

**2026 Washington Model Organization of  
American States General Assembly**

# **Washington Packet**

## **First Committee**



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

Institute for Diplomatic Dialogue in the Americas



# OAS

**April 7-10, 2026**

**ADDRESSING CLIMATE CHANGE IMPACTS ON INDIGENOUS PEOPLES AND AFRO-  
DESCENDANT COMMUNITIES THROUGH INCREASED AWARENESS, TRAINING, AND  
ADVANCING INTER-AMERICAN JURISPRUDENCE**

First Committee

Topic No. 4 of the Agenda

Draft Resolution presented by the Delegations of Panama and the Cooperative Republic of Guyana

THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY,

HAVING SEEN:

Article 34 (g) of the Founding Charter of the Organization of American States (OAS), which encourages the conservation and rational use of natural resources to promote sustainable economic development;

Article 45 (a) of the Founding Charter of the OAS, which recognizes that all human beings have the right to material well-being and development under conditions of dignity and equality;

Article 45 (b) of the Founding Charter of the Organization of American States (OAS), which encourages Member States to promote social justice and equitable development for all peoples of the Americas;

Advisory Opinion OC-23/17 of the Inter-American Court of Human Rights, affirming the autonomous right to a healthy environment;

BEARING IN MIND:

The work of the Inter-American Commission on Human Rights in monitoring human rights protections for Indigenous and Afro-Descendant peoples across the Americas;

The United Nations Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples (UNDRIP), which recognizes the collective rights of Indigenous peoples to maintain their lands, cultures and self-determination;

The commitments made at the 1st Summit of the Americas from December 9 to the 11, 1994 to promote social inclusion, environmental protection, and sustainable development throughout the hemisphere;

RECOGNIZING:

That climate change constitutes one of the most significant global challenges of the twenty-first century, with global average temperatures having increased by approximately 1.1°C above pre-industrial levels, contributing to environmental degradation and climate instability;

That the Amazon rainforest, which contains approximately half of the planet's biodiversity, continues to face severe deforestation pressures, including the loss of 7,900 square kilometers between August 2017 and July 2018, threatening ecosystems and the survival of over 500 Indigenous peoples;

That the Office of the High Commissioner for Human Rights (OHCHR) of the United Nations (UN), in its report “Climate Change and the Enjoyment of Human Rights,” states that “climate change threatens the effective enjoyment of a range of human rights, including those to life, water and sanitation, food, health, housing, self-determination, culture, and development.”

That Article 11 of the “Protocol of San Salvador” (1988) establishes the right to a healthy environment as a fundamental human right, and affirms that “The States Parties shall promote the protection, preservation, and improvement of the environment”;

That the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC), in its Working Group II contribution to the Sixth Assessment Report (2022), affirms that “urgent action is required to deal with increasing risks” when discussing climate change effects, and that “safeguarding and strengthening nature is key to securing a livable future”;

#### NOTING WITH CONCERN:

That climate change disproportionately affects Indigenous and Afro-descendant communities through flooding, sea-level rise, food insecurity, and displacement, while sea levels are rising at an average rate of approximately 3.3 millimeters per year, posing significant risks to coastal and riverine populations across the Americas;

That climate-related disasters have affected more than 100 million people in the Americas over the past two decades, intensifying socioeconomic vulnerabilities and environmental injustices;

#### CONSCIOUS OF:

The United Nations Department of Economic and Social Affairs, Seventh Session of the United Nations Permanent Forum on Indigenous Issues, which acknowledges that, “Indigenous peoples are among the first to face the direct consequences of climate change,” which is often due to “their dependence upon, and close relationship, with the environment and its resources”;

The World Health Organization (WHO) which recognizes that “3.6 billion people already live in areas highly susceptible to climate change” and that between “2030 and 2050, climate change is expected to cause approximately 250,000 additional deaths per year”;

#### RECALLING:

Advisory opinions and jurisprudence of the Inter-American Court of Human Rights and the work of the Inter-American Commission on Human Rights, which affirm that environmental protection is intrinsically linked to the protection of human rights;

Regional initiatives such as the Climate and Land Use Alliance 2024-2030 Mexico and Central America Initiative, which promotes sustainable land management and climate resilience among Indigenous and Afro-Descendant communities in the Americas;

#### AFFIRMING:

The commitments under the Paris Agreement, particularly Articles 7 and 8 concerning adaptation and loss and damage; and

CONCLUDING:

That strengthening hemispheric legal standards is consistent with Articles 1, 2, 33, 45, and 46 of the Charter of the OAS and is necessary to uphold justice, environmental sustainability, and democratic stability in the Americas,

RESOLVES:

1. To commend Member States for their continued commitment to protecting the human rights of Indigenous and Afro-Descendant peoples within the Inter-American system.
2. To recommend that Member States collaborate with the Inter-American Commission on Human Rights (IACHR) to further develop legal standards addressing climate change's impact on vulnerable communities.
3. To urge Member States to recognize the importance of traditional knowledge and community leadership in the development of climate adaptation and environmental protection policies.
4. To request that the Organization of American States (OAS) Department of Sustainable Development (DSD) work within its existing budget, including potential support from the OAS Educational Electronic Group, to facilitate a forum every two years for legal experts, community leaders, and policymakers, including members of Indigenous and Afro-Descendant communities, to share best practices in protecting vulnerable communities from climate-related environmental harm, with the mission to:
  - a. Promote judicial training programs, overseen by the Inter-American Commission on Human Rights (IACHR), potentially including modules within existing training structures, focused on the implementation and recognition of environmental justice and climate-related human rights;
  - b. Support legal mechanisms that allow Indigenous and Afro-Descendant communities to bring claims related to environmental harm and climate impacts before the Inter-American Commission on Human Rights and the Inter-American Court of Human Rights, as those bodies see appropriate;
  - c. Establish that the inaugural forum shall take place no later than April 2027.
5. To recommend the establishment of a Hemispheric Legal Working Group under the Inter-American Council for Integral Development (CIDI) to:
  - a. Compile and analyze regional case law on environmental justice.
  - b. Facilitate judicial exchanges and capacity-building among courts, legal experts, and policymakers addressing climate-related litigation.
  - c. Draft model legislation aligning domestic law with Articles 1, 2, and 33 of the OAS Charter and incorporating emerging legal standards regarding climate-related human rights protections.
6. To encourage Member States to strengthen national legal frameworks and jurisprudence addressing climate-related human rights violations by adopting the best practices outlined above.
7. To request that the office of the Secretary General submit an annual report to the General Assembly, consistent with Article 54 of the OAS Charter, detailing progress in strengthening climate-related jurisprudence and the protection of vulnerable communities facing climate change impacts.

8. To invite voluntary financial and technical contributions from Member States, Permanent Observer States, international climate financing mechanisms, regional development banks, non-governmental organizations, and existing programs of the Inter-American Council for Integral Development (CIDI) to support legal capacity-building, adaptation, and resilience initiatives for Indigenous and Afro-descendant communities affected by climate change.

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

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

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**DEFENDING ELECTIONS, PRESERVING DEMOCRACY THROUGH DATA COLLECTION AND EDUCATION**

First Committee

Topic No. 2 of the Agenda

Draft Resolution Presented by the Delegation of Chile and Bolivia

THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY,

HAVING SEEN:

Article 2(b) of the Charter of the Organization of American States, which establishes representative democracy as a fundamental principle of the organization;

Article 32 of the Charter of the Organization of American States, which establishes that “Inter-American cooperation for integral development should be continuous and preferably channeled through multilateral organizations, without prejudice to bilateral cooperation between Member States,” in accordance with resources and capabilities and in conformity with their laws;

Article 26 of the Inter-American Democratic Charter (IADC), which calls for holding programs and activities designed to promote democratic principles and practices that strengthen democratic culture in the Western Hemisphere;

RECOGNIZING:

That the OAS continues to strengthen democracy in the Hemisphere by promoting electoral integrity, monitoring democratic processes, and supporting member states in preventing external interference in their domestic political affairs;

The longstanding contributions of Electoral Observation Missions (EOMS) conducted by the department of Electoral Cooperation and Observation (DECO) in strengthening transparency, public trust, and democratic legitimacy across the hemisphere;

CONSCIOUS OF:

Evolving threats to the democratic process, including cyber vulnerabilities, digital manipulation, disinformation campaigns, and undue influence occurring before, during and between electoral cycles; and

RECALLING:

The OAS Working Group to Prepare the Proposed IADC (GT/CDI-2/01 add. 5), which includes Comments and Proposals by Member States Regarding the Draft Inter-American Democratic Charter, and which states: "Essential elements of representative democracy include the holding of universal, free, secret-ballot, informed, periodic and fair election as an expression of popular sovereignty" as well as “the right and

opportunity for all citizens to participate in the management of public affairs,” and which further affirms that “The creation of a democratic culture, and the education of children and youth in the principles and practices of a society based on freedom and social justice, require that the OAS foster programs designed to strengthen democratic institutions and promote links between elected and political bodies and civil society”;

The principles of non-intervention and respect for national sovereignty in the internal affairs of Member States,

RESOLVES:

1. To commend the Department of Electoral Cooperation and Observation (DECO) for their conduct of electoral observation missions and their vital role in prompting electoral transparency across the hemisphere.
2. To recommend the following actions:
  - a. Establishment of an OAS Electoral Overview Committee (OEC) to promote civic education, strengthen institutional transparency, ensure equal and inclusive access through democratic processes, and encourage collaboration among stakeholders to uphold the principles of fairness, accountability, and electoral integrity.
  - b. Establishment of a hemispheric initiative titled “Defending Elections, Preserving Democracy” to provide continuous preventive institutional development to Member States in addressing undue external influence while respecting state sovereignty.
3. To task the OEC with reinforcing democratic electoral transparency, educating citizens on voting, supporting member states in maintaining free and fair elections, and promoting regional confidence in democratic institutions in accordance with principles outlined in the Inter-American Democratic Charter.
  - a. This initiative shall operate continuously across the full electoral cycle, including pre-electoral and post-electoral periods.
  - b. It will focus on long term institutional reliance, risk prevention and technical preparedness rather than electoral evaluations; and will complement, not duplicate or replace, the mandate of electoral observation missions.
4. To establish a voluntary ad hoc working group on electoral integrity and undue influence composed of representatives of interested member states and coordinated by the General Secretariat, tasked with developing non-binding best practices, facilitating voluntary information sharing, and supporting member states in strengthening institutional resilience as follows:
  - a. Providing member states’ citizens electoral education of their area of residence, hosting informational meetings, providing door-to-door pamphlets and other educational resources.
  - b. Developing early warning systems and reporting mechanisms designed to detect and address irregularities during electoral cycles through:
    - i. Sharing best practices in election monitoring, vote counting transparency, and ballot security procedures used by electoral authorities.
    - ii. Encouraging communication between electoral management bodies to prevent misinformation, procedural irregularities, or disruptions to voting processes.
  - c. Providing technical guidance and training to electoral officials in areas such as voter registration, ballot management, and vote tabulation to strengthen institutional reliability.

d. Publishing transparent reports and recommendations following electoral observation missions to promote accountability and improve democratic practices through the hemisphere.

5. To encourage member states to voluntarily include, within the existing annual reports to the General Secretariat, updates on measures undertaken to strengthen electoral resilience.

6. To reallocate budgeting from the OEC to the initiative of “Defending Elections, Preserving Democracy” for the next four consecutive years in order to achieve additional and decentralized monitoring, sharing, encouraging, providing and publishing of electoral observation processes.

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

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

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## ADDRESSING THE GENDER INEQUITIES OF UNPAID LABOR IN THE AMERICAS

First Committee

Topic No. 1 of the Agenda

Draft Resolution Presented by the Delegation of El Salvador & Dominican Republic

THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY,

HAVING SEEN:

Article 3 (l) of the Charter of the Organization of American States (OAS), which establishes that “The American States proclaim the fundamental rights of the individual without distinction as to race, nationality, creed, or sex”;

Article 34 (g) of the OAS Charter, which commits to accomplishing “Fair wages, employment opportunities, and acceptable working conditions for all”;

Article 45 (a) of the OAS Charter, which claims that “All human beings, without distinction as to race, sex, nationality, creed, or social condition, have a right to material well-being and to their spiritual development, under circumstances of liberty, dignity, equality of opportunity, and economic security”;

Article 15 of the Social Charter of the Americas, which emphasizes that “Member states also recognize the need to adopt policies to promote inclusion and to prevent, combat, and eliminate all forms of intolerance and discrimination, especially gender, ethnic, and race discrimination, in order to safeguard equal rights and opportunities and strengthen democratic values”;

Article 1 of the American Convention on Human Rights establishes that “States Parties to this Convention undertake to respect the rights and freedoms recognized herein and to ensure to all persons subject to their jurisdiction the free and full exercise of those rights and freedoms, without any discrimination for reasons of race, color, sex, language, religion, political or other opinion, national or social origin, economic status, birth, or any other social condition”;

Article 24 of the American Convention on Human Rights which states “All persons are equal before the law. Consequently, they are entitled, without discrimination, to equal protection of the law”;

CONSIDERING:

Despite the adoption of legal frameworks designed to promote inclusivity for all, the practice of supportive frameworks does not uphold the legalities established for equality, leading to gaps in implementation that persist in Member States;

Women’s labor force participation has not risen much over the past two decades, which leads women to be more likely than men to contribute to housework and caregiving;

Fiscal policies are created to promote economic growth, but also contribute to inequality and increased labor informality for women, leaving many without social security or pensions;

That strengthening institutional capacity development and capacity mechanisms is a priority to implement equality laws into effective practice;

#### DEEPLY CONCERNED:

That according to the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) in 2024, statistics exhibited in Latin America and the Caribbean (LAC) unpaid care work is 21% of the regional GDP, three-fourths or 74% of the labor is contributed by women;

That the countries aligned with the Organization for Economic Co-operation and Development (OECD) have the unpaid care work GDP average of 15%, where women contribute 66% of;

#### REAFFIRMING:

The United Nations 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development is an agreement that emphasizes the UN Member States adopting the 17 Sustainable Development Goals and 169 targets, which aim to address economic, environmental, and social concerns, including inequity and gender inequality;

The Inter-American Commission of Women (CIM) 1928 is an agreement that creates the OAS Member States to promote women's efforts and accomplishments involvement in leadership representation, with women's in the implementation of policies and programs;

That the Inter-American Program on the Promotion of Women's Human Rights and Gender Equity and Equality encourages Member States to "integrate a gender perspective into public policies, programs, and national development strategies";

#### TAKE INTO CONSIDERATION:

The United Nations World Food Programme, which proclaims in its Regional Gender Strategy 2023-2025 for Latin America and the Caribbean, advances gender equality and women's empowerment (GEWE), providing evidence of its effectiveness in programme procedures when gender equity is incorporated;

The WFP established the Gender Policy 2022, which that the promoting women's labor protections results in an increase in women's income and access to resources like finance and markets, while providing greater financial stability;

The United Nations World Conference on Human Rights recognizes the Vienna Declaration and Programme of Action 1993, which reaffirms the UN Member States are encouraged to advocate respect for human rights and fundamental freedoms for all, including without bias regarding race, sex, language, or religion;

#### RESOLVES:

1. To congratulate Member States of the Organization of American States for their continued commitment to promoting gender equality and strengthening legal protections for women throughout the hemisphere.
2. To request Member States to strengthen the implementation of existing gender equality legislation through existing national institutions that monitor the enforcement of gender

equality laws to:

- a. Identify the barriers that prevent effective application of such legal protections.
  - b. Grasp the ways to improve practical enforcement of gender equality laws across the hemisphere.
3. To encourage Member States to the extent to their capacity to support the mission of Inter-American Commission of Women (CIM) in recognizing unpaid caregiving:
- a. To create campaigns to inform the public of disadvantaged economic opportunities against women;
  - b. Educate population on the unpaid labor women and others contribute to the Member State;
4. To propose that Member States invest in partnerships between governments and organizations to create programs that support women's career growth and economic independence, as well as exchanges of technical assistance to improve gender equity for all.

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

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

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**INTER-AMERICAN TREATY ON ELECTION OBSERVATION AND FOREIGN FUNDING  
DISCLOSURE**

First Committee

Topic No. 2 of the Agenda

Draft Resolution Presented by the Delegation of Costa Rica

THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY,

HAVING SEEN:

Article 19 of the Charter of the Organization of American States (OAS), which prohibits direct or indirect intervention “in the internal or external affairs of any other State”, and prohibits any form of interference or threat against its political elements;

Article 3 of the Inter-American Democratic Charter, which states that “essential elements of representative democracy include ... free, and fair elections”;

Article 5 of the Inter-American Democratic Charter, which asserts that “special attention will be paid to the problems associated with the high cost of election campaigns and the establishment of a balanced and transparent system for their financing”;

Article 24 of the Inter-American Democratic Charter, which affirms that “electoral observation missions shall be carried out at the request of the member state concerned.” Furthermore, the government of that State and the General Secretariat need to agree on the scope and coverage of the mission;

Article III(4) of the Inter-American Convention Against Corruption, in which States agreed to create, strengthen and maintain “systems for registering the income, assets and liabilities of persons who perform public functions in certain posts as specified by law and, where appropriate, for making such registrations public”;

Article 23 of the American Convention on Human Rights, which provides citizens with the right and opportunity to “to vote and to be elected in genuine periodic elections”;

Article 9 of the Declaration of Principles for International Election Observation (2005), which declares that “international election observation must be conducted with respect for the sovereignty of the country holding elections and with respect for the human rights of the people of the country”; and

RECALLING:

The areas of work of the Department of Electoral Cooperation and Observation (DECO) shared on the OAS webpage, which include “disinformation and new communication technologies in electoral processes”.

As well as acting like a “facilitator and support entity for discussions and actions aimed at mutual support and learning developed among the electoral bodies of the hemisphere”;

Paragraph 9 of Press Release S-037/15 (October 19, 2015) of the OAS, proclaiming that the OAS “The OAS observes political inclusion (gender equity, afro-descendants and indigenous peoples, the vote abroad and people with disabilities), the electoral process as such (technology and logistics, media, electoral justice) and the integrity of the elections (campaign financing, security and electoral crimes)”;

#### RESOLVES:

1. To commend the OAS for its efforts in promoting electoral transparency and safeguarding democratic processes against undue external influence.
2. Establishes an Inter-American framework on Election Observation and Foreign Funding Transparency aimed at strengthening democratic institutions and preventing undue external influence, within the existing structure of the OAS.
3. Encourages the strengthening of Electoral Observation Missions (EOMs) coordinated through the DECO by:
  - a. Expanding their analytical scope to include transparency in political financing where relevant.
  - b. Promoting the gradual standardization of methodologies related to campaign finance observation.
  - c. Incorporating the assessment of emerging challenges such as digital influence and disinformation.
  - d. Continuing to provide independent and publicly accessible electoral reports.
4. Recommends that Member States enhance transparency in electoral financing through:
  - a. The voluntary disclosure of foreign financial contributions to political actors.
  - b. The development of accessible national registries of political financing.
  - c. The strengthening of domestic auditing and oversight mechanisms.
  - d. The adoption of measures to discourage anonymous or non-transparent funding sources.
5. Encourages regional cooperation through the OAS framework to support electoral integrity:
  - a. Facilitating dialogue and information-sharing between electoral authorities.
  - b. Promoting the exchange of best practices on transparency and accountability.
  - c. Supporting technical assistance initiatives led by DECO.
  - d. Fostering collaborative approaches to address potential cross-border challenges.
6. Calls upon Member States to ensure that any foreign financial contributions to electoral processes are fully transparent, traceable, and subject to domestic legal oversight, in order to prevent undue external influence over democratic affairs.

7. Invites Member States to voluntarily report on progress and best practices related to electoral transparency and foreign funding disclosure:
  - a. Sharing national experiences and lessons learned.
  - b. Identifying areas for technical support and capacity-building.
  - c. Contributing to the continuous improvement of regional electoral standards.

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

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