

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

# **Washington Packet**

## **General Committee**



**Washington Model**

**Organization of American States**

Institute for Diplomatic Dialogue in the Americas



# **OAS**

More rights for more people

**April 8-12, 2024**

**PROTECTING INTERNALLY DISPLACED PERSONS AND INTERNATIONAL  
REFUGEES THROUGH FORMALIZED STATUSES AND POTENTIAL REINTEGRATION**

General Committee

Topic No. 3 of the Agenda

Draft Resolution Presented by the Delegation of Bolivia

THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY,

HAVING SEEN:

Article 106 of the Charter of the Organization of American States which establishes the creation of the Inter-American Commission on Human Rights as an institution to protect and observe human rights;

Article 41 of the American Convention on Human Rights which highlights that the Inter-American Commission on Human Rights has various powers, such as making “recommendations to the governments of the member states...for the adoption of progressive measures in favor of human rights...; [and] to prepare such studies or reports as it considers advisable in the performance of its duties”;

International Acceptance of the Guiding Principles on Internal Displacement presented by the UN Commission on Human Rights in 1998 which defines Internally Displaced Persons (IDPs) as “persons or groups of persons who have been forced or obliged to flee or to leave their homes or places of habitual residence, in particular to avoid the effects of armed conflict, situations of generalized violence, violations of human rights or natural or human-made disasters, and who have not crossed an internationally recognized State border”;

The 1951 Geneva Convention Regarding the Status of Refugees, which states, “refugee shall apply to any person who owing to well-founded fear of being persecuted for reasons of race, religion, nationality, membership of a particular social group or political opinion, is outside the country of his nationality and is unable, or owing to such fear, is unwilling to avail himself of the protection of that country; or who, not having a nationality and being outside the country of his former habitual residence as a result of such events, is unable or, owing to such fear, is unwilling to return to it”;

The “Guidelines for the Formulation of Public Policies on Internal Displacement” report urged by the Inter-American Commission on Human Rights, which recognizes that “internally displaced persons are entitled to enjoy in free equality the same rights and freedoms under the American Convention and other domestic and international law norms, as the rest of the country's citizenry” and advises public policy recommendations to solve this ongoing humanitarian crisis;

REMEMBERING:

AG/RES. 1971 of the OAS, which reiterated the need for international protection of “refugees, returnees, stateless persons, and internally displaced persons”;

AG/RES. 2055 of the OAS, which urged Member States to include the needs of IDPs in sectoral plans and to facilitate access for humanitarian organizations to assist IDPs;

AG/RES. 2047 of the OAS, which called for the ratification of treaties regarding the “determination of refugee status” by Member States; and

CONSIDERING:

The distinction of refugees, crossing international borders, and internally displaced persons, staying within Member States, to respect national sovereignty;

The data collected by the United Nations High Commission for Refugees (UNHCR) which estimated that, by mid-2023, 62.5 million people were internally displaced, and an additional 36.4 million were identified as refugees;

Reports from the International Organization for Migration under the United Nations labeled 2023 as the “deadliest year on record” for migrants with around 8,500 deaths;

How, as stated by the United Nations International Children’s Fund (UNICEF), Latin America countries, including Bolivia, are historically prone to natural disasters which may worsen internal displacement;

RESOLVES:

1. To commend the efforts of the Inter-American Commission on Human Rights, and Member States, in defining the status and aiding in the current crisis regarding internal displacement;
2. To reiterate the importance of Member States in upholding existing resolutions protecting international refugees and IDPs to facilitate assistance;
3. To encourage the formulation of a Convention of Refugee and Internally Displaced Persons Protections under the OAS, which would seek to;
  - a. Suggest time frames for Member States to advance both international refugees and IDPs protections within their countries, such as;

4. Urging Member States to acknowledge the presence of Internally Displaced Persons within their nations and recognize their international protections under the OAS, particularly through court rulings, constitutional amendments, and proposed law;
5. To encourage Member States to facilitate the naturalization process of long-term refugees within their nations, all while respecting national sovereignty, through;
  - a. The adoption of citizenship after a refugee has experienced a suggested minimal stay of 24 months through; and
  - b. An application for nationality through each Member States' respective governments.
6. To propose the creation of a subcommittee requesting coordination by the Inter-American Commission on Human Rights to be composed of representatives from Latin American Member State, focusing on internal displacement due to natural disasters and providing relief to those affected, whose initiatives should include:
  - a. Providing compensation for reported lost property after natural disasters as the committee sees fit, considered through a case-by-case methodology.
  - b. Supplying access to temporary shelters, which should be set up and created by Member States, whose conditions shall be approved by an OAS staff member.
7. To request funding for proposed resolves through international organizations such as the Inter-American Development Bank and through "voluntary contributions by Member States"

Approved for form and substance: \_\_\_\_\_

(Signature of Faculty Advisor)

Cosignatories: 1. \_\_\_\_\_

(Signature of Delegate)

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(Country Represented)

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## ADDRESSING DISINFORMATION AS A THREAT TO DEMOCRACY

General Committee

Topic No. 1 of the Agenda

Draft Resolution Presented by the Delegation of Panama

THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY,

RECALLING:

The Charter of the Organization of American States, which states in its preamble that “representative democracy is an indispensable condition for the stability, peace and development of the region”;

Article 3(d) of the OAS Charter, which affirms that “The solidarity of the American States and the high aims which are sought through it require the political organization of those States on the basis of the effective exercise of representative democracy”;

Article 1 of the Inter-American Democratic Charter, which asserts that “Democracy is essential for the social, political, and economic development of the peoples of the Americas”;

Resolution AG/RES. 2989 (LII-O/22), which includes initiatives to strengthen democracy, and all previous resolutions adopted on this matter;

NOTING:

The Inter-American Commission on Human Rights defines disinformation as “the mass dissemination of false information circulated knowing it is false and with the intention of deceiving the public, in whole or part”;

The role that countries from outside the Western Hemisphere have in using disinformation to take advantage of Member States as seen in recent elections;

The role that citizens and other individuals associated with Member States have in disseminating disinformation;

The impact that local vulnerabilities have in fostering disinformation as seen with the rise of extremist movements across the Western Hemisphere and the research conducted by Global Americans;

RECOGNIZING:

The Office of the Special Rapporteur for Freedom of Expression in their efforts to educate Member States on policy suggestions to combat disinformation;

The Department of Sustainable Democracy and Special Missions and their efforts in handling political and institutional conflicts;

The Department of Electoral Cooperation and Observation and their continued efforts in the observation of over 240 elections;

The creation of the Center for Media Integrity of the Americas to promote independent journalism and social media production in the Americas,

RESOLVES:

1. To applaud Member States on their efforts to combat disinformation.
2. To encourage Member States to continue their support of initiatives against disinformation.
3. To direct the Inter-American Commission on Human Rights, the Department of Sustainable Democracy and Special Missions, and the Department of Electoral Cooperation and Observation to form a joint task force to study how local vulnerabilities impact the media landscape of Member States:
  - a. The composition of the task force will be a coordinator, nominated and approved by the three agencies, and staff needed for the task force to operate:
    - i. The coordinator will have the discretion to hire staff for the task force.
    - ii. The coordinator will be responsible for the daily operation of the task force.
  - b. The task force will study how local vulnerabilities impact disinformation in Member States, prioritizing research in Member States that request policy recommendations.
  - c. The coordinator will report to the three agencies on the progress of the task force every three months.
4. To mandate the joint task force to perform the following duties at the request of Member States:
  - a. The recommendation of specific policies to combat disinformation.
  - b. The reporting of findings on disinformation directly to the Member State as new developments arise.
5. To encourage Member States and non-governmental organizations to donate to the joint task force:
  - a. A fundraising account will be set up to handle donations.
  - b. Funding will be used to cover the cost of conducting research.

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

Cosignatories: 1. \_\_\_\_\_  
(Signature of Delegate) (Country Represented)

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**A CONFERENCE TO CREATE A STRATEGIC PLAN TO GATHER INFORMATION AND DEMOGRAPHICS FROM DISPLACED PERSONS TO BETTER THE LIVES OF THOSE IN DIRE SITUATIONS**

General Committee  
Draft Resolution Presented by the Delegation of of Haiti

Topic No. 3 of the Agenda

THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY,

HAVING SEEN:

Article 11 of the Inter-American Commission on Human Rights' guidelines for the formulation of public policies on internal displacement, which states: "The IACHR would like to underscore the gradual nature of some of the measures that States need to adopt to comply with their international obligations, considering current capacities and resources. Accordingly, the path toward comprehensive compliance with the recommendations put forward here presupposes prioritizing and designing gradual strategies that enable States to act in accordance with their real capacities and with an eye to their most pressing needs";

Article 20 of the Inter-American Democratic Charter, which stipulates that "in the event of an unconstitutional alteration of the constitutional regime that seriously impairs the democratic order in a member state, any member state or the Secretary General may request the immediate convocation of the Permanent Council to undertake a collective assessment of the situation and to take such decisions as it deems appropriate. The Permanent Council, depending on the situation, may undertake the necessary diplomatic initiatives, including good offices, to foster the restoration of democracy";

Article 22 (7) of the American Convention on Human Rights, which recognizes the freedom of movement and residence and affirms that "every person has the right to seek and be granted asylum in a foreign territory, in accordance with the legislation of the state and international conventions, in the event he is being pursued for political offenses or related common crimes";

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

BEARING IN MIND:

That international humanitarian law was created to "prevent the displacement of civilians and the suffering it causes" and to ensure that when displacement does take place, "internally displaced persons are protected and provided with assistance at all stages of their displacement" to help them regain access to basic humanitarian rights and resources such as health care, safety, and education;

That the IACHR's guidelines for the formulation of public policy on internally displaced persons involves states' legislative, executive, and judicial branches to "adopt measures for the production,



systematization, analysis, and dissemination of information relation to IDPs, along with procedures guaranteeing transparency and accountability,” and other obligations regarding internally displaced status;

That the Migration and Forced Displacement Section of the OAS’ Department of Social Inclusion – which functions under the Secretariat for Access to Rights and Equity (SARE) – calls for strengthening “cooperation between countries of origin, transit, destination and return so that comprehensive responses are implemented to reduce and eliminate the causes of irregular migration, as well as the risks and violations to which people migrants, refugees and displaced people are exposed”;

CONSIDERING:

That in Latin America and the Caribbean, there were 21 million persons who were internally displaced or considered to be of migrant or refugee status in 2023;

That only 24% of Central American and Mexican and 38% of South American localities have limited participation procedures in place for migrants and refugees;

That in receiving countries, such as Costa Rica, new cases of asylum seekers alone amount to around 10,000 per month, based on a study conducted in 2022;

That currently, only the receiving/host countries of Chile, Peru, Colombia, and Ecuador have measures in place to provide displaced persons from the sending/home countries of (but not limited to) Haiti, Peru, Bolivia, and Venezuela with temporary citizenship status; but that these host countries do not have effective procedures for tracking displaced persons residing in their countries;

RECOGNIZING:

That Costa Rica is the only country in Latin America to implement a biometric system that provides passports to 750,000 citizens, allowing them to travel freely while also preserving national security and international cooperation in the Hemisphere; and

EMPHASIZING:

That in times of crisis or in governmental collapse, displaced persons can have a positive impact on the overall well-being and stability of both their host and home countries if they receive the resources necessary to ensure rights equitable to those of regular citizens;

That if displaced persons were given the opportunity to rehabilitate their status, they would be better able to give back to both their current community and home country;

That by tracking the amount of displaced persons in their societies, and gaining knowledge of the medical, demographic, and geographic information for each individual, member states would be able to enhance the overall environment for these displaced persons (IDPs), while also contributing to the allocation of funding for incoming IDPs within annual national budgets each year,

RESOLVES:

1. To congratulate Member States for having multilateral discussions about migration, security and human rights.
2. To request the Member States, the Permanent Council, and the Inter-American Commission on Human Rights (IACHR) to work together to establish an annual conference to discuss the following:
  - a. Determining and maintaining a record and status of displaced persons in the hemisphere containing information such as, but not limited to: identity, contact information, occupation, economic contribution, as well as medical, demographic, and geographic information.
  - b. Defining how such information can be used to better assess IDPs' housing status, food security, health care opportunities, education, and access to necessary resources.
  - c. Strategizing a plan to facilitate the reintegration of IDPs.
  - d. Securing funding in order to create universal allocations to be disbursed between Member States every year.
3. To urge all Member States that send or receive IDPs to establish a date by the end of 2024 to hold the annual \_conference, until the General Assembly deems it is no longer necessary.
4. To recommend that the location of the conference rotate around the Hemisphere and be hosted by different volunteering Member States.
5. To invite representatives of interested Member States, as well as representatives from the OAS Secretariat of Rights and Equity (SARE) and the Department of Social Inclusion, the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees, and the International Organization for Migration to the conference.
6. To require that conferences' leadership report the findings and progress to the General Assembly annually so the hemisphere can use this information to adapt to changing migratory circumstances and be able to help displaced persons in the way that they need.

Approved for form and substance: \_\_\_\_\_

(Signature of Faculty Advisor)

Cosignatories: 1. \_\_\_\_\_  
(Signature of Delegate) (Country Represented)

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