

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

# **Opening Statements**



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

Institute for Diplomatic Dialogue in the Americas



# OAS

**April 7-10, 2026**

The Delegation of Canada is honored to address this body as a proud member of the Organization of American States. Though Canada joined the OAS relatively recently, in 1990, our commitment to this institution is grounded in the fact that Canada is **fundamentally** a part of the Americas.

From north to south, our nations are connected by more than geography. We share economic ties, democratic values, and collective challenges that require regional solutions.

Issues such as migration, climate change, inequality, and security affect us **all**, and they cannot be addressed in isolation. The OAS provides a **critical** forum where these shared concerns can be met with **cooperation** rather than division.

For Canada, participation in the OAS is both an opportunity **and** a responsibility. It is an opportunity to collaborate with diverse partners, to support democratic governance, and to promote human rights across the Americas. It is also a responsibility to listen, engage respectfully, and to help **strengthen** unity among all member states, **regardless** of size or influence.

In an increasingly **uncertain** global landscape, regional solidarity matters more than ever. The Americas must stand not as **fragmented** nations, but as a collective force for stability, equity, and progress.

Canada looks forward to working constructively with all delegations to uphold the values of this organization and to build a stronger, more connected America.

Thank you

The Plurinational State of Bolivia proudly stands as a member of the Organization of American States (OAS), committed to promoting equality for all peoples, economic prosperity and international cooperation. Bolivia's politics both on the domestic and international stage serve to highlight these principles, for Bolivia has long worked to create a state that serves all peoples and promotes economic development for all. These principles have allowed our indigenous communities to prosper, recognized in our assertion as a Plurinational State. This new state has expanded representation, bolstered economic opportunities, and has strengthened economic and social equality for all populations. Such a foundation continues to guide Bolivia's engagement with the international community, guiding our commitments to inclusive government, sustainable development and cooperative regional solutions. Within the body, Bolivia seeks to advance collaborative and multilateral solutions in the governance of artificial intelligence, the strengthening of border security, the disruption of illicit drug trafficking networks, the protection of democratic institutions, and the safeguarding of vulnerable populations in Haiti. We look forward to expressing our ideals alongside many others in the deliberations of this committee. We do so with the conviction that Bolivia's history serves as a reminder of the significance of these principles and a model of how social justice and international development can advance hemispheric development economically, politically and socially.

Honorable chair, distinguished delegates,

Colombia is honored to be present at this meeting, which takes place at a critical moment for hemispheric peace. We must prioritize ending violence--domestically and internationally. Colombia calls for diplomatic responses to the challenges we face as nations and as a community, no matter how strong the temptation to resort to force. It also supports reintegrating former OAS member states under conditions that will promote inclusive democracy and lasting peace.

Colombia calls for fully realizing the rights and dignity of marginalized populations, including women, migrants, and Afro-Indigenous communities, and is committed to turning promises of equality into reality. Collaboration is needed to eliminate gaps in citizens' access to equal protection of the law. All citizens deserve equal protection from threats ranging from environmental degradation to police violence. Therefore, the delegation supports balanced steps to demilitarize law enforcement in ways that safeguard human rights, reduce preventable violence, and rebuild public trust. In addressing drug and human trafficking, Colombia advocates for strategies that prioritize human rights. It also defends academic freedom, the rights of displaced populations, and the protection of workers from foreign exploitation.

Nowhere is our collaboration more urgent than in Haiti. Not every member state has the means to make financial contributions to Haiti's recovery. But we all have expertise to share in support of Haiti's sovereign efforts to reduce violence, restore stability, and rebuild an economy that benefits every Haitian. Peace, prosperity, and justice are in the interests of us all.

Honorable Chair and fellow delegates,

The Delegation of Panama 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 1948, Panama 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 Panama is committed to the protection of democratic institutions, the preservation of the environment, and the promotion of regional security. Panama recognizes the multifaceted difficulties in realizing its aforementioned commitments and seeks to coordinate productive efforts to minimize these challenges. Panama 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.

**2026 Washington Model OAS  
Opening Statement  
Dominica**

Esteemed Chair, Distinguished Delegates, and Honored Guests,

The delegation of the Commonwealth of Dominica is honored to be present at this session of the Organization of American States. As a small island state in the Caribbean, Dominica understands the importance of sovereignty and the right of every nation to govern itself without external pressure or interference.

In recent years, our nation has faced devastating climate-related disasters that have displaced communities, strained infrastructure, and tested the limits of our national capacity. For countries like Dominica, sovereignty is deeply tied to our ability to protect our people, preserve our land, and recover.

Yet no small state can confront these challenges alone. Across the Americas, environmental displacement, inequitable development, and economic vulnerability are placing increasing pressure on national systems. These realities call not for isolation, but for strengthened regional cooperation. Dominica believes the principles of the OAS must remain central to addressing these challenges. For small island developing states, the challenge is not only survival, but equity. The delegation of Dominica believes this body must help level the playing field, ensuring that no nation's future is determined by the size of its economy or its vulnerability to climate change.

Dominica remains committed to the principles of democracy, human rights, and integral development. Sustainable growth, equitable urban planning, and resilience-building are essential not only for national stability but for the dignity and well-being of all people across the hemisphere.

The delegation of Dominica also recognizes the importance of regional leadership in responding to crises that affect our neighbors. The Caribbean has a shared responsibility in promoting stability and reconstruction in Haiti, and believes collaborative regional efforts are essential to supporting long-term recovery and institutional resilience.

The delegation of Dominica looks forward to working with fellow member states to promote solutions that strengthen climate resilience, promote equitable development, and reinforce the shared commitment to cooperation that defines this body.

Thank you.

# OPENING STATEMENT: ARGENTINA

Greetings, Honorable Chair and Esteemed Delegates:

In 2022, Argentina became World Champions in the FIFA World Cup after defeating France. It demonstrated to the people of Argentina the ability to rise to the occasion and create memorable moments through the art of communication and decision-making. Diplomacy is much like football, and the delegation aims to tackle these situations with the same passion, dedication, and focus.

The delegation of Argentina has focused its efforts on diligently tackling tough social, political, economic and environmental situations that affect every member of the Organization of American States. Argentina has pride itself on creating regional dialogue and solutions and constantly seeks on expanding the spirit of diplomacy.

As delegates representing Argentina, we are committed not only to advancing our national interests but also to strengthening continental solidarity. By fostering open dialogue and building consensus, we can work toward a more equitable, stable, and prosperous future for all nations of the Americas.

At the core of Argentina's national ethos lies an unwavering commitment to democracy, transparency, and multicultural cooperation. Drawing from both its national experience and regional perspective, Argentina recognizes that the strength of our hemisphere depends on our ability to collectively address evolving challenges. ¡Muchas gracias y esperemos crear soluciones viables juntos!

Honorable Chair, Fellow Delegates:

Jamaica joins this assembly at a critical moment for regional stability. For the nation of Jamaica, security and environmental resilience are two sides of the same coin. Jamaica continues to face the disproportionate impacts of climate change, evidenced by the increasing severity of tropical storms, which threaten the infrastructure of our nation and the very lives of Jamaican citizens.

Simultaneously, Jamaica remains a committed partner in the fight against transnational organized crime, cybersecurity threats, and illicit drug trafficking. The Jamaican delegation believes the Organization of American States must be the primary vehicle for sharing intelligence and technical competencies to secure our borders and communities as the organization was founded with the purpose of helping all member states in the needs that each member state sees fit while ensuring human rights and sovereignty are respected.

Let us move beyond rhetoric to real action. The safety and prosperity of the Caribbean and the Americas depend on it.

Thank you.

**2026 Washington Model OAS  
Opening Statement  
Mexico**

Honorable Chair and esteemed delegates,

The delegation of Mexico stands before the body today with enthusiasm and urgency to discuss the undeniable matters impacting the Western Hemisphere while also reaffirming Mexico's commitment to the principles of human rights, sovereignty, and effective and transparent diplomacy.

Mexico recognizes that these principles must be upheld alongside accountability, as human rights violations, extrajudicial uses of force, and threats to democratic institutions continue to undermine stability in our region.

Addressing these challenges requires a comprehensive approach. Security cannot rely on militarization alone. Issues such as environmental displacement, trafficking, unequal access to education, and emerging technologies demand coordinated, rights-based solutions.

The path forward is simple: cooperation over coercion, law over impunity, and inclusion over exclusion.

Today, Mexico stands ready to lead and collaborate in pursuit of a stronger, more just hemisphere.

Thank you.

# **OPENING STATEMENT - UNITED STATES OF AMERICA**

## **Opening Statement**

**Honorable Secretary General, Distinguished Chair, Vice Chair, and Honorable Delegates,**

The Delegation of the United States of America is honored to participate in the 2026 meeting of the Washington Model Organization of American States. With it being the 250th Anniversary of the founding of the United States, the Delegation of the United States of America wants to thank the fellow delegations for being a part of its storied history.

The Delegation of the United States of America stands with its fellow countries to strive to push the central mission of the Organization of American States (OAS) - to foster a strong democratic foundation for all member states through cooperation and dialogue. The Delegation of the United States of America is also advocating for the importance of free and fair elections and the democratic process without fear of abuses by any government or group.

The Delegation of the United States of America also strives to strengthen the security of its fellow OAS nations to fight back against smuggling of all kinds, including human smuggling and drug smuggling. The Delegation of the United States of America emphasizes the importance of security and protecting citizens against these criminal organizations, and fostering a safe region from human rights abuses.

Finally, the Delegation of the United States of America strives to cooperate with fellow OAS delegations to bring back a golden age for the region. And with the collaboration of other honorable delegations, the delegation of the United States of America firmly believes that the OAS can accomplish that goal.

**Thank you**

**OPENING STATEMENT  
DELEGATION OF THE REPUBLIC OF HAITI**

President, fellow delegates, and distinguished colleagues,

It is a privilege to join you today as a member of the Organization of American States, united through a shared commitment to cooperation, stability, and mutual respect across our hemisphere. Our diversity is one of our greatest strengths, and it is through collaboration that we can address the challenges facing our hemisphere.

At the core of this cooperation must be a strong respect for national sovereignty. Every nation in this body has the right to determine its own path. For Haiti, this principle is especially significant given our history of self-determination, but it is one that strengthens all of us when upheld.

As we address regional challenges such as political instability and security threats, we must prioritize partnership over imposition. Lasting solutions come from supporting national institutions and empowering locally driven efforts, not replacing them.

Haiti, like many countries in the region, continues to face many challenges. Haiti welcomes international cooperations, but wants to emphasize that it must reinforce national leadership. At the same time, issues that plague not only Haiti but many nations such as arms trafficking and organized crime, require collective action from all member states.

The strength of the hemisphere and the OAS lies in the ability to work together while respecting each other's independence. By prioritizing sovereignty, fostering genuine collaboration, and investing in long-term stability, we can build a more secure and prosperous future for all.

Thank you and I look forward to working closely with the assembly.

## **Opening Statement: Uruguay**

Honorable Chair, esteemed delegates, and distinguished guests,

The delegation of Uruguay is honored to address the General Assembly and reaffirms its unwavering commitment to the foundational principles of the Organization of American States: democracy, human rights, security, and integral development.

Uruguay has learned through its own history that democracy is not self-sustaining. It must be actively protected—through accountable institutions, respect for human rights, and the willingness to reckon honestly with both the past and the present.

As our hemisphere navigates an era of rapid political, economic, and technological change, democratic institutions face new pressures alongside familiar ones. The challenges before this Assembly—from governance and accountability to development and security—demand not only political will, but institutions that are genuinely worthy of public trust.

Uruguay believes that strong democracy requires strong institutions: transparent, accountable, and worthy of the confidence of the people they serve. Whether the question is how governments wield new technologies, how they respond to a crisis, or how they reckon with the past, the answer must always be grounded in human rights and the rule of law.

Uruguay stands ready to work in a spirit of hemispheric solidarity with all Member States to defend democracy and build a more just, inclusive, and democratic Americas.

Distinguished Chair, honorable delegates, and all others present in the room, please accept the warmest greetings from the delegation of Costa Rica.

The world has, for years, been built upon the construction, thinking, and reconfiguration of its architecture and structures, but, as would be expected in a digital era, this does not only refer to the physical bricks built with a view to protection. The current walls, even with the interconnected world, for many translate into the lack of opportunities, representation, and misinformation that not only pulls nations further away from each other, but also makes communities and minorities within those states be neglected.

However, the multiple attempts made to maintain an integrated, interdependent global scenario need to be recognized, continued, and improved as an essential part of the integrated and sustainable development of nations and communities. Costa Rica is committed to this arduous but necessary task to ensure that future generations find bridges along their paths, enabling them to connect with new opportunities to continue evolving and developing the region's capabilities.

Nowadays, all those challenges need to be faced with. The delegation understands a couple of factors that are necessary for the advancement, like promoting human rights for the improvement of the Human Development, creating protocols for delegations to follow when addressing stability, and technology as a main tool for efficiency and resolution of problems by AI, enabling the integration of strategies that potentiate the communities. With these and other initiatives promoted by the Costa Rican government, the delegation hopes that, with the OAS's unconditional support, a bright and united tomorrow can be achieved.

## **Opening Statement from the Delegation of Paraguay**

**Honorable Secretary General, President Vice President, distinguished delegates, and others present.**

The delegation of Paraguay firmly holds to the belief that no bridge is beyond crossing, that gaps can be narrowed, and that perspectives can be reshaped through cooperation and shared purpose. It is with great pride that this delegation stands before this Organization, a body that continues to serve as a vital forum for dialogue, solidarity, and collective action across the hemisphere.

This year is no exception. The delegation of Paraguay reaffirms its commitment to working alongside fellow delegations to address pressing issues, including the protection of human rights, the sovereignty of states, the implementation of emerging technologies, the strengthening of internal legal practices, and the development of mechanisms to support Member States in need.

The delegation recognizes that no challenge exists in isolation and reaffirms that progress can be achieved through mutual respect, dialogue, and a willingness to pursue the common good, without leaving behind the diverse realities and identities of our hemisphere. Furthermore, the delegation emphasizes that true strength lies in cooperation, and that cooperation remains the only path through which our hemisphere can secure lasting stability.

Paraguay also wishes to remind all members that our presence here represents not only our nations, but also those who have no voice or seat in this assembly. This gathering offer each of us an opportunity to learn, to improve, and to drive meaningful change. The Americas must stand together as a pillar of prosperity and solidarity.

Thank you.

Honorable Chair, distinguished delegates,

The delegation of Chile is proud to present a comprehensive set of draft resolutions aimed at strengthening cooperation, stability, and development across the Americas. Together, these proposals reflect our commitment to democratic integrity, humanitarian responsibility, and regional solidarity.

Chile emphasizes the importance of unity within the Organization of American States by proposing

a structured framework for the reintegration of lapsed member states. This approach prioritizes diplomacy, human rights, and institutional accountability, ensuring that reintegration strengthens

both the nation involved and the broader international community.

In addition, Chile reaffirms its commitment to democratic governance by promoting stronger electoral systems. Through the expansion of electoral observation and civic education efforts, this

proposal seeks to enhance transparency, prevent irregularities, and build lasting public confidence

in democratic institutions.

Recognizing the urgent challenges posed by climate change, Chile also addresses the growing issue of displacement caused by environmental disasters. By encouraging regional cooperation, emergency response teams, and coordinated resource distribution, this resolution aims to protect

vulnerable populations and improve collective preparedness.

Chile further acknowledges the need to balance border security with economic development by promoting coordinated regional strategies to combat transnational crime while maintaining stability and prosperity.

Finally, Chile underscores the importance of equitable and sustainable reconstruction efforts in Haiti, advocating for shared responsibility, local leadership, and long-term economic growth.

Through these initiatives, Chile remains committed to building a more cooperative, resilient,  
and

unified Americas.

Thank you.

I yield my time.

Honorable Chair and Distinguished Delegates,

The Delegation of Peru is proud to participate in this year's Model Organization of American States. Our hemisphere has long been regarded as a land of promise, but today we stand at a crossroads. In this era of progress, vulnerable communities risk bearing the brunt of the consequences of choices made by those who pledged to represent them. Too often, Indigenous people, Afro-descendant communities, economically isolated populations, and children everywhere are left behind.

The Delegation of Peru calls for the advancement of these vulnerable populations without sacrificing human rights and accountability. Specifically, the Delegation of Peru has drafted proposals to promote peace and prosperity in the hemisphere through protecting Indigenous and Afro-descendant peoples from the impacts of climate change and extractive artificial intelligence, education for children to combat drug-trafficking patterns, financial literacy courses, and support for Haitian-elected government systems. With our collective proposed resolutions as Member States, the OAS has the power to insist upon a better hemisphere and ensure that promises are fulfilled. The delegation of Peru cordially invites all Member States to join in that effort.

Thank you.

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

The Cooperative Republic of Guyana is honored to join this General Assembly and engage in constructive dialogue with fellow Member States. This body serves as a vital forum for cooperation, consensus-building, and collective problem-solving across the Hemisphere. Guyana is committed to the core principles of the Organization of American States, including democracy, human rights, security, and sustainable development.

Guyana recognizes that the challenges facing our region demand coordinated and practical responses. Issues such as governance, security, economic resilience, and technological change continue to shape the stability and prosperity of our societies. These challenges do not exist in isolation. They intersect and require solutions grounded in cooperation, respect for sovereignty, and shared responsibility.

As a developing state, Guyana places strong emphasis on inclusive growth, institutional resilience, and the protection of vulnerable populations. We believe that regional stability must be supported by policies that strengthen public trust, promote accountability, and expand opportunity for all citizens.

Throughout this Assembly, the delegation of Guyana remains committed to engaging in thoughtful dialogue, working collaboratively with all delegations, and advancing practical, sustainable solutions. We approach these discussions with openness, respect, and a clear focus on outcomes that benefit the entire Hemisphere.

Guyana looks forward to productive deliberations and meaningful cooperation.

Thank you.

The delegation of Brazil is excited to work with all the delegates within our respective committees on creating solutions for all Member States within the OAS. The Brazilian Delegation believes that Artificial Intelligence has the potential to be a prolific resource in helping educate the youth within the OAS and also recognizes the importance of higher education and its relationship with democracy. Utilizing the Inter American Committee on Education as a leading voice in the freedom of education, an educated population creates economic growth across the hemisphere. At the same time, democracy in the region is increasingly under threat, especially from the lack of political transparency and corruption, which is especially true in Haiti, which will be the focus of the Special Committee. The delegation of Brazil seeks to promote cooperation to prevent destruction of the environment in the Americas. The Member States are home to beautiful rainforests, rare and endangered species, and a landscape that cannot be found anywhere else in the world. Addressing the issue of Ecocide can help all Member States to preserve the environment and protect the lives of people.