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

Working Group Packet

First Committee

Washington Model
Organization of American States
Institute for Diplomatic Dialogue in the Americas

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April 8-12, 2024

ARTIFICIAL INTELLIGENCE ELECTORAL TASK FORCE: PROMOTING FAIR, SECURE AND TRANSPARENT ELECTIONS IN THE DIGITAL ERA

First Committee   Topic No. 3 of the Agenda
Draft Resolution Presented by the Delegations of Colombia and Canada

THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY,

HAVING CONSIDERED:

Article 2 of the 1948 Charter of the Organization of American States dictates that Representative Democracy is an indispensable condition for stability, peace, and development of the region, and stablishes it as one of the organization main purposes;

Article 3 of the Inter-American Democratic Charter, which reaffirms as one of its principles the importance of "periodic, free, and fair elections based on secret balloting and universal suffrage as an expression of the sovereignty of the people, the pluralistic system of political parties and organizations, and the separation of powers and the independence of the branches of government";

Article 23 of the 2001 Inter American Democratic Charter, which represents a collective commitment to maintaining and strengthening the democratic system in the region, urging member states to be responsible for organizing and ensuring free and fair electoral process;

The 2012 Social Charter of the Americas as it recognizes the interdependent and mutually reinforcing relation between democracy and social and economic development; highlighting the importance of a democratic framework for the promotion of social justice, development and equity;

GUIDED BY:

AG/RES. 2694 (XLI-O/11) "Promotion and Strengthening of Democracy: Follow up to the Inter American Democratic Charter", which recognizes the importance of promoting the principles, values, and practices of a democratic culture, and reaffirms the Inter-American cooperation and solidarity to promote and strength democratic governance in each country;

The 2001 Plan of Action adopted by the democratically elected Heads of State of the Americas, on the Third Summit of the Americas Declaration of Quebec City, that commits on strengthening representative democracy, promote good governance and protect human rights and fundamental freedoms;

AG/RES. 2528 (XXXXIX-O/09) "Modernization and use of electoral technologies in the hemisphere", which recalls the Plan of Action of the Third Summit of the Americas, where the Heads of State and Government stated they would enhance electoral mechanisms using technologies to supervise and verify elections at national or sub national levels;

TAKING INTO ACCOUNT:

The speech made by the Organization of American States Secretary General on May 4th, 2023, regarding the importance of preparing societies to face and respond to the emergence of Artificial Intelligence (AI) Technology, and the call to set up regional and national mechanisms towards adopting principles, guidelines, regulations, and solutions to the matter;

A report from the Congressional Research Service from August of 2023 titled "Artificial Intelligence: Overview, Recent Advances, and Considerations for the 118th Congress" which puts forth that deepfakes have already been used to influence voters in at least seven countries (The U.S., Ukraine, Gabon, Slovakia, Poland, Belgium, and the U.K.);

A report from the Economic Commission for Latin America and the Caribbean (ECLAC) under the United Nations in August of 2023, which emphasizes the need for "regional and multilateral coordination are needed to harness [AI's] opportunities and minimize its potential threats";

ACKNOWLEDGING:

That according to a study conducted by IDEA International about the use of Information and Communication Technologies (ICTs) in Elections, out of the 24 countries in the Americas included in the analysis, 50 percent of them did not use electronic voting, 74 percent still use very basic and offline technologies to manage the electoral registration data, indicating that electoral systems are still vulnerable to technological threats in areas such as Artificial Intelligence (AI),

The European Union's Artificial Intelligence Act passed in March of 2024 which established a regulatory framework for AI systems that prohibits "deploying subliminal, manipulative, or deceptive techniques to distort behavior and impair informed decision-making, causing significant harm" and requires companies that use AI technologies to disclose information on the use and training of AI models; and

The United Nations Educational, Scientific, and Cultural Organization (UNESCO) international recommendation on The Ethics of Artificial Intelligence which outlines both the potential advantages and the risks associated with the use of AI and notes "the need for transparency and understandability of the workings of algorithms and the data with which they have been trained; and their potential impact on, including but not limited to, human dignity, human rights and fundamental freedoms, gender equality, democracy, social, economic, political and cultural processes",

RESOLVES:

1. To congratulate Member States for their endeavors in mitigating the risks posed by artificial intelligence to electoral integrity and processes and to underscore the efforts made by the Organization of American States (OAS) by the Secretariat for Strengthening Democracy (SSD) and the Department of Electoral Cooperation and Observation through the recommendations and observations made in the Electoral Observation Missions (EOMs), which have been essential on maintaining transparency and fair electoral process and campaigns.

2. To encourage each Member State to prioritize educational initiatives in raising awareness among citizens towards the malicious uses of AI in elections, to include such educational initiatives as infographics, curriculum integration, public seminars, and awareness campaigns through modern media outlets targeting voter recognition of malicious deepfake technology.

3. To create a subcommittee, the Committee on Artificial Intelligence Governance in Electoral Processes, under the Department of Electoral Cooperation and Observation (DECO) whose chief goals and elements will be:

    a. To establish a hemispheric agreement framework to govern AI's role in elections and electoral processes to prevent outside interference in local elections.

b. To implement technologies for electoral processes that promote responsible governance and safeguard electoral integrity.

c. To identify the risks and problems regarding the use of AI in electoral process.

d. To realize regular assessments conducted to track progress, identify challenges, and adapt strategies according to each country´s situation.

4. To request that the task force meets every year, with representatives from the member states to discuss progress and identify challenges, obstacles, and threats on the strategies adopted, taking into consideration the constant evolution of AI technologies, and the changing social and political contexts of the election in the region.

5. To request financial assistance and developmental support from OAS State Members, Non-Governmental Organizations, such as the National Democratic Institute (NDI), the International Foundation for Electoral Systems (IFES), the Americas Society Council of the Americas (AS/COA), private sector partners, and members that helped create the EU AI Act in support of creating a strong basis for execution of duties in the Americas.

6. To call the Secretariat for Strengthening Democracy (SSD) to monitor the progress and achievements of the task force, and the implementation of these proposals in the different countries of the Americas, presenting a report to the 55th session of the General Assembly in 2025.

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

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

2. _____   _____

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INTER-AMERICAN CONFERENCE FOR COMPARATIVE EXPERIENCES TO ADDRESS THE THREAT OF ARTIFICIAL INTELLIGENCE ON ELECTIONS

First Committee   Topic No. #3 of the Agenda

Draft Resolution presented by the Joint Delegations of Chile and Venezuela

THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY,

HAVING CONSIDERED:

The mission of the Organization of American States (OAS) to "promote and consolidate representative democracy" as outlined in Article II of the OAS Charter, it is important that the OAS take proactive steps to reinstate public confidence in the electoral process;

As outlined in the Summit of the Americas Secretariat (SISCA) in Article XVII of the 2018 Lima Convention, it is important to advocate for the promotion of new technologies that facilitate digital government in order to promote transparency, interaction with citizens and accountability, through development of tools for the identification, detection, systematization, and monitoring of government procedures;

Section IV Article 21 of the Inter-American Democratic Charter stating "When the special session of the General Assembly determines that there has been an unconstitutional interruption of the democratic order of a member state, and that diplomatic initiatives have failed, the special session shall take the decision to suspend said member state from the exercise of its right to participate in the OAS by an affirmative vote of two thirds of the member states in accordance with the Charter of the OAS. The suspension shall take effect immediately;"

RECOGNIZING:

The critical role of democratic elections in ensuring the legitimacy of governments and upholding the will of the people as enshrined in the Universal Declaration of Human Rights and other international instruments. There is a clear need for collective action to address emerging threats to electoral integrity posed by AI tampering and manipulation,

The importance of Article XV of the Inter-American Democratic Charter to "promote 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...", along with Article XVI identifying education as the "key to strengthening democratic institutions";

The United Nations efforts to implement Artificial Intelligence policies in Latin America through a conference on AI for Sustainable Development in Latin America hosted by Economic Commission for Latin America and the Caribbean in Santiago, Chile. Working in collaboration with Chile's own National Center for Artificial Intelligence to develop positive Artificial Intelligence law;

UNDERSTANDING:

That the rapid advancements of artificial intelligence (AI) and its potential to influence electoral processes, posing new challenges to the integrity and fairness of democratic elections. The imperative to safeguard the democratic processes of member states against external interference, including the malicious use of AI technologies;

That AI technologies, unless traced to a malicious member state, cannot be treated with the same punishments as the member states. Due to their open access, any bad actor can use AI to tamper with any election; and

COMMENDING:

The hard work done by the Department of Electoral Cooperation and Observation (DECO) on the effective implementation of New Voting Technologies (NVTs) and hoping to contribute to the further homogeny between technology and democracy in our societies;

Upholding the commitment made by our Heads of State at the Third Summit of the Americas in 2001 to "continue to enhance electoral mechanisms, using information and communications technologies where possible...while taking into account the need to safeguard the integrity of the electoral process and promoting the full participation and integration of all persons eligible to exercise the right to vote,"

REVOLVES:

1. To congratulate all members of the Organization of American States (OAS) on the upcoming elections and maintaining the body's commitment to democracy.

2. To establish the Inter-American Conference for Comparative Experiences on the Implementation of Artificial Intelligence in Elections, to be held in Santiago, Chile, which:
   a. Would establish best practices for incorporating the helpful use of Artificial Intelligence (AI) to detect anomalies and trends in the election process.
   b. Could work with state research institutions and universities to develop educational programs for future policymakers.
   c. The conference will be hosted annually,
      i. The host nation will rotate by election of the members of the Conference.
      ii. The ability to host will be renewed after 5 years after hosting to allow for more nations to take part in hosting.
   d. The members of the committee would consist of those with backgrounds in computer science, cybersecurity, or electoral law and be appointed by the individual member state to represent the said nation for an unspecified period.

3. To encourage member states to strengthen their legal and regulatory frameworks to address the risks associated with AI tampering in elections, including by implementing measures to ensure transparency, accountability, and the security of electoral systems, that will:
   a. Urge member states to increase international cooperation.

     b.   Create information sharing mechanisms to detect, prevent, and respond to attempts of Artificial Intelligence tampering in the electoral processes.

     c.   Will be in accordance with international law and the principles of sovereignty and non-interference.

4. To report the results from the conference to the Department of Electoral Cooperation and Observation (DECO) under the Secretariat for Strengthening Democracy, where:

     a.   Members will discuss the effect of Artificial Intelligence on the democratic system, including but not limited to:

          i.   The type of policies implemented
          ii.   Any push back experienced both political and civil
          iii.   The technological successes or setbacks faced

     b.   Sharing of this information should be voluntary, but transparency is highly encouraged on behalf of member states choosing to participate.

5. To request funding for the Conference come from the generosity of the participating member states, the Inter-American Development Bank (IDB), and NGOs relating to the ethics, development, or operation of Artificial Intelligence, like Laura, DYMAXION Labs, or U Planner.

Approved for form and substance: _____

(Signature of Faculty Advisor)

Cosignatories: 1. _____ _____

(Signature of Delegate)   (Country Represented)

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         3. _____ _____

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