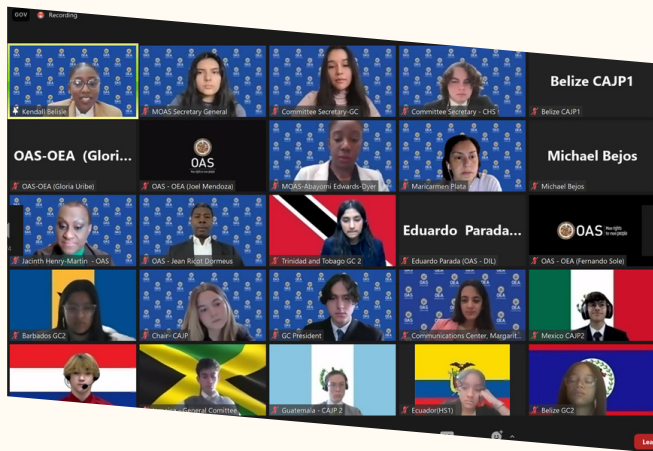




NEWSLETTER

41st Model OAS General Assembly for High Schools



The 41st Model OAS General Assembly (MOAS) for High Schools was held in virtual format from December 12th to the 14th, 2022. The MOAS is a simulation exercise of the proceedings of the Permanent Council and General Assembly whereby delegates from schools throughout the Americas collaborate to find solutions to some of the most pressing challenges faced among Member States today from the perspective of their assigned country. The delegates were divided into three different committees, and each assigned their own unique topic to work on and draft resolutions to address them. The General Committee tackled “Migrants and Youth Migrants in the Americas,” the Committee on Hemispheric Security dealt with “crime, violence, and ways to protect their citizens,” and the Committee on Juridical and Political Affairs focused on “creating more equal and fair societies that support access to rights.”



Ambassador Jacinth Henry-Martin, Senior Advisor Office of the OAS Assistant Secretary General

Participants of the MOAS understand that it is not only a model of the OAS but also an event that brings together many young minds giving them the opportunity to become leaders, problem solvers and collaborators. These delegates demonstrated that there is indeed hope for a bright future in which these youths may come together to solve any future problem they may encounter. Ambassador Jacinth Henry-Martin, senior advisor to OAS Assistant Secretary General Nestor Mendez noted in her opening remarks that “there is no doubt that assembled today is an astute group of leaders and thinkers who will have to confront many challenges and succeed in a world which has been traumatized and transformed by upheaval brought about by the Covid-19 pandemic.” Adding that “you are the generation that is best poised to be a ray of hope as we emerge from these troubling times to create a new global architecture.” With all this in mind let us take a look at all the outstanding work that happened over the three days of the 41st MOAS in each committee.

Committee on Hemispheric Security (CHS)



Although they don't experience it in the same way, all OAS Member States are faced with crime and violence and are working to protect their citizens from it. Drug trafficking, human trafficking, and violence motivated by race or sex are some of the primary concerns among Member States.

On Monday December 12, the first day of the MOAS, the Committee on Hemispheric Security (CHS) split into working groups to efficiently draft resolutions to be implemented in different institutions.

Working Group I, which regards improving citizen security at the state level, discussed both possible policies to directly prevent violence, such as gun control, law enforcement training, and anti-violence curriculum in schools, as well as ways to target the root issues that lead to violence, like poverty and corruption.

Working Group II, which aimed to coordinate efforts among law enforcement, civil society, and communities to reduce crime and violence, drafted a complex working paper by the end of the first day. They included resolutions to reduce discrimination and violence in law enforcement by using body cameras, creating new governmental bodies to protect Human Rights, Justice, and Anti-Corruption, and increasing training to be licensed, including training on racial bias and discrimination. Working Group II also encouraged law enforcement and community leaders within Member States to cooperate to create common agendas to reduce crime and violence as well as to build trust in the system.

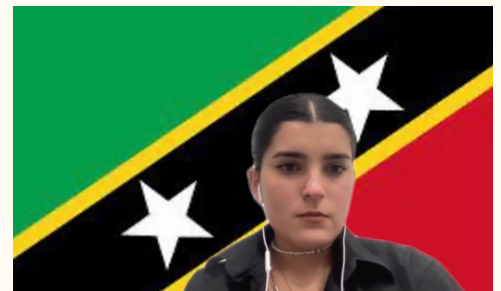
On Tuesday December 13, the second day in committee, both working groups in the Committee on Hemispheric Security (CHS) expanded upon their working papers by creating preambles, formalizing their plans, and finalizing their wording.

On Wednesday December 14, the final day of the 41st Model OAS, both working groups came together to present their resolutions to each other. Members of the working group that did not participate in drafting the resolution being presented asked questions on and proposed amendments to the resolution, giving an external perspective to ensure quality and clarity. Both resolutions were amended and later passed by majority vote. Finally, the CHS proceeded to elect officials for the next Model. The 42nd Model OAS's Chair of the Committee on Hemispheric Security will be the 41st's delegate of El Salvador and its Vice-Chair will be the delegate of Jamaica.

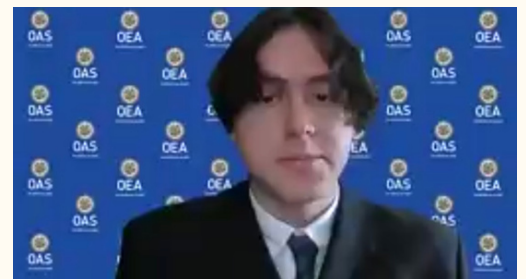
General Committee (GC)

One of the main objectives of the General Committee (GC) is to work together as a group to find consensus on the most important issues of the region. The Chair of the Committee indicated the underlying theme for this committee was "Migration in the Americas." The OAS expert assigned to the GC, Maricarmen Plata, OAS Executive Secretary for Access to Rights and Equality, provided a deeper insight into this topic. Ms. Plata explained that population movements at the international level are concurrently the result of global change and significant drivers of subsequent changes in both the societies from which they originate and those that receive them. In the Americas, the magnitude and characteristics of the migration phenomenon have profound social and economic impacts, be it on the migrants' countries of origin, transit or destination.

On the first day, both working groups under the GC expressed great interest in considering their resolutions positively. They entered the writing process under their respective topics. The working group, chaired by the Costa Rican delegation, worked dynamically on the topic of "Cooperation Among Countries of Origin, Transit and Destination to Ensure the Protection of the Rights of Migration in the Americas". Simultaneously, Working Group II, chaired by the delegation of St. Kitts and Nevis, worked specifically on analyzing "Best Practices Between Member States to Efficiently Manage Youth Migration in the Region." The delegations continued their draft resolutions on the second day with great enthusiasm and worked together efficiently to be prepared for the debating process on their third and final day of the model.



Delegates made general statements on how migration issues affected the country which they represented, with the delegate of St. Kitts and Nevis, Sofia Corral, being awarded for the best statement.



On the last day of the MOAS, the GC held a democratic exercise with both working groups to discuss and debate the draft resolutions before approving them. The leader of Working Group I hoped that all countries would support their resolutions on immigration transit that would ensure that immigrants have a safe path. In the case of Working Group II, financial cooperation to help impoverished and developing countries was the main focus. They also included provisions for the security and ability of migrants to receive health care, if given a destination. The session closed with all resolutions being approved. In sum, delegations highlighted the need to promote cooperation, stability, and education; strengthen public policy and communication; and promote holistic change.

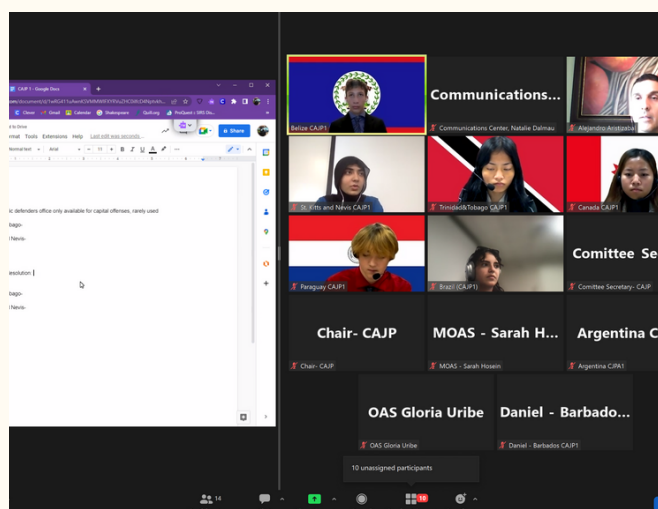
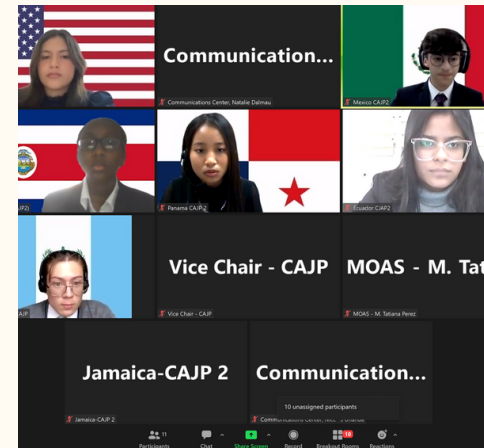
Committee on Juridical and Political Affairs (CAJP)

Justice and the rule of law are the two main pillars of a free state. Without a fair and impartial justice system, no State can deem itself to be truly free and democratic. In that regard, the OAS seeks to assist Member States through the strengthening of these principles. The Organization's efforts have helped support the promotion of and respect for the rule of law in the Americas, and thus, have contributed to shaping a stable and equitable region.

The MOAS Committee on Juridical and Political Affairs (CAJP) focused on these important issues, and with guidance from OAS Expert Alejandro Aristizabal, the delegates established a mission to work together to create more equal and fair societies that support access to rights.

Delegations faced the challenge of providing adequate legal representation, correct paperwork, and equitable access to rights. The OAS Expert Alejandro Aristizabal emphasized that it was crucial to take into account the absence of prejudice. Delegates were tasked with encouraging political discourse, collaboration, and concentration so that everyone could work together to find a better solution for juridical and political affairs.

The Committee on Juridical and Political Affairs (CAJP) concluded its first day by debating proposals for the sections to be included in the draft resolution that one of their working groups would propose. The first working groups on the topic of "Identifying the Challenges Affecting the Work of Public defenders in Member States" were directed by the delegation of Belize. The second working group discussed suggestions for writing their resolution with the topic "Duty of the State to Provide Effective Public Defense as a Due Process Guarantee" while being led by the delegation of Mexico.



The following day, both working groups in the CAJP, with the assistance of OAS specialist Alejandro Aristizabal, developed their working papers by adding preambles, formalizing their proposals, and perfecting their terminology. By the end of the day, the working papers were ready for the debates, which took place the next day.

On the final day, Wednesday, December 14, delegations voiced their draft resolutions and asked questions/comments or proposals for amendments to the draft resolutions. The Chair opened the floor for questions, comments, or amendments regarding the preamble. Delegations proposed amendments and voted on which ones should be approved. Shortly after, debate for the operative clauses commenced. Upon return, the election for Chair of the CAJP 42nd MOAS ws conducted. After these proceedings were concluded and Paraguay was announced as the next chair, the session was adjourned.

Conclusion

The three consecutive days of the MOAS 41st Assembly were characterized by hard work and collaboration between delegates who represented various member nations of the OAS. It is important that we look back at these past few days with hope for a better future acknowledging all that these bright minds achieved in a short amount of time.

On the opening day of the MOAS, delegates of each committee presented a general statement that pertained to the overarching theme of their individual committees. OAS experts were tasked to determine a winner of best statement for each committee. The winner of the general statement in the General Committee was Sofia Corral, delegate from St. Kitts and Nevis, who attends St. John's School in San Juan, Puerto Rico. Also from St. John's School was one of the winners of the general statement from the Committee of Hemispheric Security, Christopher "Kit" Jackson, from the delegation of Brazil. The Committee of Hemispheric Security had a tie for best general statement, the other title winner being delegate, Makalia Shyonti, from the delegation of El Salvador. Finally, the winners of the best general statement from the committee on Juridical and Political Affairs were the delegate of Paraguay Jerry Rolston, and the delegate of the USA, Adriana Rendón.



The delegate of Trinidad and Tobago, Nicole Patal from Legacy Senior High School, was elected Secretary General.



The delegate of Paraguay, Amulya Ganta, from Legacy Senior High School, was elected as MOAS President

Resolutions drafted by these delegates in distinct working groups and committees were presented for debate on the last day of MOAS, and a total of six resolutions were officially adopted. The resolutions included two resolutions of the General Committee, two resolutions from the Committee on Hemispheric Security, and finally, two resolutions from the Committee on Juridical and Political Affairs. Officers for next year's 42nd MOAS Assembly were elected on the final day of the MOAS. The Delegate of Paraguay was elected President, and the Delegate of Trinidad and Tobago was elected Secretary General. Both delegates acknowledged the members of MOAS and accepted their duty to return to next year's assemblies with their assigned roles. The 41st MOAS Assembly concluded with a final message delivered by the Chair of the OAS Permanent Council Jan Marten Willem Schalkwijk, Permanent Representative of Suriname. He addressed delegates of the MOAS and congratulated them on their hard work and participation. Ambassador Schalkwijk emphasized the importance of organizations like the OAS in his remarks, noting that he hoped "that through your deliberations you have gained a renewed understanding of the relevance of multilateral organizations such as the OAS to serve as indispensable platforms for the resolution of disputes, consensus-building and for developing common agendas to address the myriad issues facing our world." It is Schalkwijk's hope that students who participated in the MOAS Assembly have gained real world experience through deliberation and collaboration, in order to their expand leadership abilities and motivation regarding the vast world of international relations.

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