



42nd MODEL OAS GENERAL ASSEMBLY FOR HIGH SCHOOLS OF THE HEMISPHERE

"Digital Transformation for Sustainable Development in the Americas: Empowering the Youth to be Catalysts for Change"

OAS EXPERTS

GENERAL COMMITTEE

1. CLIMATE CHANGE AND CLEAN ENERGY



Juan Monticelli is the Sustainable Energy Chief of the OAS Department of Sustainable Development. He delivers technical assistance and policy advice for the advancement of clean energy in Latin America and the Caribbean. Juan has extensive experience in the implementation of renewable energy projects. He facilitates high-level energy and climate dialogue among member states, as well as the exchange of best practices and experiences. Juan authored several documents on energy policy and regulation, climate change, electric mobility, and resilience in the Americas. Juan is an attorney-at-law, licensed by the State of New York in the U.S., and the city of Buenos Aires in Argentina. He holds a Law degree from Universidad Católica Argentina and a Master of Laws degree from The George Washington University, where he specialized in Intellectual Property. Juan is fluent in English, French and Spanish.



Ruben Contreras has 27 years of experience in energy and climate change. His career began in 1996 as an environmental climatologist at Chile's Ministry of Defense. He conducted Antarctic research (2002-2004) and was a research fellow at NOAA in 2007. From 2007 to 2015, he specialized in Energy and Climate Change at the OAS in Washington D.C., leading U.S.-Brazil bioenergy projects and climate change initiatives. He then coordinated the Latin America and Caribbean program at the International Renewable Energy Agency in Abu Dhabi (2015-2017), focusing on the Central American Clean Energy Corridor. Between 2018 and 2022, he oversaw Energy and Environment at the U.N.'s Economic Commission for Latin America and the Caribbean. Since 2023, he has been the Senior Officer and Climate Change section head at the OAS in Washington DC. He holds degrees in Atmospheric Sciences and Meteorology, a Master's in Solar Energy, a master's in risk Prevention Engineering, and a Doctorate in Renewable Energies and Material Flow.

2. DIGITAL EDUCATION



Luis Benitez is an international development professional with over a decade of experience, primarily in the field of education. He has served for more than seven years in various capacities at the Organization of American States (OAS) and additional roles within the federal government of Mexico. Luis's academic journey includes a bachelor's degree in international relations from "Tecnológico de Monterrey" and a Master's degree in International Development and Humanitarian Emergencies from the prestigious London School of Economics (LSE). Currently, he serves as the project lead for the OAS-ProFuturo Digital Education program within the Executive Secretariat for Integral Development of the OAS.

COMMITTEE ON JURIDICAL AND POLITICAL AFFAIRS

1. DEMOCRACY IN THE DIGITAL ERA



Adriana Gutiérrez is a Democracy Specialist at the OAS Secretariat for Strengthening Democracy since February 2020. She has worked at the OAS in various capacities since 2004 and has participated as observer, regional coordinator, and specialist in several Electoral Observation Missions. Adriana has more than 20 years of experience in project management, technical cooperation in political processes, and institutional strengthening initiatives. Before joining the OAS, she worked as an Advisor to the Presidential Human Rights Program and to the Office of the High Commissioner for Peace in her native Colombia. She holds a Master's Degree in Global Policy from the School of Advanced International Studies (SAIS) at Johns Hopkins University and a Bachelor's Degree in Government and international Relations from *Universidad Externado de Colombia*.

2. OPEN GOVERNMENT AND DIGITAL TRANSFORMATION



Mike Mora is a Senior Specialist at the OAS in the Department for Effective Public Management (DEPM) of the Secretariat for Hemispheric Affairs, from where he has contributed since 2007 to making the governments of the Americas more efficient, transparent, and with mechanisms for citizen participation. His portfolio includes the coordination of initiatives in the areas of Digital Government and Open Government; including the coordination of the Inter-American Open Data Program to Prevent and Combat Corruption (PIDA). Mike coordinates the Technical Secretariat of the Inter-American Network of Digital Government (RedGealc) and serves as Technical Secretary of the Inter-American Network of Cadastre and Property Registry. Mike was also the Technical Secretary of the Inter-American Network on Government Procurement in 2013-2014 and coordinated the Efficient and Transparent Municipalities Program of the OAS (MuNet). Mike has a degree in International Relations from the Jorge Tadeo Lozano University in Colombia, and a master's degree in Conflict Resolution and International Peace from American University in Washington DC.

COMMITTEE ON HEMISPHERIC SECURITY

1. TRANSNATIONAL ORGANIZED CRIME



Michael Bejos is a Senior Officer at the Department against Transnational Organized Crime since August of 2016. His primary responsibility is to provide technical secretariat services for the OAS security-related forums on transnational organized crime, firearms trafficking, and human trafficking/migrant smuggling, as well as to the Committee on Hemispheric Security. Mr. Bejos joined the OAS staff in 2009 and has previously served as Technical Secretary for the Inter-American Committee against Terrorism (CICTE), OAS Representative in Dominica, and as Senior Officer at the Department of Public Security.

A Belizean national, Mr. Bejos joined the OAS following a 15-year career in the Belizean Foreign Service, with tours of duty in Guatemala, Taiwan, Washington D.C. and Mexico, as well as in various domestic assignments.

Mr. Bejos holds a Bachelor of Arts Degree in Psychology and Business Administration from McKendree University; a Master's Degree in Diplomacy from the University of Costa Rica; and a Postgraduate Diploma in Diplomatic Studies from Oxford University.

2. CYBER-SECURITY



Carlos Eduardo Baena serves as a Program Officer on the Cybersecurity policy team within the Inter-American Committee Against Terrorism (CICTE) at the Organization of American States (OAS). He holds a Bachelor's Degree in International Relations and a Master's Degree in International Policy Management, both from PUC-Rio. Additionally, he has earned a Master's in International Studies from the Elliott School of International Affairs at George Washington University in Washington D.C. He possesses four years of experience in teaching English to candidates preparing for the CACD (Concurso de Admissão à Carreira de Diplomata), the Brazilian diplomatic service examination.