

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

# **Working Group Packet**

## **Third Committee**



**Washington Model**

**Organization of American States**

Institute for Diplomatic Dialogue in the Americas



**OAS**

More rights for more people

**April 8-12, 2024**

## **DECREASING THE HEMISPHERIC DIGITAL DIVIDE AMONG MARGINALIZED COMMUNITIES**

Third Committee

Topic No. 3 of the Agenda

Draft Resolution Presented by the Delegation of Republic Argentina and the Delegation of Ecuador

THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY,

HAVING SEEN:

Article 47 of the Charter of the Organization American States (OAS), which declares that 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 injustice, and progress”;

Article 30 of the OAS Charter, which states that “integral development encompasses the economic, social, educational, cultural, scientific, and technological fields through which the goals that each country sets for accomplishing it should be achieved”;

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

Article 34 (h) of the OAS Charter, which provides that "Member States agree that equality of opportunity, the elimination of extreme poverty, equitable distribution of wealth and income and the full participation of their peoples in decisions relating to their own development are, among others, basic objectives of integral development. To achieve them, the likewise agree to devote their utmost efforts to accomplishing the following basic goals: [Rapid eradication of illiteracy and expansion of educational opportunities for all] ”;

Article 51 of the Plan of Action of the Social Charter of the Americas, which strives to “increase coverage of and access to high-quality early childhood education, with special attention to those who live in situations of poverty or vulnerability”;

DEEPLY CONCERNED:

That the Inter-American Dialogue (The State of Educational Connectivity in Latin America: Strategic Challenges and Opportunities) reports that as of 2020, “even though 79% of the region is covered by broadband networks, 55% of people cannot access daily internet connection- 25% of which if infrastructure is provided, they do not have access to a reliable connection”;

That according to the Inter-American Dialogue, as of 2021, “only 33 percent of schools in Latin America have access to broadband or sufficient internet speed; less than half the average of the Organization for Economic Cooperation and Development countries (OECD).”;

That the Inter-American Dialogue declares that “One of the biggest operational difficulties is the lack of updated data needed to assess the access gap at the household level . . . such as the distribution of devices or telephone agreements for reduced-cost data plans in specific localities.” It is of the utmost importance that innovations in technology and education in the post-pandemic world continue, especially in underprivileged and impoverished communities;

That the United States Congressional Research Service produced statistical information regarding Indigenous People in Latin America on October 27, 2023, and reported the comparisons of Internet Access Rates in Select Latin American Countries between the general population and the Indigenous population; in nearly every country represented, the percentage of the Indigenous populations with access to the internet is considerably lower than that of the general population; the average trend is that of the total population presented, only one-third who are part of the Indigenous communities have access to the internet; and

#### TAKING INTO ACCOUNT:

That the United Nations' statement about “Empowering Marginalized Communities to access the Internet” in which United Nations Assistant Secretary-General for Economic Development Lenni Montiel talks about “Only by empowering young people and marginalized populations will we create an information society which truly enables inclusive growth”;

That the United Nations document “Digital Inclusion” states that “we should guarantee the availability and accessibility of the Internet, digital devices, services, platforms, and relevant content; affordable access to them and critical digital and other skills, education, and tools”;

#### RESOLVES:

1. To commend all Member States for their efforts in progressing the digitalization of the Western Hemisphere, especially in those marginalized communities, which stand to suffer the most from inadequate technological infrastructure.
2. To call upon Member States in the spirit of diplomacy and cooperation to invest in each population’s education and digital skills in the growing digitalized age.
3. To encourage each Member State to commit to reducing its own digital divide in marginalized communities by at least 5% by the year 2030. To accomplish this goal, the Member States should:

