

34TH MOAS FOR HIGH SCHOOLS

December 2, 2015: Welcome Newsletter

WELCOMING REMARKS BY AMBASSADOR NESTOR MENDEZ, ASSISTANT SECRETARY GENERAL OF THE OAS



I am pleased to welcome you, the students and teachers from 26 high schools of the Americas, to the 34th Model OAS General Assembly for High Schools (34th MOAS/HS). I am also proud to say that for the first time ever we will be receiving students from high schools in Belize, Costa Rica, Ecuador, Jamaica, Mexico and Peru. These 72 students will join students from Colombia, Puerto Rico and the United States who have traditionally participated in the MOAS/HS. We also appreciate the work and support from the 50 teachers in attendance.

The MOAS/HS allows us to promote democratic dialogue and the work of the OAS as the main political forum in the Hemisphere. During the next three days you will represent the 34 active Member States of the OAS and simulate the work of their diplomats and representatives.

During this MOAS you will be analyzing, discussing and negotiating proposals on current issues affecting the Americas, such as: migration; protection of human rights; racism, discrimination and intolerance as obstacles to development; youth education and labor market; transparency in government; citizen security; sustainable cities; competitiveness and technology. I hope that throughout your discussions you will be able to find common approaches in your proposed solutions to these issues. This is also an opportunity for you to improve and develop your skills in leadership, communications, and diplomacy, which will be vital for your future academic, professional and personal life.

Furthermore, I would like to congratulate the **Washington International School (WIS)**, which will be receiving the “MOAS Participation Award” for having represented all 34 OAS Member States throughout its 29 years of attending the MOAS. This is an extraordinary accomplishment and we commend them for their commitment to providing their students with such invaluable international education.

Lastly, I urge you to take advantage of the cultural understanding that you will gain from this experience and the networking opportunities that you will have with other youth of the Americas. I hope that it will inspire you to become active members of your communities as part of your civic duty.

Good luck to all and I look forward to reading your resolutions.

Ambassador Nestor Mendez
Assistant Secretary General of the OAS



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
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MOAS Intern



OAS SPECIALISTS**SPECIAL WORKING GROUP-
GET****Roberto Rojas**
Luis Toro*Department of International Law***GENERAL COMMITTEE:**
Katiuska Lourenco*Department of Social Inclusion***Norma Colledani***Executive Secretariat of the Inter-American
Commission on Human Rights***FIRST COMMITTEE:****Delia Sánchez***Executive Secretariat of the Inter-American
Commission on Human Rights***Verónica Álvarez***Department for Effective Public
Management***SECOND COMMITTEE:****Guillermo Moncayo***Department of Public Security***Michael Bejos***Department of Public Security***THIRD COMMITTEE:****Juan Monticelli & Bibiana Serna****Alejandro Henao****Daniela Hidalgo***Department of Sustainable Development***Adriana Bonilla***Department of Economic Development***SPECIAL COMMITTEE:****Paulina Valdéz & Romina
Kasman***Department of Human Development,
Education and Employment***Mariella Cruzado***Department of Public Security*

COMMITTEES

General Committee**Chair: Gabriela Rodríguez****Vice Chair: Joslyn Gardner**

Delegates from across the Americas will be convening at this year's MOAS to act as representatives to countries interspersed throughout North, Central, South America and the Caribbean. Committees will meet to propose and debate possible resolutions to find solutions and advance the topics under discussion. This year, the General Committee led by the MOAS President, Gabriela Rodríguez, and Vice-Chair Joslyn Gardner, will be discussing migration in the Americas and protection of human rights in business. Delegates will be tasked with discovering solutions to encourage migration to the Americas in safe and effective ways. Additionally, members of the General Committee will look into how businesses can contribute to the promotion and protection of human rights. After initial discussions about said topics, delegates will break up into six working groups where resolutions will be formed that hopefully help overcome the current challenges affecting the countries of the Hemisphere. Delegates will then come back as a whole and work to debate and approve these resolutions, which hopefully reform the situations over migration and human rights protections taking place in the Americas! Vice-Chair Gardner looks forward to the invigorating conversation and well thought out proposals she is confident will come out of committee meetings! Good luck to all participating in the General Committee!

First Committee**Chair: Clayton Lawrence****Vice Chair: Simone Veale**

The First Committee will discuss public defenders and access to justice, along with civic strengthening of local governments in the Americas this year. To specify, the general topics to be discussed are challenges affecting the work of public defenders in Member States, and the duty of the state to provide effective public defense as a due process guarantee. To go deeper into the political aspect of this committee the mechanisms of citizen participation through local governments need to be stronger, as well as the role of community activism of local governments. The debating delegates in the First Committee will work as hard as possible to solve the problems they are faced with during Model. Finally, this Committee is run by Head Chair Clayton Lawrence, along with Vice Chair Simone Veale, who will both run debates smoothly and try their best to make sure that Model is both fun and educational for everyone who is participating.

General Committee Writer:
Carly MungerFirst Committee Writer:
Lizzie Nadolski

Second Committee

Chair: Rohan Subramanian
Vice Chair: Matthew Hartzoge

This year at the MOAS, the Second Committee will focus on Hemispheric Security. Delegates representing each member state will discuss potential solutions to specific security problems pertaining to the countries individually, as well as wholly. For the first topic, Citizen Security, delegates will talk about the welfare and safety of citizens in their countries, and work to reach a conclusion. Three resolutions will be drafted by the working groups and presented and debated by the Committee on Friday December 4th. The second topic is Combating Arms Trafficking, and delegates will also debate and discuss to produce three resolutions. The Chair of the Hemispheric Security Committee is Rohan Subramanian from Washington International School in Bethesda, Maryland. The Vice Chair for the second committee is Matthew Hartzoge from Midland Senior High School in Midland, Texas.

Second Committee Writer:
 Lilly Basgall

Third Committee

Chair: Marcos Valdez
Vice Chair: Hayden Boldrick

The Third Committee will be discussing sustainable cities in the Americas, and competitiveness, innovation and technology and Micro, Small and Medium-Sized Enterprises (MSMEs). For the first topic delegates will debate and create solutions focused on waste management, energy efficiency and the use of clean energy, and creating resilience to natural hazards. For the second topic delegates will discuss how to take advantage of technology and innovation, and also of Micro, Small and Medium-Sized Enterprises (MSMEs) to contribute to the development of the OAS Member States. These are complex topics to figure out and discuss so it will be interesting to see the final resolutions.

Third Committee Writer:
 Emily Henry

Special Fourth Committee

Chair: Christopher von Münchow-Pohl
Vice Chair: Robert Mattot

Christoph von Münchow-Pohl is a student at Georgetown Preparatory School in Bethesda Maryland. He is also the Fourth Committee Chair at this year's MOAS. When asked what his goals were for the event, Münchow-Pohl said, "As chair of the committee, I am looking for students who are seeking to find ways to ensure safety and education of the youth for the benefit of the Americas." When asked about goals for Nicaragua, which will be represented by students from Springfield Township High School, he explained, "Since Nicaragua has a literacy rate of over 78%, I am hoping for the delegates of Nicaragua to find new and innovative ways - along with the other delegates in the working group - to ensure the growth of youth education in Nicaragua and other member states of the OAS." His final statement was, "What is more important to me, though, is that delegates are willing to work in a friendly environment with other delegates in order to exchange ideas that will lead to a productive and successful Fourth Committee." It sounds like Christopher von Münchow-Pohl is preparing for the MOAS with high hopes. It appears this has the makings of a notable event.

Special Committee Writer:
 Sophia Copeland