

34TH MOAS FOR HIGH SCHOOLS

December 3, 2015: Newsletter No. 2

Welcome back to the 34th MOAS for high schools and a special welcome to the 8 new schools participating this year. Mrs. Nelly Robinson started off the Opening Ceremony by introducing the new schools participating in this year's conference. We are delighted to host the largest and most international turn out from any other year as there are 8 different countries participating. Special congratulations to Washington International High School for participating in the MOAS since 1987 and have represented all 34-member states throughout the years. Lastly, this year brings a new feature and that would be the Special Working Group GET who will draft the MOAS declaration on behalf of discrimination and racial issues throughout the Americas.

At this year's opening ceremony Nelly Robinson introduced the OAS Specialists that will be helping out each Committee. Ms. Kendall Belisle, Advisor to the Assistant Secretary General, was the keynote speaker during the Opening Ceremony, which was also attended by representatives of the OAS Permanent Missions from Belize, Costa Rica, Colombia, the Dominican Republic, Ecuador, Jamaica, Mexico, Peru and the United States. The president of the MOAS Gabriela Rodríguez concluded with a thoughtful speech on how the students this year must focus their anger about something to create a positive resolution. She would like delegates to be passionate about what they are doing and driven to make a difference. The press of the 34th MOAS is excited for what is to come in the following days.



Written by:
Meg Chandler
Katie Quigg



Organization of American States

Ambassador Nestor
Mendez
Assistant Secretary General

Ambassador Francisco
Laínez
*Chief of Staff of the
Assistant Secretary General*

Nelly Robinson
MOAS Program Coordinator

Jeymar Bianchis
MOAS Consultant

Alejandra Pinelo
MOAS Intern



COMMITTEES

Special Working Group GET

Chair: Romeo Caruso

Vice Chair: Joanna Bui

On the first day of committee meetings, the Special Working Group was eager to discuss the issues on race and discrimination. The OAS specialist handed out a pamphlet on discrimination and defined the different causes of discrimination. After that the delegates were ready to voice their opinions. Among the numerous causes that were discussed, racial discrimination seemed to be the most pressing. The delegates discussed the different types of racial discrimination including color, nationality and cultural origins. Racial discrimination on color was mainly discussed. The delegates brought up valid points such as how racial minorities are, today, discriminated with racial slurs and stereotypes. At the conclusion of the first day, the delegates got into groups and discussed possible clauses to be included in the MOAS Declaration for the issues of racial discrimination. The delegates stated their eagerness for day two of Model OAS.

GET Writer:
Alison Currie

General Committee

Chair: Gabriela Rodríguez

Vice Chair: Joslyn Gardner

The first session of the General Committee was spent introducing the Committee Chair and her fellow officers. They then went on to introduce a guest speaker, the MOAS expert. Following her brief speech, the floor was opened to questions where delegates were able to ask almost anything pertaining to MOAS and the expert's work.

The General Committee will be discussing migration in the Americas, and protection of human rights in business over the next couple days. Migration in the Americas covers aspects such as the transit and protection as immigrants with a special focus on children and gender dimensions. The protection of human rights goes deeper into subtopics such as encouraging legislation, social corporate responsibility, and the rights of indigenous groups to both protect and advance human rights within the Americas.

After sharing opening statements from all thirty-four member states, General Committee broke up into six different topic groups and began working on their resolutions. It was obvious that this 34th year of the MOAS was going to be quite a productive year for the General Committee and its delegates on their resolutions.

General Committee Writer:
Alyssa LoRusso

First Committee

Chair: Clayton Lawrence

Vice Chair: Simone Veale

Following the Opening Ceremony the delegates in the First Committee got right down to business. To begin, the OAS experts talked about the topics to be discussed in the First Committee, mentioned possible solutions, and also explained how the OAS experts handle these situations in reality. One expert showed a presentation on all the important aspects regarding "Public defenders and access to justice", one of the topics to be discussed in this Committee. It included lack of independence from certain countries, insufficient funding of public defense services, accessibility of public defense services in remote areas, and even vulnerability of certain groups. The delegates of the First Committee will debate all of these problems during the MOAS.

The expert then explained some of the OAS General Assembly resolutions and the significance of the role of civil society in promoting access to justice. The delegates will discuss how to promote the judicial system in regards to roles of civil society.

Furthermore, after both experts explained their topic, the delegates from every member state delivered their general statements. Basically every delegate stated that he/she on behalf of their country, are beyond excited for this year's MOAS and can't wait to have an enjoyable experience. To conclude, the delegates did not have time to split up into working groups to begin the drafting of the resolutions, so they will continue debating and discussing tomorrow.

First Committee Writer:
Lizzie Nadolski

Second Committee
Chair: Rohan Subramanian
Vice Chair: Matthew Hartzoge

During the first day of the MOAS the delegates in the Second Committee were anxious to start discussing hemispheric security. One OAS expert, Mr. Michael Bejos, informed the delegates on one of the topics to be discussed in the Second Committee, “Citizen security”. He spoke on promoting a multi-dimensional approach to improve the issue of citizen security. This was discussed as well as coordinated efforts among law enforcement, civil society and communities to reduce crime and violence. The delegates listened intently and then presented their general statements. It was obvious they all have a common goal of decreasing violence in each of their member states. All the delegates are eager to form resolutions in hope to decrease violence to better their countries.

Second Committee Writer:
 Gabi Rudnick

Third Committee
Chair: Marcos Valdez
Vice Chair: Hayden Boldrick

On the first day in the Third Committee, the OAS specialists spoke to the delegates about the pressing topics of sustainability and technology within the Americas. They first asked everyone what they thought sustainability was, and the students had varied responses. One of the specialists quoted Charles Dickens saying, “the world today is experiencing the best of times and the worst of times”. This quote perfectly articulated what the topics stand for. The experts then further expanded the discussion about technology and sustainability and what they are trying to change for the better. Delegates were very ready to begin the opening statements tomorrow.

Third Committee Writer:
 Emily Henry

Special Fourth Committee
Chair: Christopher con Münchow-Pohl
Vice Chair: Robert Mattot

Today was the first day of committee meetings. This is the first year that there was a link between labor and education in the committees. The Special Fourth Committee covers the topics about “Youth education and labor market” and “Youth protection and empowerment”. There were three experts that shared their knowledge on how to have an effective MOAS conference and produce innovative resolutions. They explained to the delegates that it is a good idea to build upon what resolutions are already in motion to have a greater impact. New ideas they stated though are still always good ideas. They also weighed in on how important it is for youth to have a direct connection to the government because the government does not always know what the youth needs. This is why there has been a semi-recent push for more student government programs. It is important for the youth to have a voice. The delegates must take into consideration that Latin America and the Caribbean are regions of tradition and not all human rights are a given in those regions. It is important to

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PHOTO RECAP



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