American States (OAS) Charter, which proclaims the goal to “promote and consolidate representative democracy”;

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

Article 4 of the IADC, which affirms that “Transparency in government activities, probity, responsible public administration on the part of governments, respect for social rights, and freedom of expression and of the press are essential components of the exercise of democracy”;

Article 23 of the IADC, which states that “Member states are responsible for organizing, conducting, and ensuring free and fair electoral processes. Member states, in the exercise of their sovereignty, may request that the Organization of American States provide advisory services or assistance for strengthening and developing their electoral institutions and processes, including sending preliminary missions for that purpose”;

The preamble of the Inter-American Declaration of Principles on Freedom of Expression, which confirms that “Freedom of expression in all its forms and manifestations is a fundamental and inalienable right of all individuals. Additionally, it is an indispensable requirement for the very existence of a democratic society”;

RECOGNIZING:

Article 13 of the American Convention on Human Rights, which states that “everyone has the right to freedom of thought and expression. This right includes freedom to seek, receive, and impart information and ideas of all kinds, regardless of frontiers, either orally, in writing, in print, in the form of art, or through any other medium of one's choice”;

The 1998 Declaration of Santiago, in which the OAS the Heads of State and Government reaffirmed “the importance of guaranteeing freedom of expression, information, and opinion” and commended “the recent appointment of a Special Rapporteur for Freedom of Expression, within the framework of the Organization of American States”;

OAS AG/RES. 2237 (XXXVI-O/06), which recognized the important contributions made by the Special Rapporteur for Freedom of Expression, and urged follow-up on the issues mentioned in its report, including the importance of public demonstrations as an exercise of freedom of expression and freedom of assembly, as well as freedom of expression and the electoral process;

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

The more than 240 Electoral Observation Missions (EOMs) the OAS has deployed in 27 member states since 1962, and the crucial role those EOMs have played in monitoring the conditions for secure, free, and fair elections;

The OAS Department of Electoral Cooperation and Observation (DECO) Electoral Good Practices Guide, which states “Accessibility, security, and public order must be guaranteed, without disproportionate interventions that inhibit or intimidate voters exercising their right to vote”;

DEEPLY CONCERNED BY:

Freedom House’s finding that in 2022, authorities in 109 countries and territories took steps to restrict free speech among ordinary citizens;

The 2016 CIVICUS report, “Threats to Civic Space in Latin America and the Caribbean,” which documents that “conditions for the exercise of the freedom of expression have deteriorated in several LAC countries,” partly because “laws have been passed or proposed in several countries that privilege the free circulation of traffic over the right of people to join together in public space to express dissent,” and also because of “the more authoritarian policing of protests”;

The ACLED (Armed Conflict Location & Event Data Project) data set on political violence and protests worldwide, found that between 2018 and 2021, social conflict and political violence have increased in Latin America by 10%, and that since 2022, there has been a surge in election-related political violence against citizens in Latin America and a rise in gang-related political violence against civilians in the Caribbean;

Research published in the Latin American Journal of Politics (2/2102) which indicates that “as criminal violence increases, citizens abandon public channels of participation and take refuge in their private spheres,” and “citizens exposed to high levels of criminal violence are less likely to vote”;

The 2022 UN Office of the High Commissioner on Human Rights (OHCHR) report on Latin American elections, which warned that threats, intimidation, and political violence “generate terror among the population and deter potential candidates from running for office”, and

ACKNOWLEDGING:

The post-election recommendations provided by OAS EOMs on safeguarding citizen freedom of expression, which include training security forces on how to handle disruptive election situations effectively, “without resorting to unnecessary violence”, and conducting “rigorous studies on the origin and impact of political and electoral violence on the democratic process and its differentiated effects for national and local government authorities, political organizations, candidates, and citizens in general”;

The United Nations Department of Political Affairs directive, “Preventing and Mitigating ElectionRelated Violence”, which aims “to assist relevant UN actors to effectively assess and analyze risks, to identify measures that can prevent or mitigate election-related violence, and to improve coordination and coherence in the UN’s approach to election-related violence”;

The International Foundation for Electoral Systems' work in developing conflict-sensitive electoral security tools which help citizens express their political views freely and without fear;

The National Democratic Institute Report on "Monitoring and Mitigating Election Violence Through Nonpartisan Citizen Election Observation", which highlights the essential role that Election Observation Missions can play in safeguarding citizen security and freedom of expression during election cycles,

RESOLVES:

1. To commend the OAS and Member States for sustaining and supporting Electoral Observation Missions (EOMs) in member states since 1962.
2. To protect citizens' freedom of expression and safeguard them from electoral violence and intimidation by strengthening the EOMs' capacity to monitor and make recommendations on freedom of speech and voter intimidation before and during member state elections.
3. To instruct the Secretariat for Strengthening Democracy Department of Electoral Cooperation and Observation (DECO) to:
 - a. create an additional reporting category in its Electoral Observation Missions and Recommendations Database that measures voters' freedom of expression and freedom from electoral violence and intimidation. This will allow more effective tracking and analysis of trends, recommendations, and outcomes in these areas.
 - b. Create a new position on its Electoral Observation Teams, the Freedom of Expression Specialist, who will be responsible for investigating and reporting on violence against citizens, voter intimidation or coercion, and other infringements on citizen freedom during the election process.
 - c. ask the Inter-American Commission on Human Rights (IACHR) Office of the Special Rapporteur for Freedom of Expression to share its expertise on the causes and consequences of electionrelated violence and intimidation with EOMs, to help the EOMs prepare for their missions.
 - d. request that the United Nations Electoral Assistance Division of the Department of Political and Peacebuilding Affairs (DPPA) establish an advisory relationship with DECO, in order to share the UN's best practices and recommendations on how to monitor and support freedom of expression as part of Electoral Observation Missions.
4. To instruct DECO to build collaborative relationships with international NGOs that specialize in promoting non-violent, intimidation-free elections, for the purpose of developing new tools and practices to monitor freedom of expression. These NGOs could include, but would not be limited to, the following:
 - a. The International Foundation for Electoral Systems, which has created tools including Electoral Violence Education and Resolution (EVER), People Against Violence in Elections (PAVE), the Violence Against Women in Elections Framework (VAWE) framework, and Enabling a Peaceful Environment to Administer Credible Elections (ePeace).
 - b. The International Institute for Democracy and Electoral Assistance, which works with governments and civil society groups to strengthen and safeguard democratic political institutions and processes.
5. To fund the initiative partially from the Secretariat for Strengthening Democracy budget, with additional financial support from the International Foundation for Electoral Systems (IFES), the European Union,

and OAS Permanent Observers who have contributed to DECO's work in the past, such as France, Italy, and the Netherlands.

- 6. To instruct DECO to report to both SSD and the General Assembly regarding the new observation and recommendation protocols concerning freedom of expression within EOMs. This report should:
 - a. outline observed trends, challenges encountered, and proposed solutions.
 - b. encapsulate the recommendations put forth by EOMs in response to the identified issues, ensuring a thorough analysis and actionable insights for further improvement in safeguarding freedom of expression within electoral processes.

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

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

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**ADDRESSING GENDER-BASED VIOLENCE AGAINST JOURNALISTS ACROSS
THE HEMISPHERE**

First Committee

Topic No. 2 of the Agenda

Draft Resolution Presented by the Delegation of Ecuador

THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY,

HAVING SEEN:

Principle 9 of the Declaration of Principles on Freedom of Expression, which establishes that “the murder, kidnapping, intimidation, threats to social communicators, as well as the material destruction of the media, violate the fundamental rights of individuals and severely restrict freedom of expression”;

The establishment of the The Office of the Special Rapporteur for Freedom of Expression (SRFOE) by the IACHR with the aim of “encouraging the defense of the right to freedom of thought and expression in the hemisphere”;

Article 4 of the Inter-American Charter which states “Transparency in government activities, probity, responsible public administration on the part of governments, respect for social rights, and freedom of expression and of the press are essential components of the exercise of democracy”;

RECALLING:

AG/RES. 2908 (XLVII-O/17) which enforces the creation of independent specialized prosecutors' offices, the adoption of specific investigative and prosecutorial protocols and methods, and the continuous training of judicial operators on freedom of expression and journalists' safety;

SRFOE's 2022 report "Women Journalists and Newsrooms: Advances, Challenges and Recommendations to Prevent Violence and Combat Discrimination," which recognizes the structural obstacles and high risk situation women journalists face and recommends that media companies take strategic measures to increase the role of and protections for women journalists;

DEEPLY CONCERNED:

The key findings from UNESCO's 2020 Global Survey on Online Violence Against Women Journalists, including: 73% of women journalists experienced online violence in the course of their work, 25% experienced threats of physical violence, 18% experienced threats of sexual violence, and 20% experienced offline attacks related to online threats;

The UNESCO-supported, Reporters Without Borders (RSF) 2011-2020 report that found Latin America to be the region with the greatest number of journalists killed during the course of their work; That journalist killings in 2022 rose nearly 50% globally amid lawlessness and war according to the Committee to Protect Journalists;

That only 22% of the top 180 editors in the media industry are women despite women making up, on average, 46% of all journalists worldwide;

APPLAUDING:

The statement made by the United Nations Economic and Social Council on the Commission on the Status of Women in 2018 that discusses the online and offline challenges faced by women journalists and recommends a number of protective measures;

That the OAS is “committed to working towards, and ensuring, equal political, economic and social rights and opportunities for all peoples of the Hemisphere, regardless of gender, and has taken a leading role in supporting women’s movements throughout the Americas”;

The work of existing helplines and support networks, such as Heartmob, Vita Activa, the Coalition for Women in Journalism, and JSafe, that provide significant aid to female and non-gender conforming journalists;

EMPHASIZING:

That freedom of speech and the protection of freedom of expression is a fundamental ideal of democracy and is necessary in the pursuit of democracy in the Americas,

RESOLVES:

1. To establish a committee which partner with non-partisan international organizations and local NGOS with the intention of implementing Safe Housing for journalists and their families throughout the Americas:
 - a. Safe housing shall be located in existing establishments or residences, to avoid the construction of new housing.
 - b. The safe housing addresses are to be privately available only to media companies and workers through direct communication with the established committee.
 - c. To avoid vulnerability from attackers who find the address, it would be wise to periodically change the safe housing's address.
2. To implement gender mainstreaming and a gender sensitive approach across the OAS in regards to safeguarding freedom of expression and the protection of journalists.
3. To promote and advocate for existing helplines and support networks within media spaces and public spaces by adding links into government websites and social media, distributed with existing journalist safety training programs, and/or published or televised news segments.
4. To provide safe reporting mechanisms for female journalists facing discrimination, intimidation, and harassment within newsrooms that are separated from newsroom leadership.
5. To encourage member states to appoint women and non-gender conforming journalists into positions of power in the media industry to increase the active role of women and the female perspective in the news media.

6. To encourage non-partisan international firms to establish internships for women and non-gender conforming individuals with the aim of increasing diversity and perspective in international media.
7. To establish training programs, administered in partnership with women's rights organizations and civil society groups, that educate women journalists on how to operate in hostile environments, protect their identity online, and how to respond to both virtual and in-person attacks.

Approved for form and substance:

_____ (Signature of Faculty Advisor)

Cosignatories: 1. _____

(Signature of Delegate)

(Country Represented)

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PROMOTING THE IMPORTANCE OF FREEDOM OF EXPRESSION AND PROTECTION OF JOURNALISTS FROM HUMAN RIGHTS VIOLATIONS

First Committee

Topic No. 2 of the Agenda

Draft Resolution Presented by the Delegation of Honduras

THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY,

HAVING SEEN:

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

Article 4 of the Inter-American Democratic Charter “Transparency in government activities, probity, responsible public administration on the part of governments, respect for social rights, and freedom of expression and of the press are essential components of the exercise of democracy”;

Article 93 (3) of the OAS Charter which states “Strengthening of the civic conscience of the American peoples, as one of the bases for the effective exercise of democracy and for the observance of the rights and duties of man”;

Article 145 of the OAS Charter which states “Until the inter-American convention on human rights, referred to in Chapter XV, enters into force, the present Inter-American Commission on Human Rights shall keep vigilance over the observance of human rights.”; and

TAKING INTO ACCOUNT:

Article 13 (3) of the American Convention on Human Rights, which state “The right of expression may not be restricted by indirect methods or means, such as the abuse of government or private controls over newsprint, radio broadcasting frequencies, or equipment used in the dissemination of information, or by any other means tending to impede the communication and circulation of ideas and opinions.”;

The Inter-American Commission on Human Rights’ (IACHR) Declaration of Principles on Freedom of Expression, “[t]he murder, kidnapping, intimidation, threats to social communicators, as well as the material destruction of the media, violate the fundamental rights of individuals and severely restrict freedom of expression. It is the duty of States to prevent and investigate these acts, punish their perpetrators and ensure adequate reparation for the victims.”;

Article 1 of the IIHRs Intervention and Interaction Model Protocol for Security Forces which states “Journalists and social communicators who provide journalistic coverage of demonstrations or acts of public protest, and the presentation of information... “cannot be unduly prohibited or restricted from fulfilling these duties”; and

DEEPLY CONCERNED:

That governments are increasingly restricting the freedom of expression and thought as necessary for the maintenance of social order, which can force independent journalists underground or into exile;

That, according to the 2022 Frontline Defenders report, Latin America remained the deadliest region in the world for human rights defenders, including journalists, accounting for over 80% of the 400+ killings worldwide; and

RECOGNIZING:

That, according to the UNDP, Latin America is the region in which polarization has increased the most in the last 20 years, that increasing polarization and institutional instability foster hostility and extreme distrust of the media; and

That the sharp decrease of press related homicides in Latin America 43 homicides to 15 murders, according to UNESCO demonstrates the commitment of state actors to improve the safety conditions of press workers, but could also reflect an increase of self-censorship,

RESOLVES:

1. To commend the UN's efforts of raising awareness, standard setting and policymaking, monitoring and reporting, capacity building and research, creating a safe environment for journalists and media workers through the UN Plan on the Safety of Journalists and the Issue of Impunity;
2. To recognize, in particular, Brazil's transparency commitments in its OGP action plans and to encourage other member states to implement similar initiatives that increases transparency in order to:
 - a. Give the public access to government policies, initiatives, budget allocations, etc.;
 - b. Build trust between citizens and the government, especially since trust in the government has decreased from 44% to 30% in Latin America;
 - c. Allow citizens to have informed dialogue to monitor government actions, exercise their voice, and be more engaged in democracy; and
 - d. Minimize corruption, clientelism, and policy capture.
3. To encourage member states to pass and maintain laws that punish violence, censorship, and abuse directed at all citizens and journalists.
4. To emphasize the importance of an independent judiciary, which is crucial to protecting freedom of speech.
5. To exhort member states and their civil society organizations to collaborate in providing journalists with psychological, legal, and physical assistance in confronting challenges to their human rights.
6. To establish a working group within the Inter American Commission on Human Rights, funded out of the IACHR's operating budget, tasked with:
 - a. Developing training programs and workshops for government officials and law enforcement officers on proper and respectful public engagement with journalists and media outlets;
 - b. Consulting with journalists and media specialists in the design of such programs and workshops; and
 - c. Implementing such training programs and workshops upon request of any member state.

7. To urge member states to develop a national mechanism for protecting journalists to:
 - a. Guarantee that it has enough personnel who are educated appropriately and can effectively safeguard people;
 - b. Gain more credibility in the eyes of its beneficiaries, so that civil society participation in the National Protection Council and the Technical Committee will be strengthened; and
 - c. Thoroughly monitor the pace and manner in which the police conduct protective measures.

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

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

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**ESTABLISHING THE CARLOS BERGER GURALNIK AWARD OF EXCELLENCE AND
PROTECTING JOURNALISTS AND MEDIA PERSONNEL FROM VIOLENCE**

First Committee
Draft Resolution Presented by the Delegation of Republic of Panama

Topic No. 2 of the Agenda

THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY,

RECALLING:

The commitment to the democratic principles stated in the Article 45 the Charter of the Organization of American States, including section (a) which states: “All human beings, without distinction as to race, sex, nationality, creed, or social condition, have a right to material well-being and to their spiritual development, under circumstances of liberty, dignity, equality of opportunity, and economic security”;

Article 4 of the Inter-American Democratic Charter which states, “Transparency in government activities, probity, responsible public administration on the part of governments, respect for social rights, and freedom of expression and of the press are essential components of the exercise of democracy. The constitutional subordination of all state institutions to the legally constituted civilian authority and respect for the rule of law on the part of all institutions and sectors of society are equally essential to democracy”;

Article 7 of Resolution AG/RES. 3003 (LIII-O/23), Promotion and Protection of Human Rights which states: “To request the Inter-American Commission on Human Rights Office of the Special Rapporteur for Freedom of Expression to prepare, with the available resources, a report that compiles the practices of the Member States in terms of decentralization and plurality of the media, content moderation, and actions against hate speech in the media, which must be presented prior to the fiftyfourth regular session of The General Assembly”;

Article 1 of the section (ii) of Resolution AG/RES. 2908 (XLVII-O/17), Promotion and Protection of Human Rights which states: “To condemn murders, acts of aggression, and other violence against journalists and media workers, given that such acts are an assault, not only on the lives, safety, and freedom of expression of the victims, but also on the right of everyone to receive information of public interest”;

Article 13 of the American Convention on Human Rights which state: “Any propaganda for war and any advocacy of national, racial, or religious hatred that constitute incitements to lawless violence or to any other similar action against any person or group of persons on any grounds including those of race, color, religion, language, or national origin shall be considered as offenses punishable by law”;

Article 1 of the Declaration of Principles on Freedom of Expression of the Inter-American Commission on Human Rights which states: “Freedom of expression, in all its forms and manifestations, is a fundamental and inalienable right, inherent to all people. It is, furthermore, an essential requirement for the very existence of a democratic society”;

CONSIDERING:

Resolutions CP/RES. 1226 (2435/23) and CP/RES. 1248 (2484/24) which indicate the importance of women in the development of the Americas and the designation of a space in honor of these individuals in the Main Building of the Headquarters of the General Secretariat of the Organization of American States;

The Committee on Juridical and Political Affairs' special session on the right to freedom of expression and journalism in the Americas on May 18, 2023, where Member States shared their experiences and lessons learned regarding the freedom of expression and protection of journalists;

NOTING WITH CONCERN:

The Office of the Special Rapporteur for Freedom of Expression of the Inter-American Commission on Human Rights' press release on June 1, 2023, on at least 11 journalists who were killed while exercising their profession in the Americas; and

REMEMBERING:

Carlos Berger Guralnik, a 30-year-old journalist from Chile, who was executed on October 19, 1973, in Calama, Chile in the days following the 1973 Chilean coup d'état,

RESOLVES:

1. To thank Member States and the Office of Special Rapporteur for Freedom of Expression's efforts to promote freedom of expression and prevent violence against journalists in the Americas.
2. To condemn the increasing number of attacks, intimidations, and threats against journalists and media personnel posed by state and non-state actors, including transnational criminal organizations, both online and offline.
3. To hold a special session during the annual meeting of the General Assembly in 2025, in consultation with Member States, to discuss and exchange best practices on promoting and protecting freedom of expression and journalists from violence.
4. To establish the Carlos Berger Guralnik Award of Excellence at the special session of the General Assembly in 2025 to annually commend a journalist from the western hemisphere for their efforts in spite of violence posed against them, for which:
 - a. A special committee comprised of five members, selected by the General Assembly and led by the Special Rapporteur for Freedom of Expression, will select the recipient of the Award.
 - b. The selected journalist, from one of the Organization of American States Member States, will be honored for their work under violent conditions.
 - c. The Special Rapporteur for Freedom of Expression will announce the recipient of the award during each annual meeting of the General Assembly.

5. To designate a space located in the Main Building of the Headquarters of the Organization of American States, near or adjacent to the Gallery of Heroes, for the recipient of Carlos Berger Guralnik Award of Excellence.
6. To seek funding for this special session, travel expenses, and the award from Member States and Permanent Observers of the Organization of American States on a voluntary basis.

Approved for form and substance: _____

(Signature of Faculty Advisor)

Cosignatories: 1. _____ (Signature

of Delegate)

(Country Represented)

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**CREATION OF AN EARLY WARNING ALARM SYSTEM FOR THE PROTECTION OF
JOURNALISTS IN THE HEMISPHERE**

First Committee

Topic No. 2 of the Agenda

Draft Resolution Presented by The Delegation of the United States of America

THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY,

HAVING SEEN:

Article 8 of Inter-American Democratic Charter, which establishes that “Any person or group of persons who consider that their human rights have been violated may present claims or petitions to the inter-American system for the promotion and protection of human rights in accordance with its established procedures”;

Article 7 of the Social Charter of the Americas, which asserts that “Member states will strive, based on respect for human rights and the rule of law, and within the framework of democratic institutions, to make efforts, domestically and internationally, as appropriate, to eliminate obstacles to development with a view to achieving full enjoyment of civil, political, economic, social, and cultural rights”;

Article 33 of the Social Charter of the Americas, which affirms that “Member states, inspired by the principles of inter-American 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”;

CONSIDERING:

The Resolution of the United Nations AG/RES/78/215 (2023) “The safety of journalists and the issue of impunity”, which “Calls upon States to develop and implement effective and transparent legal frameworks and measures for the protection of journalists and media workers and for combating impunity, taking a gender-responsive approach, including, where appropriate, through the creation and strengthening of special investigative units or independent commissions, the appointment of a specialized prosecutor and the adoption of specific protocols and methods of investigation and prosecution”;

The Resolution of the United Nations General Assembly A/RES/68/163 (2014), which urges “Member States to do their utmost to prevent violence against journalists and media workers, to ensure accountability through the conduct of impartial, speedy and effective investigations into all alleged violence against journalists and media workers falling within their jurisdiction and to bring the perpetrators of such crimes to justice and ensure that victims have access to appropriate remedies”;

DEEPLY CONCERNED:

About the challenges faced by journalists worldwide due to threats, violations and murders, considering that 67 journalists and media workers were killed since 2018 and a nearly 50% increase from 2021;

That, the Committee to Protect Journalists (CPJ) found that at least 41 were killed in direct connection with their work, while the causes for the other 26 deaths are currently being investigated to determine whether they were related to their work;

That, Latin America was the deadliest region for the media, with 30 journalists killed, accounting for nearly 50% of the 67 journalists and media workers killed worldwide;

That, a report by the CPJ stated that, the number of journalists killed around the world increased dramatically in 2022, and during that year Latin America and the Caribbean experienced a notable rise in journalist murders with a total of 44 recorded cases; and

RECALLING:

The Resolution of the OAS AG/RES. 3003 (LIII-O/23) (2023) which encourage “the Member States of the Organization of American States to continue with the development of activities that contribute decisively to the prevention of violence against journalists, especially women journalists, increase efforts to protect them, create the conditions to eradicate impunity against crimes against the press, and, in keeping with the Statute and Regulation of the InterAmerican Commission of Human Rights, make it easier for the Office of the Special Rapporteur for Freedom of Expression to gather onsite all the necessary information so that the Inter-American System can objectively and impartially analyze the scope of reports on freedom of expression and of the press in the hemisphere”;

The work of the Special Rapporteur for Freedom of Expression of the OAS Inter-American Commission on Human Rights (IACHR) which promotes prevention and seeks justice in cases of journalist aggression with different initiatives such as the report of "Women Journalists and Newsrooms: Advances, Challenges and Recommendations to Prevent Violence and Combat Discrimination",

RESOLVES:

1. To congratulate Member States for their efforts to strengthen the dynamics of protection for journalists affected by violence and reaffirming their commitment to vindicate freedom of the press and freedom of expression.
2. To encourage each Member State to implement both efficient and effective strategies to continue guaranteeing security for human rights and provide protection for freedom of the press.
3. To suggest the creation of an Early Warning Alarm System based on Artificial Intelligence (AI) and the Information and Communication Technologies (ICT), with the support of the Multidimensional Security Secretariat of the OAS for the protection of journalists, in order to prevent threats against these professionals, guaranteeing freedom of expression and the right of information, whereby:
 - a. The coordination of the creation will be led by:
 - i. One representative of the Multidimensional Security Secretariat who will work as an advisor to provide strategies, information and data required to supply the system and ensure its performance.
 - ii. A group of experts composed of one delegate of each Member State, with knowledge and experience in computer science and cybersecurity selected by the Ministry of Technology or anybody that acts as such.
 - iii. A representative of the Ministry of Justice or its equivalent in each Member State to contribute with data and information according to the context of each country.
 - b. The system will be created using the following methodology:
 - i. Identification and classification of risks and threats (High, Medium and Low), for the creation of historical databases.
 - ii. Data processing, cleaning, and classification of those that are or are not real threats.

- iii. Neural network selection, according to the context and the algorithm design.
 - iv. System training and validation.
 - v. System optimization.
4. To recommend the implementation in each Member State, through:
- a. National government is responsible to establish the required policies and legal frameworks for the implementation of the system, considering the internal context of each State.
 - b. The Minister of Justice, with the support of the Ministry of ICT or its equivalents, will be in charge of the implementation of the system, with the information of each State.
 - c. The technical cooperation of the OAS as a regional institution would play a key role in orchestrating and enabling access to the system, through training programs, capabilities and strategies.
 - d. Promoting strategic alliances between developed and vulnerable countries to enhance access to technical assistance and technological infrastructure.
5. To request financial or technical assistance from:
- a. The Inter-American Development Bank.
 - b. The Committee to Protect Journalists (CPJ).
 - c. Foundation for Freedom of the Press (FLIP).



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

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

2. _____

3. _____

4. _____

5. _____