

**2025 Washington Model Organization of
American States General Assembly**

Opening Statements



Washington Model

Organization of American States

Institute for Diplomatic Dialogue in the Americas



OAS

More rights for more people

April 7-11, 2025

Honorable Secretary General, esteemed delegates, and distinguished members of this assembly,

Today, Peru stands to remind this body: Democracy is **not** inherited. It is **built** and **defended**. And if this body leaves with anything today, let it be this—the Americas will thrive by **choice**, **not chance**. We gather here as the architects of change—for the millions who call our hemisphere home. **Their struggles are our mandate**. Their aspirations, our mission. **And our duty?** To uphold democracy, strengthen human rights, forge an inclusive future where no voice is silenced.

The time for hesitation has passed. Across our hemisphere, political instability shakes foundations. Climate change endangers survival. AI rewrites the rules of security.

These are **emergencies**.

And emergencies **demand** Unity, Resolve... Courage.

Peru knows this truth: Equity & inclusion are not negotiable.

Our Indigenous communities, our Afro-descendant brothers and sisters, our citizens with disabilities—they **will be** lifted up. **not** left behind.. Because true power does **not** exclude, it **elevates**.

Today, the gravest threat isn't just conflict or injustice—it is **disinformation** and **confusion**. When citizens cannot trust the truth, democracy **dies**. When they don't know their rights, they lose them, and freedom **fails**.

That is why Peru presents resolutions that attack threats against fundamental human rights and freedoms. Democracy is a battleground. And we will fight for it—with technology, education, and **unshakable** resolve.

This is our moment. Will we settle for mediocrity? Or will we rise, **together**, and prove that the Americas are not just a region, but a beacon? Peru is ready. Are you?

Greetings Delegates,

Guatemala, with the inauguration of President Arévalo, symbolizes the triumph of democracy and the will of the people. The resilience of the Guatemalan people throughout their struggle to defend the rule of law has reinvigorated the Americas with democratic spirits.

The delegation of Guatemala has identified that the preservation of regional stability necessitates upholding democratic principles. From improving public trust and effective communication to promoting regional cooperation and technological innovation, Guatemala has shown significant efforts to promote these democratic values.

OAS has proven to be a vital source to advance these values among delegations through effective channels of communication and cooperation. The upcoming committee sessions will undoubtedly serve as a forum to tackle pressing issues that challenge the institution's founding purpose and mission. The delegation of Guatemala, as an active pursuer of these collective interests, looks forward to engaging in constructive dialogue to produce sustainable solutions.

Thank you.

Fellow Heads of State and Esteemed Delegates,

I am honored and privileged to be amongst the body once again. The OAS stands as a pillar of democratic cooperation in our Hemisphere, and I stand before you humbly today to reaffirm Costa Rica's continued commitment to upholding the principles for which this body stands.

Costa Rica, though small in size, stands firm in its commitment to peace, and dedication to democracy. Our history has shown that true strength is not measured by military might or economic power alone, but by the ability to uphold justice, protect human rights, and work tirelessly for the well-being of all people.

Costa Rica has long been a champion of diplomacy, environmental sustainability, and social progress. Our nation abolished its military more than 75 years ago, choosing to invest in education, healthcare, and the preservation of our natural resources. Today, we stand as proof that a nation's greatest assets are its people and its commitment to a better future.

As we confront the pressing challenges of our time, rising water levels, migrant education, religious persecution, and the evolution of AI, Costa Rica urges this assembly to reaffirm its commitment to multilateral cooperation. We must act with unity and determination to ensure that democracy remains resilient, sustainable development reaches all communities, and human rights are upheld without exception.

Let us work together, not as isolated nations, but as a collective force for good, proving that even the smallest voices can inspire great change. The Americas must stand as a region of peace, prosperity, and unwavering solidarity.

Thank you.

Opening Statement from the Delegation of Honduras

The Delegation of Honduras is honored to participate in the 2025 Model Organization of American States and engage in meaningful dialogue with its esteemed peers. In an era of global challenges and regional instability, the Organization of American States remains a vital platform for addressing the most pressing concerns facing the Western Hemisphere. The Honduran delegation is eager to collaborate with fellow member states to foster constructive discussions, promote consensus-driven solutions, and advance policies that uphold the fundamental principles of democracy, human rights, security, and development.

During this assembly, the Delegation of Honduras seeks to facilitate comprehensive discourse and decisive action on various critical issues. These include advancing social and economic equality, combating religious-based discrimination, mitigating the effects of climate change on water levels, safeguarding the rights and well-being of children, and ensuring the responsible implementation of generative AI in educational settings. Additionally, the delegation remains committed to addressing emerging challenges that impact the stability and prosperity of the region and the broader international community.

Reaffirming Honduras' commitment to democratic governance, human dignity, and multilateral cooperation, the delegation is proud to contribute to the deliberations of the 2025 General Assembly. To enact meaningful resolutions that enhance the quality of life, promote economic growth, and fortify the collective future of the Western Hemisphere.

Good Morning/Afternoon/Evening Esteemed Delegates,

The delegation of Canada is honored to be in attendance at this year's convening of the Organization of American States, reaffirming a commitment to regional economic stability, multilateral cooperation, and the principles of sovereignty firmly expressed in the OAS Charter. The delegation of Canada would like to thank the other Member States for their previous, ongoing, and future efforts to work together to support economic security amid a changing political landscape.

Political transitions create periods of vulnerability for states, potentially bringing unintended economic consequences. These changes can often bring instability, and in instability, the delegation of Canada believes it's important to ensure past partnerships and promises are preserved. Canada asserts that these relationships and principles must be upheld through concrete action, not mere affirmation.

While changes in governance are a natural component of democratic societies, they must not come at the expense of economic security, trade disruptions, or financial instability. Canada is wholeheartedly devoted to being a pillar of democracy and promoting the OAS Charter principles to further these ideals. In the coming days, member states can commit to protecting the economic protections made to each other.

Canada urges member states to embrace economic stability as a shared responsibility. Political change must not translate into financial uncertainty. Canada stands ready to collaborate in building a framework that reinforces sovereignty while safeguarding economic resilience. More than ever, the OAS must stand together in adversity. Canada is ready to join hands and push forward.

Thank you for your time, attention, and cooperation.

Honorable Chair and Fellow Delegates,

The Eastern Republic of Uruguay stands firm in defending the pillars of the OAS: democracy, human rights, development, and peace.

Uruguay believes in the diversity of democracies that reflect the culture of each nation. But some things are fundamental to every democracy, like preventing the abuse of power by any part of government through checks and balances. Also, safeguarding the freedom of information that citizens need to choose their government and hold it accountable. Democracy must be more than holding elections--it must be protected from misinformation and executive overreach. That means defending unbiased journalism, promoting civic education, and strengthening the separation of powers.

Uruguay believes human rights are universal. We support gender-inclusive foreign policy because our pursuit of national security must reflect the voices of all people. We champion justice reform that addresses historic inequalities for Afro-descendants, Indigenous peoples, and women. We advocate for reintegration programs for migrants and refugees, because no person should be denied the tools to rebuild their life.

Development must be inclusive. Universal access to healthcare is a fundamental pillar of sustainable development. Uruguay aims to tackle barriers limiting access by investing in infrastructure and strengthening the healthcare workforce. This reflects Uruguay's own success with an inclusive public-private healthcare system. Uruguay also supports small businesses and vocational programs that uplift rural communities and persons with disabilities.

Uruguay supports a collaborative and fair approach to trade, emphasizing partnership over harsh measures like tariffs. OAS member states should pursue equitable trade strategies that address differences in wealth and power, ensuring all nations can thrive. By fostering mutual growth and understanding, we can build a stronger, more unified region.

We see technology, including AI, as a tool to expand educational access and performance, especially for marginalized populations. AI can also be a powerful tool to safeguard the security of our citizens from crime and violence, when used ethically and with strong democratic oversight.

Finally, Uruguay views peace as both a foundation for, and a result of, the full realization of democracy, human rights, and sustainable development. These goals are deeply interconnected, creating a cycle of progress that lifts all nations. Committed to collaborative action, Uruguay seeks to partner with like-minded member states in a shared effort to build a more just, inclusive, and united Americas.

OPENING STATEMENT – DOMINICAN REPUBLIC

Honorable Chair, Esteemed Delegates,

The Delegation of the Dominican Republic is honored to participate in this year's Washington Model Organization of American States. We join you today with great pride in our nation's rich cultural heritage, unwavering democratic values, and commitment to regional cooperation.

As the first independent nation in Latin America and the site of the oldest permanent European settlement in the Americas, the Dominican Republic understands the power of resilience and the importance of unity in the face of challenge. Our country continues to prioritize democratic governance, the protection of human rights, and sustainable economic development.

We recognize that the challenges facing our hemisphere—climate change, migration, economic disparity, and threats to democracy—cannot be addressed in isolation. It is through collaboration, dialogue, and mutual respect that we can build a stronger and more inclusive future for all citizens of the Americas.

The Dominican Republic is especially committed to promoting fair trade, regional stability, and environmental sustainability. We also emphasize the importance of education, digital access, and youth engagement as keys to long-term success across the region.

Let us use this week not only to speak but to listen—to learn from one another and work together toward tangible solutions that strengthen our shared hemisphere.

Thank you. The Dominican Republic looks forward to engaging in thoughtful and productive discussions with all Member States.

United Mexican States Head Delegate Speech

Honorable Chair and Esteemed Delegates,

It is with great honor that the Delegation of the United Mexican States comes to this assembly. Mexico reaffirms its commitment to the OAS Charter pillars of “promoting peace and justice and their solidarity, strengthening interstate collaboration, defending sovereignty and territorial integrity, and the Member States’ independence.”

Mexico remains especially committed to promoting peace and justice for those most vulnerable members of the Hemisphere—its Indigenous peoples. From the Maya of Mexico to the Mapuche of Chile, from the Charrúa of Uruguay and Argentina to the Cherokee of the United States, they need our help.

Mexico is committed to strengthening its relationship with every Member State in the Hemisphere on a variety of important issues: immigration, economic cooperation, internal national security, criminal justice, use of natural resources, and many more.

Above all else, in the spirit of the Mexican Revolution and Mexico’s great president Lázaro Cárdenas, Mexico is committed to the OAS cornerstone of national sovereignty and territorial integrity. Mexico wants to address the foregoing issues and help the Hemisphere become a safer, more equitable, and more prosperous place, but it is committed to doing so on the proper terms. Respect for sovereignty and territorial integrity must not be sacrificed at the altar of progress.

Mexico looks forward to working with delegates from the several Member States throughout the week.

Thank you.

Honorable Secretary General, Chair, Vice – Chair, distinguished delegates, and other presents.

The Delegation of El Salvador is honored to join this General Assembly and engage in meaningful dialogue with fellow Member States. As the hemisphere faces evolving challenges, the Delegation of El Salvador remains committed to the principles of democracy, security, development, and cooperation that guide the Organization of American States.

El Salvador recognizes the importance of maintaining stability and security within the region. Addressing issues such as transnational crime, corruption, and threats to democratic institutions remains a priority. Strengthening regional collaboration will contribute to long-term solutions that promote peace and prosperity.

Economic growth and social development are essential to ensuring a sustainable future for all. The Delegation of El Salvador reaffirms its dedication to fostering inclusive economic policies that support private sector innovation, job creation, and investment. These efforts are crucial to improving the quality of life for all citizens.

Furthermore, El Salvador acknowledges the significance of environmental sustainability and resilience. As climate change continues to impact vulnerable populations, joint efforts among Member States will be key to protecting natural resources and ensuring responsible development practices.

This is a crucial opportunity for all Member States to join efforts, making cooperation the basis of all processes, initiatives, ideas and goals. Working together in research, data analysis, and coordinated actions, the delegation of El Salvador is extremely secure that the Americas will become one of the most developed and integrated continents in the world.

Thank you,

Honorable Chair and fellow delegates,

The Delegation of Trinidad and Tobago would like to commend the member states of the Organization of American States on their continued efforts to strengthen and support the hemisphere and their respective peoples.

Since its admission in 1967, Trinidad and Tobago has always been eager to collaborate with its fellow members of the OAS to produce solutions to issues facing the collective community and believes in the importance of progress for member states through the success of the OAS. The Delegation of Trinidad and Tobago is committed to the protection of democratic institutions, the preservation of the environment, and the promotion of regional security. Trinidad and Tobago recognizes the multifaceted difficulties in realizing its aforementioned commitments and seeks to coordinate productive efforts to minimize these challenges. Trinidad and Tobago encourages other member states to do the same and looks forward to productive engagement with its fellow member states in order to advance and protect the Western Hemisphere.

Thank you.

Opening Statement by the Delegation of Guyana to the 2025 WMOAS

Distinguished Chair, Honorable Delegates, and Esteemed Colleagues:

On behalf of the Guyanese delegation, it is my honor to address this 2025 session of the Washington Model OAS. Our presence here speaks to our commitment to advancing the shared values of democracy, social justice, and prosperity for all peoples of the Americas. Our team's mission reflects Guyana's holistic approach to building a more just and prosperous Americas that balances political stability, social well-being, and forward-thinking innovation.

The overarching mission of the Guyanese Delegation to the General Assembly of the OAS is to present our draft resolution addressing the consequences of regional political changes and their impact on the state because we have seen firsthand how sudden shifts in governance can disrupt economies, erode public trust, and deepen vulnerability in countries like ours. Thus, identifying a clear regional framework is the first step to strengthening our institutions' resilience and protecting our citizens' rights in the face of unpredictable transitions. As is evident, between 2021 and 2024, there has been an increase in the number of refugees from Latin America, driven in part by instability in several countries across the region. Political instability, particularly in Venezuela, has led to a noteworthy increase in refugees, with a record number of 25,358 resettled to the U.S. in FY2024, over half of whom (12,875) were from Venezuela (Immigration Forum, 2024).

Therefore, we believe that addressing political stability goes hand in hand with protecting our most vulnerable populations, embracing inclusive decision-making, and staying open to new technologies that can advance development across our Hemisphere.

Thus, our delegation will advocate for vital areas that matter deeply to Guyana—such as ensuring children's rights, integrating gender perspectives into foreign policy, promoting universal access to healthcare, and harnessing artificial intelligence to benefit everyone responsibly.

Guyana is committed to cooperative dialogue and tangible results. We can only move forward if we work side by side, forging proposals that respect national sovereignty while elevating the interests we all share. We are ready and eager to collaborate with you and look forward to building solutions that have a meaningful impact for our region.

Esteemed Secretary General, Distinguished Delegates, and Honored Guests,

On behalf of the Republic of Colombia, I extend my warmest greetings to this esteemed assembly.

Colombia stands at the forefront of addressing our hemisphere's most pressing challenges. Today, we call for heightened regional cooperation to combat human trafficking networks that devastate vulnerable communities across our borders. We must strengthen information sharing and coordinate law enforcement efforts to dismantle these criminal enterprises and protect victims.

The climate crisis demands our immediate attention. As a nation with extensive coastlines, Colombia faces existential threats from rising sea levels that endanger our cities, heritage sites, and coastal ecosystems. We urge member states to reaffirm climate commitments while developing regional adaptation strategies for our most vulnerable communities.

Colombia proudly champions gender inclusion as fundamental to sustainable development. We have increased women's representation in our peace processes and governance structures, recognizing that inclusive societies are more peaceful and prosperous.

We must also address concerning trends threatening our democratic foundations. Colombia firmly believes that the sovereignty of all member states must be respected. The principles of non-intervention and multilateralism are essential to our collective functioning. We reject any attempts by larger nations to exert undue pressure on smaller states. Authoritarian tendencies and extremist ideologies have no place in our democratic forum, and we must stand united against such forces.

Colombia extends its hand in solidarity. Through mutual respect and shared purpose, we can create the equitable, sustainable Americas our people deserve.

Thank you.

Delegation of Argentina

Opening Statement

2 April 2025

Honorable Chair, esteemed delegates, and distinguished guests,

It is an honor to stand before you today as the Delegation of Argentina. This gathering is a testament to the values of diplomacy, cooperation, and mutual respect that define the Organization of American States. As young leaders, we are tasked with addressing some of the most pressing challenges facing the Western Hemisphere—issues of inequality, inclusion, and the use of AI within legal frameworks. The strength of our hemisphere lies in its diversity, and it is through respectful discourse that we can find solutions to these complex problems. Today, we do not represent isolated nations but a shared vision for the future of the Organization of American States. Through collaboration, negotiation, and constructive dialogue, we can build consensus and develop meaningful solutions that reflect the aspirations of the countries we represent. As we begin these discussions, I urge each of you to engage with open minds and a commitment to diplomacy. Let us remember that the policies we debate today are not just theoretical exercises—they reflect real challenges with real consequences. May our discussions be productive, our negotiations fair, and our resolutions impactful. Let us work together to shape a better future for every citizen.

Thank you.

2025 Washington Model OAS
Opening Statement
Bolivia

Honorable Chair and esteemed fellow delegates,

The delegation of Bolivia is extremely proud to take part in this work as we collectively strive for a more just and equitable world. We would like to express our deep gratitude to the Member States and their respective representatives at this Assembly for the effort they have put in to preparing for these meetings and will expend during them. We also want to express our gratitude for their commitment to uphold the foundational principles of the OAS- democracy, human rights, security, and integration.

Bolivia remains committed to achieving peace and prosperity across the Americas and to the OAS as an organization to advance these goals. We recognize the challenges that this organization faces in remaining relevant in a turbulent world. We also recognize and are excited to address these challenges together with our fellow Member States in the Hemisphere.

We are excited to be working to address the challenges of climate change - challenges Bolivia is all too well aware of - moving towards the goal of universal access to healthcare, ensuring a responsible approach to AI and working to create inclusive societies.

We believe that even though the scale of these issues and the challenges states face domestically are substantial, we can still achieve more through our work together than independently.

The Delegation of Bolivia is looking forward to working with other delegations to make progress together on these shared challenges.

Thank you.