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



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:

- a. Collect and analyze data from their own population, with emphasis on vulnerable communities, in order to provide necessary infrastructure and training as an investment in the ability to compete on the global scale; and
- b. Create and implement an individualized plan based on demographic data collected in each Member State, with a special focus on decreasing the digital divide in their marginalized communities.
- c. Prepare a comprehensive report to be filed with the General Secretariat prior to the 2030 General Session, indicating the Member State's successes, areas of concern, and any requests for OAS resources, expertise, or guidance regarding the reduction of the Member State's digital divide.
- 4. To create a Committee called The Committee of Technological Advancement for the Improvement of Marginalized Communities (CTAIMC) to oversee the implementation of resolve 3 by providing counsel, support, and expertise.
 - a. This committee would fall under the purview of and be funded by the General Secretariat of Integral Development, to encourage to partner with non-governmental agencies and organizations in order to provide resources and previously established programs for digital literacy development.
 - b. Each Member State will elect one representative to present their country's demographic data, plan to end discrepancies in internet access and digital skills, and progress in specific emphasis on vulnerable communities at a biannual conference. The committee will also comprise of neutral members such as technological experts, educational experts, and legislative members from various Member States
 - c. This conference will be held virtually, and Argentina plans to host the first session.

Approved for form and substance:					
		(Signature of Faculty Advisor)			
Cosignatories:	1	(Signature of Delegate)		(Country Represented)	
	2				
	3				
	4				