

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

# **Washington Packet**

## **Second Committee**



**Washington Model**  
**Organization of American States**

Institute for Diplomatic Dialogue in the Americas



# **OAS**

More rights for more people

**April 7-11, 2025**

## ADVANCING UNIVERSAL HEALTHCARE ACCESS IN THE OAS THROUGH REGIONAL COOPERATION

Second Committee  
Draft Resolution Presented by the Delegation of Bolivia

Topic No. 3 of Agenda

THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY,

HAVING SEEN:

Article 34(i) of the Charter of the Organization of American States (OAS), which establishes the commitment of Member States to “ensure fair and equitable opportunity for all, with due regard to their human rights and fundamental freedoms, and to eliminate extreme poverty”;

Article 45(h) of the OAS Charter, which recognizes that “the benefits of science and technology should be available to all, and their applications should be oriented toward the improvement of living conditions in all sectors of the population”;

Article 3(l) of the Inter-American Democratic Charter, which states that “poverty, illiteracy, and low levels of human development are factors that adversely affect the consolidation of democracy”;

The Social Charter of the Americas affirms in Article 10 that “Member states, in partnership with the private sector and civil society, will promote sustainable development by means of economic growth, social development, and conservation and sustainable use of natural resources,” and further recognizes that “public and private investment in human capacity building, in physical infrastructure, and in scientific and technological research and innovation are fundamental to reducing inequalities and to promoting inclusive, just, and equitable economic development”;

DEEPLY CONCERNED:

That persistent disparities in healthcare access continue to affect Latin America, particularly in rural and Indigenous communities, where approximately 18.2% of the population—123 million people—reside in rural areas with limited access to essential medical services. Additionally, high poverty rates, with 29% of the region’s population living in poverty and 11.4% in extreme poverty, further exacerbate barriers to equitable healthcare;

The impact of the COVID-19 pandemic, which further exposed weaknesses in healthcare infrastructure, staffing shortages, and financial barriers to equitable access to care;

That universal healthcare initiatives, while representing significant steps toward expanding healthcare access, continue to face challenges, including shortages of medical professionals, unequal resource distribution, and limited medical supplies, particularly in rural and marginalized communities;

REAFFIRMING:

That despite previous OAS resolutions on health equity, inconsistent implementation and insufficient financial support have hindered meaningful progress toward universal healthcare access;

That limited cooperation among Member States on medical workforce development, resource-sharing, and healthcare infrastructure investment continues to negatively impact the equitable distribution of healthcare services;

The importance of regional collaboration in addressing healthcare disparities through shared investments, coordinated policies, and knowledge exchange;

The promise of telemedicine initiatives in bridging geographic barriers and expanding healthcare access to underserved and remote communities,

#### RESOLVES:

1. To commend Member States that have implemented initiatives to expand universal healthcare access, including national programs aimed at reducing financial and geographic barriers to healthcare.
2. To encourage Member States to collaborate in regional research initiatives focused on:
  - a. Improving healthcare delivery models to enhance efficiency and reduce costs.
  - b. Integrating traditional and indigenous medicine where culturally appropriate.
  - c. Exploring public-private partnerships to enhance healthcare innovation and service provision.
3. To recommend the establishment of a voluntary Inter-American Healthcare Equity Initiative (IAHEI) within the OAS framework, which would support Member States in addressing healthcare disparities through:
  - a. Conducting regional assessments on healthcare access disparities and providing targeted policy recommendations.
  - b. Creating customized policy toolkits tailored to the specific needs of each Member State, offering scalable and cost-effective solutions for expanding healthcare access.
4. To call upon the Pan American Health Organization (PAHO), in coordination with Member States, to Provide technical assistance for healthcare system improvements and policy reforms by:
  - a. Offering capacity-building workshops for healthcare policymakers on best practices in universal healthcare implementation;
  - b. Assisting in the development of national healthcare strategies tailored to the specific needs of each Member State;
  - c. Deploying technical advisory teams to support health sector reforms, particularly in countries facing infrastructure or workforce shortages.

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

Cosignatories: 1.		
	(Signature of Delegate)	(Country Represented)
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## **ESTABLISHMENT OF A UNIFIED PLAN TO MITIGATE THE IMPACT OF CLIMATE CHANGE ON WATER LEVELS**

Second Committee  
Resolution presented by the Delegation of Guatemala

Topic No. 1 of the Agenda

THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY,

BEARING IN MIND:

The Montevideo Convention on the Rights and Duties of States (1933), which outlines the qualifications for statehood, including a defined territory, and recognizes the challenges that rising sea levels pose to meeting these criteria for island and coastal nations;

The 1982 United Nations Convention on the Law of the Sea (UNCLOS), which creates a legal framework for all marine and maritime activities derived from nations' coastal 'baselines';

The Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change's (IPCC) Sixth Assessment Report, which reported a 0.20 meter rise in global mean sea level (GMSL) over the period 1901–2018 and estimates a continuous and accelerating rise in sea level until 2100;

Article 106 of the Charter of the Organization of American States (OAS), which establishes the Inter-American Commission on Human Rights (IACHR) and its role in promoting and protecting human rights;

Article 30 of the Charter of the Organization of American States, which states that OAS Member States must work together to achieve integral development, including sustainable water management;

The American Convention on Human Rights, which underscores the fundamental right to a healthy environment;

Resolution No. 3/2021 Climate Emergency: Scope of Inter-American Human Rights Obligations (Adopted by the IACHR on December 31, 2021), which recognizes climate change as a severe threat to fundamental human rights;

The 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development and its Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs), which serve as an effective framework for addressing climate change and ensuring the right to a healthy environment;

NOTING:

The 2022 OAS General Assembly Resolution AG/RES. 3005 (LII-O/22), which reaffirmed the importance of addressing the effects of climate change in Latin America and the Caribbean, particularly regarding water security;

The Water Level Observation Network for Latin America (RONMAC) project, initiated in 2001, which aimed to install sea-level monitoring stations in Guatemala, El Salvador, Honduras, and Nicaragua, and to develop national and regional capacity for data acquisition, analysis, and dissemination;

The 2023 Meeting of the Inter-American Council for Integral Development (CIDI) on Climate Financing, where partners including the Global Environment Facility (GEF), the Adaptation Fund, and the Green Climate Fund (GCF) advised on increasing climate finance flows in the Americas;

The Organization of American States (OAS), which entrusted the IACHR with the task of contributing “to efforts to determine the possible existence of a link between the adverse effects of climate change and the full enjoyment of human rights”;

The OAS "Compendium on Strategies, Tools, and Actions Implemented by Emergency and Security Services to Address the COVID-19 Pandemic," which provides frameworks that could inform future regional responses to climate-related emergencies, including water crises;

The Inter-American Climate Change Action Plan, coordinated by the OAS Executive for Integral Development (SEDI) through its Department of Sustainable Development (DSD), which focuses on climate resilience;

CONSIDERING:

That UNCLOS does not contain mechanisms for addressing territorial disputes related to changing coastlines due to sea level rise;

The Inter-American Development Bank (IDB) report "Water Security in Latin America and the Caribbean" (2021), which highlights that 80 million people in the region lack access to safe drinking water, a crisis exacerbated by climate change;

The Sixth Assessment Report (AR6) of the IPCC, which states that the extent and magnitude of climate change impacts are larger than previously estimated, with severe consequences for ecosystems and human systems, particularly in Latin America and the Caribbean;

The 2019 Special Report on the Ocean and Cryosphere in a Changing Climate (SROCC), which found that GMSL has risen at an unprecedented rate of 3.6 mm per year from 2006 to 2015, significantly increasing coastal flood risks;

The World Bank Groundswell Reports (2018, 2021), which estimate that by 2050, up to 216 million people across six World Bank regions, including Latin America, could be displaced due to climate change impacts, including sea-level rise and freshwater shortages;

That rising sea levels threaten freshwater resources, coastal populations dependent on tourism and agriculture, and increase the risks of food insecurity, forced migration, disease, and loss of biodiversity,

RESOLVES:

1. To commend the Organization of American States (OAS) Executive Secretariat for Integral Development (SEDI) through its Department of Sustainable Development (DSD) for the Inter-American Climate Change Action Plan. Additionally, to applaud the IDB, the World Bank, and other international organizations for their ongoing efforts in addressing climate change and water security in Latin America and the Caribbean.
2. To commend OAS Member States in their continuing efforts to combat climate change.
3. To call on OAS Member States to take action clearly defining statehood in the context of climate change by:
  - a. Establishing a Regional Legal Framework on Climate-Affected Statehood, based on the Montevideo Convention on the Rights and Duties of States, to ensure recognition and protection of affected nations;
  - b. Engaging in dialogue within the OAS and international legal bodies to address the ambiguity in defining maritime boundaries, international voting rights, and sovereignty for island and coastal nations facing rising sea levels;
  - c. Encouraging collaboration with the UNCLOS to explore fixed territorial baselines as an adaptation measure to protect national sovereignty.
4. To further recommend the drafting of a regional treaty on maritime borders in the Caribbean Sea.
  - a. Establishing fixed territorial baselines based on current low-water levels;
  - b. Agreeing on the boundaries of the archipelagic waters, territorial seas, and exclusive economic zones of the signatories by consulting the UNCLOS;

- c. Creating a mechanism to address future territorial disputes related to maritime sovereignty.
- 5. To make the RONMAC Project a permanent agency under the OAS Department of Sustainable Development to strengthen long-term regional monitoring and response to climate change impacts on water levels.
  - a. Installing new sea-level and meteorological monitoring stations;
  - b. Enhancing previous national and regional capacity to maintain the stations and to conduct data acquisition, analysis, archiving and dissemination using automated data-base management technology.
- 6. To establish a unified understanding of the threat OAS Member States face from projected sea level rise by:
  - a. Conducting a panel of leading experts in climate science and hydrology to get the most accurate data on global and regional changes in sea level;
  - b. Emphasizing correspondence with community leaders in underdeveloped coastal regions to gauge the current impacts of climate change and sea level rise;
  - c. Developing or selecting a scientific model to categorize future coastal flooding events.
- 7. To call on OAS Member States to take urgent action to address climate change and fulfill their commitments under the Paris Agreement, incorporating a human rights-based approach into their Nationally Determined Contributions (NDCs).
- 8. To establish the OAS Climate Resilience Task Force on Water Security, responsible for:
  - a. Conducting annual assessments on the impact of climate change on water resources across OAS Member States;
  - b. Providing policy recommendations to Member States on sustainable water management practices;
  - c. Facilitating cross-border cooperation to address shared water security challenges.
- 9. To propose a Regional Climate Adaptation Fund for Water Security, financed through:
  - a. Contributions from OAS Member States on a voluntary basis;
  - b. Financial support from the Inter-American Development Bank (IDB) and the World Bank;
  - c. Partnerships with private sector stakeholders, non-governmental organizations (NGOs), and bilateral aid agencies.
- 10. To encourage Member States to invest in climate-resilient water infrastructure, including:
  - a. Sustainable irrigation systems for agriculture;



- b. Water desalination and rainwater harvesting technologies;
  - c. Improved flood control mechanisms and wastewater treatment facilities.
11. To convene an Annual OAS Conference on Climate Change and Water Security, aimed at:
  - a. Promoting knowledge exchange and collaboration between scientists, policymakers, and Indigenous communities affected by water insecurity;
  - b. Strengthening regional strategies for climate adaptation and resilience-building;
  - c. Reviewing progress made by the OAS Climate Resilience Task Force on Water Security.

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

Cosignatories: 1. _____		_____
	(Signature of Delegate)	(Country Represented)
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## **REALIZATION OF THE OAS SOCIAL CHARTER'S COMMITMENT TO UNIVERSAL ACCESS TO MATERNAL HEALTHCARE**

Second Committee

Topic No. 3 of the Agenda

Draft Resolution Presented by the Delegation of Brazil

THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY,

HAVING SEEN:

Article 17 of the Social Charter of the Americas, which states that “the enjoyment of the highest attainable standard of health is a fundamental right of all persons without discrimination”;

Article 33 of the Social Charter of the Americas, which establishes “health [as a] common and shared responsibility in the framework of democratic principles and the institutions of the inter-American system”;

Article 3 of the Plan of Action of the Social Charter of the Americas which establishes the goal of “progressing towards universal access to health care and universal coverage of comprehensive and quality healthcare”;

RECALLING:

The Pan American Health Organization (PAHO), a part of the inter-American system under the OAS, which is committed to “ensuring that all people have access to the health care they need, when they need it, with quality and without fear of falling into poverty; while promoting and supporting the right of everyone to good health”;

The Inter-American Commission on Human Rights (IACHR), an autonomous organ of the OAS, which “promotes the observance and defense of human rights in each and every one of the States of the Americas in accordance with the highest international standards in order to safeguard the dignity of all people and cement the rule of law and democracy”;

The United Nations Population Fund (UNFPA), classified as “the United Nations sexual and reproductive health agency” with the mission to “deliver a world where every pregnancy is wanted, every childbirth is safe and every young person's potential is fulfilled”; and

CONSIDERING:

That Universal Healthcare is essential for the well-being and development of all Member States;

That all Member States of the OAS have recognized the right to health as outlined in the Pan American Health Organization (PAHO) principles;

That the OAS Member States, along with the international community, have a collective responsibility to find effective solutions to increase access to quality maternal healthcare;

That the Member States of the OAS find difficulty in ensuring the access to quality maternal healthcare is universal, especially in rural areas where geographic isolation, shortages of

medical professionals, inadequate infrastructure, and limited access to essential medication hinder the delivery and access of essential medical services;

That 536,000 women die each year throughout the world due to pregnancy complications and that there are 88 deaths per 100,000 live births in Latin America & Caribbean with 74% being “preventable at relatively low cost”;

That poor rural areas in Latin America and the Caribbean have the highest mortality rates with 50% of maternal deaths being in the poorest 20% of the region,

RESOLVES:

1. To commend the efforts of OAS member states to promote universal access to quality maternal healthcare in a comprehensive manner, consistent with humanitarian aid-related activities.
2. To propose that OAS member states commit to the strengthening of maternal healthcare workforce and training, which would include, but is not limited to:
  - a. Supporting regional midwife training programs and incentives for healthcare professionals to work in rural and underserved regions;
  - b. Establish medical exchange programs within OAS countries to address shortages in specialized medical fields.
3. To encourage that OAS member states promote community-based health initiatives aimed at improving maternal healthcare, to include strengthening local maternal health programs that emphasize prenatal and postnatal care, preventive screenings, and education on maternal health.
4. To encourage the IACHR, in collaboration with the PAHO, to expand their joint efforts in addressing maternal healthcare access in rural areas by:
  - a. Conducting joint assessments on the accessibility and quality of maternal healthcare services in rural regions, identifying areas of need and potential violations of the right to health;
  - b. Strengthening technical partnerships with national health agencies to provide guidance, share best practices, and implement actionable programs that address struggles in maternal healthcare, such as prenatal care, training to healthcare workers, and mobile health clinics in rural areas; and
  - c. Exploring methods of funding to improve these organizations, such as voluntary contributions by Member States, the World Bank, the International Federation of Red Cross, the Caribbean Development Bank, and other relevant NGOs.

5. To request that a progress report on the improvement of maternal healthcare access and regulatory compliance in OAS member states, overseen by PAHO, be presented at the next General Assembly, that will include findings on:
- The availability and accessibility of prenatal, childbirth, and postnatal care, especially in rural and underserved areas;
  - Maternal mortality rates and common causes of maternal deaths in rural areas, along with efforts to reduce them;
  - The effectiveness of community health worker programs focused on maternal healthcare in rural areas; and
  - Policy gaps and recommendations for improvement in meeting global and regional commitments to maternal health.

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

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

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