

**MODEL OAS GENERAL ASSEMBLY**  
**FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS**



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### 1- What is the MOAS?

The MOAS is a simulation exercise of the main political bodies of the Organization of American States: the [Permanent Council](#) and the [General Assembly](#). Through their participation in the MOAS, students represent the policies and interests of the 34 active OAS Member States and gain valuable experience on the role of diplomacy, politics and leadership.

### 2- What are the objectives of the MOAS?

- Promote democratic values among the youth of the Hemisphere.
- Generate an understanding of the mission, role, structure and functions of the OAS.
- Offer a space for participants to analyze the major political, economic, social and security issues in the Americas.
- Highlight the relevance of diplomacy as a problem solving instrument.
- Foster inter-cultural awareness.
- Train committed leaders.

### 3- How do I participate in a MOAS for high Schools?

- Faculty Advisors are the ones who need to register and form a delegation to participate in the MOAS. They also select the students that will comprise the delegation/s, with enough time in advance to allow proper preparation for the Model. Students enrolled in academic areas related to Inter-American affairs or similar, and those who may benefit from participating in the MOAS are usually selected by their school authorities/Faculty Advisors.
- Faculty Advisors need to fill out an online form to participate in the MOAS. To access the online registration form, they need to [register in the OAS platform](#). Then with their username and password, they will be able to access the [online registration form](#).
- Participants in the MOAS attend as representatives of their academic institutions. Consequently, an authority from each academic institution must prepare a letter to be uploaded on the registration form with written information about the Faculty Advisor and the students that will comprise that institution's delegation. [Sample of letter](#).
- It is not mandatory to have a defined list of delegation members at the moment of registration.

### 4- Where does the MOAS for High Schools take place?

- Since 1982 the MOAS for high schools has been held every year in **Washington, D.C.**, the week after Thanksgiving (end of November). **National MOAS for high schools** may also take place at any OAS Member State that wishes to sponsor it. For three days high school students have the opportunity to debate hemispheric issues in a simulation of the OAS General Assembly.

### 5- Do I need to register to participate in a MOAS?

- Yes, however the online registration form needs to be filled out by school faculty advisors. Since the delegations attend the MOAS/HS on behalf of their high schools, a letter by a school authority

(Principal, Vice-Principal, Director or Department Chair) needs to be uploaded with the registration form along with other necessary documents.

- The deadline for registration is around mid-October every year. However, the registration process may end earlier if the 34 OAS Member States has already been assigned prior to that date. Payments received after all places have been filled will be returned.

#### **6- What documents do I need to submit for registration?**

- For registration, schools/faculty advisors need to submit (1) a letter from the school authority; (2) the registration form (online); (3) the participation fee; and (4) the Code of Conduct signed by all participants.
- The deadline for registration is around mid-October every year. However, the registration process may end earlier if the 34 OAS Member States has already been assigned prior to that date. Payments received after all places have been filled will be returned.

#### **7- How much is the registration fee?**

- The registration fee is USD\$1,200 per delegation, and includes online access to the MOAS Tutorial. This fee is non-reimbursable.

#### **8- How is the payment process? Is financial assistance available?**

- The participation fee per delegation is US\$1,200.00 and includes online access to the MOAS Tutorial. This fee is non-reimbursable.
- Payment of the registration fee should be made to the order of **Model OAS General Assembly**, either by check or bank transfer, and should be made before the registration deadline. As soon as all registration information and fees are received, high schools will be informed of their respective country assignments.
- If you need to send a wire transfer, the account information is as follows:  
Bank Full Name: Bank of America  
Bank Short Name: Bank of America  
ABA/Routing #: 0260-0959-3  
Swift code: bofaus3n  
Account number: 002080125354  
Account name: General Secretariat of the OAS  
Bank Address: 730 15<sup>th</sup> Street, N.W.  
Washington, D.C.  
20005-1012, USA

Please include the following:

Project name: DCER-MOAS/001

Project number/Award: MULTI99/144

Recipient area: MOAS Coordination- Office of the Assistant Secretary General

- Unfortunately, there is not financial assistance available at this time.

### 9- Are airfare, accommodation, food and transportation costs covered?

- No, participating delegations are responsible for making their own hotel and transportation arrangements and for covering their costs, as well as for all expenditures with local transportation, meals and any other cost arising and relating to their attendance.
- Information about hotels and logistics arrangements while in Washington DC will be included in the Information Bulletin, to be published on the MOAS web page.
- When applicable, the OAS recommends that participants purchase travel insurance to cover any unforeseen circumstances during their travel.

### 10- How much does it cost to participate?

- It will vary according to your location (national/international travel), accommodation, meals, and transportation expenses. You can check the chart below for some references values of hotel, transportations, food, and other expenses.
- For example: If you are a student from Bogota, Colombia, the round trip airfare can be approximately USD\$650. Plus all other expenses, your cost of participation can be roughly estimated at USD\$1,100.00

	Per Delegation (10 students)	Per student
Registration Fee*	US\$1,2000	US\$120
Airfare Round Trip*	US\$4,000-\$8,000	US\$400-\$800
Hotel* *Price for 4 nights, double room (four (4) students) @ \$140 per night	US\$560	US\$140
Airport transportation* *it will vary according to the arrival-departure airport.	US\$180	US\$18
Food* *Breakfast, lunch, and dinner @US\$45 per day	US\$450 (4 days)	US\$180.00 (4 days)
TOTAL	US\$6,390 - US\$10,390	US\$858 - US\$1258

\* All costs are estimated

### **11- If I am an international student, do I need a visa to enter the US?**

- Yes, but it varies case by case. If a visa is required to enter into the United States, an email must be sent to the MOAS Coordinator asking for a letter certifying the school's participation in the Model to be presented at the US Consulate. However, the OAS cannot guarantee timely processing and/or that the visa will be granted.

### **12- What is the Code of Conduct? Do I need to sign it?**

- The MOAS Code of Conduct is a set of rules that refers to acceptable behavior, dress code and other issues to be observed during the Model
- The Model OAS General Assembly (MOAS) seeks to promote a strong sense of scholarship and leadership, as well as a commitment to the principles of honesty, fairness, respect and accountability. Participants shall commit to uphold these principles in all MOAS activities, and to promote a culture of integrity and respect for diversity.
- The MOAS Code of Conduct must be signed by all faculty advisor(s) and students participating in the Model.

### **13- What is the role of faculty advisors?**

- Faculty advisors support and guide students before, during, and after the MOAS. Faculty advisor's responsibilities include, but are not limited to:
  - I. Select the students that form the delegations, assign them to the committees and prepare them for their participation in the MOAS.
  - II. Fill out the online registration form and produce any documents. They must process the participation fee.
  - III. Serve as the main contact between the delegation and the OAS, as well as with the diplomatic representatives at the Permanent Missions of the assigned countries.
  - IV. Ensure that delegates behave well during the meetings and during the MOAS, as stipulated in the Code of Conduct.

### **14- What is a delegation?**

- A delegation may be composed of 10 delegates ((5) head delegates and five (5) alternate delegates), at least one faculty advisor, and one additional member as Public Information Officer (optional).
- Each delegation represents one of the 34 OAS Member States.
- Each delegation has a Chief of Delegation who acts as the leader of the delegation.
- Each delegation assigns a maximum of two (2) delegates to each of the five (5) preparatory committees.

### **15- What other ways are there to participate?**

- There are several ways to participate in the Model, other than in a country delegation. Your school can participate as a Permanent Observer delegation; MOAS Committees Secretaries; MOAS General Secretariat; and MOAS Communication Center.

**Permanent Observer delegations:** A maximum of 2 delegates may participate as observers in the Committees, without the right to vote. These delegates may present resolutions supporting projects or activities of the OAS to the Model General Assembly. Observer delegations pay a reduced fee.

**MOAS Committees Secretaries:** they assist the Chair and Vice Chair of their Committees, particularly regarding the application, use and interpretation of the [Rules of Procedure](#); read the resolutions to be debated; support the working groups with the drafting of the resolutions, and are responsible for taking proper records of the Committee sessions. There are five (5) Committee Secretaries (one for each Committee).

**The MOAS General Secretariat:** provides key support to the work of the Committees by performing duties aimed at ensuring an efficient operation. It is comprised of one (1) Principal Assistant, and at least five (5) clerks.

**MOAS Communication Center:** Represents the press corps of the MOAS and has the responsibility of issuing a daily “Newsletter” to inform all participants about the activities and discussions being conducted during the Committee sessions, as well as information about MOAS official events.

#### **16- What is the MOAS Communication Center? How can I be part of it?**

- The MOAS Communication Center Represents the press corps of the MOAS and has the responsibility of issuing a daily “Newsletter” to inform all participants about the activities and discussions being conducted during the Committee sessions, as well as information about MOAS official events. The MOAS Communications Center staff is in charge of taking pictures of the sessions and official events during the Model.
- To be part of the MOAS Communication Center your school needs to register as the Communication Center instead of a regular country delegation. Student number 11 from a delegation can register as Public Information Officer. He/she will work closely with the members of the Communication Center. There is one (1) Communication Center per Model.

#### **17- What is the role of the Public Information Officer?**

- The Public Information Officer (PIO) acts as a spokesperson for her/his delegation and may attend the Committee sessions, but without a voice or vote. One of her/his functions is to issue press releases, through the MOAS Communications Center, related to a given important development taking place in her/his country and/or during the MOAS sessions

#### **18- As a faculty advisor, can I bring more than one delegation? How much will it cost?**

- Yes, each school can bring up to three (3) delegations. Please keep in mind that each delegation needs one (1) faculty advisor, and the registration fee is USD\$1,200 per delegation.
- *Example: if your school is planning to attend with two (2) delegations, two (2) faculty advisors are required, and the registration fee would be USD\$2,400.*

### **19- How are students selected to participate in the Model?**

- Faculty Advisors select the students that will comprise the delegation/s, with enough time in advance to allow proper preparation for the Model. Students enrolled in academic areas related to Inter-American affairs or similar, and those who may benefit from participating in the MOAS are usually selected by their school authorities/Faculty Advisors.

### **20- Which schools are allowed to participate?**

- Any school from the 34 active OAS member states can participate. Also schools from Permanent Observer States can join the Model.

### **21- What are the benefits of participating in a Model?**

Some of the benefits for students are:

- I. Learn about current political, economic, social and security issues in the Americas.
- II. Practice and develop leadership and communication skills.
- III. Use of negotiation and diplomacy as problem solving instruments.
- IV. Gain a broader multicultural awareness as a result of their interaction with participating students from other countries of the Americas.

### **22- What are the MOAS Rules of Procedure?**

- The [MOAS Rules of Procedure](#) regulate the participation and the sessions during the Model, and constitute the MOAS basic document. It provides information about responsibilities of the participants, MOAS Authorities, Units of Support of the MOAS, Agenda, Working Groups sessions and drafting resolutions, Instruction for debate, Voting, and Election. All participants must read and be familiar with the MOAS Rules of Procedure before coming to a Model. A test on the Rules of Procedure created in Google Forms needs to be taken by students participating in the Model.

### **23- How are countries assigned?**

- As soon as registration information and fees are received, the MOAS Coordinator informs high school authorities/faculty advisors of their respective country assignments.
- Each of the 34 OAS Member States is represented by a delegation of 10 students.
- Countries are assigned by the MOAS Coordinator in a geographical rotational manner; therefore, if a school/university represented a South American country one year, the next year it will represent a Caribbean, Central American or North American country.
- Delegations participating for the first time may attend the Model representing any of the [Permanent Observer](#) countries at the OAS.

### **24- As a student how do I prepare for the Model?**

- a) Conduct a general research about your assigned country: learn about political system, location, economy, main industries and role of your country in your region/economic block.

- b) Read about your topic: use the list of Reference documents (Reading material) and watch the videos published on the MOAS web and [Youtube channel](#).
- c) Understand the position of your country in relation to your topic: Has your country a favorable or negative position about your topic? Why? How your country's interests impact your topic? You can also contact the Permanent Mission of your country to the OAS in reference to your topic.
- d) Analysis and critical thinking: Analyze all the data gathered. Produce your own ideas and proposals following your country's stance.
- e) Write a position paper: Include your findings, country position, proposals and highlights on your topic (5+ pages).
- f) Write your general statement: this will be excerpts from position paper. Include the aspect(s) on your topic or subtopic to be proposed, and what your country has done about it. Justify your proposal. (1 minute max.)

## 25- How can I feel more confident speaking in public?

- Public speaking is a skill that every student uses in the MOAS. One of the best ways to feel confident while speaking is to be well-prepared about your topic. It is very important to do a thorough research about your country and its position about the matter in your group; in this way you can have a very good idea about the issues that will be debating in your committee and be proactive in the discussion.
- You can also practice your general statement at home. This will give a sense about how much time do you need to read it, practice any complicated words, and feel more comfortable with it when it is your turn of speak in from of the committee.
- The MOAS program has a [Youtube channel with videos](#) of delegates speaking. If you are feeling anxious about how other students might speak or act during the Model, these videos can give you a general idea about the dynamics in each committee.

Simple formula for debate or interventions:

**Thanks or Greetings**

+

**Name of the delegation represented**

+

**Main point**

+

**Thanks**

**Thank you, Chair/Good morning, Chair. The Delegation of CANADA would like to propose an open auction with no ticket to be paid, with art pieces donated by the Missions. Thank you.**

Tips for addressing the Committee Members – Diplomatic language

- Always speak in third person
- Avoid the use of slang
- Keep the utmost respect to the authorities and other delegates.



- It is not advisable to extend unnecessarily in the speeches; this will help to a better development of the debate.

## **26- How do I dress for the Model?**

- Participants shall dress appropriately during the MOAS. All participants must wear business attire. Men are recommended to wear a tie and blazer. Ladies may wear skirts and/or dresses of an appropriate length.
- Clothing and accessories will not be worn if they display or suggest profanity; obscene or foul language; symbols of violence; discriminatory messages; gang or gang-like symbols; sexually suggestive messages; alcohol, tobacco, or drugs; vulgarity; are offensive to any ethnic or cultural groups; and/or contain images that promote the above.

## **27- What is a position paper?**

- A position paper is an essay that presents an informed opinion about your country's position and the issues discussed in your committee. The general statement should be based on your position paper.
- Position papers are a common requirement in Models since allow delegates to form a clear understanding/opinion about their topics. Although each faculty advisor might require a different structure/ guidelines, a common structure used for position papers is the following:

### **Position Paper Structure:**

- A. Background of the Topic
  - a. In your country's opinion, what are the main elements of the problem?
  - b. What are the roots of those elements?
- B. Position taken by your delegation
  - a. What are your national interests in the situation?
  - b. What are your nation's policies on the topic?
  - c. What steps would you like to see taken to deal with the problem?
- C. Proposed Solutions
  - a. What does your nation believe needs to be done to solve the problem?
  - b. What do you predict will be the main opposition to your proposals?

*(Extract from "Guide to Delegate Preparation", Harvard Model United Nations, 2016)*

## **28- What do I expect to happen during the Model?**

- The MOAS is a three-day simulation exercise. During the first day, students arrive to the OAS main building for registration, the opening ceremony and the first sessions of the committees.
- During the second day, students will continuous working in their committees following the working group format. By the end of the second day, students have their draft resolutions ready.
- Finally, during the third day, students will debate and approve/reject draft resolutions in their committees. The election of authorities takes place during the last session of the committees. After

election the closing ceremony takes place, Certificates of Participation are distributed among the participants.

### **29- What is a general statement?**

- Each delegate has to do a general statement during the model; Head delegates deliver their statements at the beginning of the Second Session of the Committees, while Alternates delegates during the Third Session of the Committees.
- The general statement addresses the position of the country regarding the topic of the Committee. It is brief and clear declaration about the represented country's positions and students must stay in character, use appropriate diplomatic language, and demonstrate knowledge about the OAS.

### **30- How are delegates distributed among working groups?**

- During registration students select their working groups options according to their interests. The MOAS Coordination team will try to accommodate student's requests as much as possible, however the distribution is made by first come, first serve basis. The MOAS Coordination team will send an email with the confirmation and final distribution of students into the working groups prior to the Model. This information will be also published into MOAS web page.

### **31- What is a resolution?**

- A resolution is a written document that addresses an issue that needs to be resolved or acknowledged. During the MOAS, the resolutions on the topics of the Agenda are drafted within Working Groups. A maximum of six (6) draft resolutions may be drafted and discussed per committee. Once they pass the committees, they move to the General Assembly where they are adopted, and become resolutions.
- All draft resolutions need to be specific to the chosen approach to the topic, present suggestions for action and provide viable sources of financing.

### **32- Is there any award for participation?**

- Yes. The Award for Outstanding Delegate Speech is given to delegates for the use of appropriate diplomatic language and the ability to present an argument in a persuasive way during their general statements.

### **33- Are certificates of participation granted?**

- Yes, certificates of participation are granted to all participants, students and faculty advisors, who attend the Model and observe the [Rules of Procedures](#) and the Code of Conduct.

### **34- How do I volunteer for the Model?**

Due to limited human resources, the MOAS Program welcomes the participation of volunteers before and during the Model. Please contact MOAS Coordinator, Victoria Abalo, for more information at [vabalo@oas.org](mailto:vabalo@oas.org) or [moas@oas.org](mailto:moas@oas.org) Thank you!