



ELEVENTH MODEL OF THE PERMANENT COUNCIL FOR OAS INTERNS (11TH MOAS/PC)

NOVEMBER 10-11, 2011

MOAS/PC BULLETIN

The MOAS/PC is jointly organized by the Department of International Affairs and the Department of Human Resources.

The Purpose of the MOAS is to:

- Promote democratic values among the Youth of the Hemisphere
- Increase awareness of the mission and work of the OAS
- Illustrate the importance of diplomacy and negotiation
- Make students aware of the most important issues in the Americas
- Train committed leaders

THIS MOAS BULLETIN WAS WRITTEN AND EDITED BY

Alexandra Papini and
Dalhid Salgado Arriola
Public Information Officers
(PIO's)

Photos by Juan Manuel
Herrera/OAS and MOAS/
PIO's

Final Edition by:
Nelly Robinson, MOAS
Program Coordinator
Luis J. Consuegra
Specialist, MOAS Program

“JOINT EFFORTS TO CONSOLIDATE DEMOCRACY IN THE HEMISPHERE THROUGH EQUITABLE ECONOMIC GROWTH AND INCLUSION”

OAS Interns pass resolutions to consolidate democracy through equitable economic growth and inclusion, by promoting micro and medium enterprises and using education as an approach to promote development and reduce inequality in the region.



Based on different perspectives but common goals, on November 10th and 11th, eighty-four Interns working at the Organization of American States (OAS) represented its thirty-four Member States during the 11th Model of the Permanent Council, (11th MOAS-PC) in Washington DC. They deliberated and debated about the “Hemispheric strategies to consolidate democracy through equitable economic growth and inclusion”. This topic is of high relevance since 2011 marks the 10th Anniversary of the adoption of the Inter-American Democratic Charter, which reiterates the importance of strengthening democratic governments in the Hemisphere in order to achieve social and economic development.

It has been noted that democracy and economic growth are interrelated topics that deserve special attention in the Hemisphere,

especially since the Americas has been listed as the most unequal region in the world, making full democratic governance and poverty the main challenges in the region.

In her speech, during the opening ceremony, Mrs. Irene Klinger, Director of the Department of International Affairs, highlighted that inequality persists in societies with little upper mobility; therefore the task of the Member States is to ensure that opportunities are accessible to everybody, especially to vulnerable groups. She called upon the delegates, who she referred as “the leaders of the future”, to work towards the consolidation of democracy and the elimination of poverty.

“We must tackle inequality by ensuring that equal opportunities are accessible to everyone without distinction”

-Irene Klinger, Director, Department International Affairs

The current Chair of Permanent Council of the OAS, and Permanent Representative of

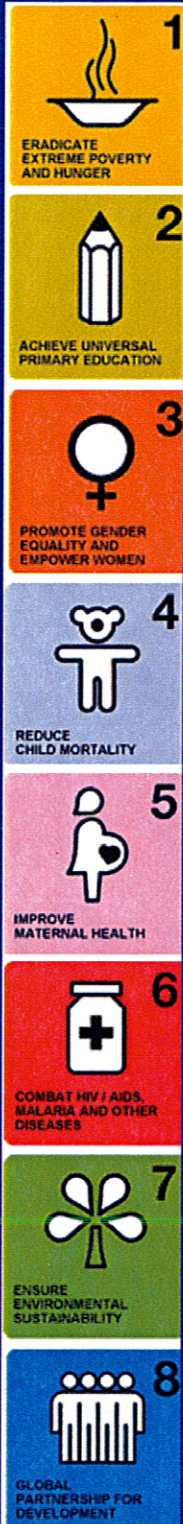
Guyana to the OAS, Ambassador Bayney R. Karran, emphasized the relevance of the MOAS-PC as a valuable experience that offers the interns an integral view of the works of the Organization.

In his speech Mr. Karran focused on the importance of diplomatic efforts to achieve the agreements that will lead the changes needed in society. On his closing remarks, the Ambassador stressed that democracy, equality and inclusion should be the basis for the future, and invited delegates to have a serious discussion that would lead to decisions that might have an impact on the Organization itself.

“Only through dialogue will you arrive to understanding, and it is only by understanding, that you will reach an agreement.”

-Amb. Bayney R. Karran. Chair of the Permanent Council; Representative of Guyana to the OAS



8 WAYS TO CHANGE THE WORLD **WE CAN**


In her opening speech, the Chair of the MOAS-PC, Glenda Quiros reminded the delegations that “Inclusion is not only the generation of mechanisms that can create opportunities and equality for every person, it is also a matter of understanding the scope it has, in order to continue with a cultural change that can transform the Americas”. In this sense, she outlined the importance of proposing projects that would solve the problems that the Hemisphere experiences. She invited the delegates to put their differences aside and work towards the well being of the people of the Americas.

After a remarkable introduction, the delegations stepped into their roles. They began their first session by approving the order of business, the agenda of topics and the modus operandi. Afterwards the head delegates provided general statements about their position on the topic to be discussed. Later, during a working session, the delegates engaged on a moderate discussion to agree on the main approaches to the topic; they were assisted by OAS Specialists on the subjects of “Poverty and Social Inclusion,” and “Corporate Social Responsibility.”

“Everyone is collectively responsible to promote human rights and social responsibility.”

- Zakaria El-Goumiri, Specialist, Dept. of Economic Development, Trade and Tourism

The delegates identified the following possible solutions to tackle poverty and inequality as a way to consolidate democracy: education, promotion of small and medium enterprises (SMEs), strengthening the role of civil society, inclusion of disadvantaged groups in policy making as well as sustainable development in countries affected by natural disasters.



“Both state and non-state actors must make their best efforts so as to foster economic development allied with deep social change, considering the utmost importance of focusing in the strengthening of our educational systems”.

- Rebecca Pacheco, Delegate of Dominica

After a thorough debate, the delegates agreed to undertake the discussion on two main topics each one to be discussed in distinct working groups. The ambassadors of the first group discussed the theme Social development programs as an approach to promote development and reduce inequality; while the second group focused their attention in The Promotion of micro and medium enterprises. The MOAS/PC Chair accompanied the first group, supporting the work of its Chair, with the valuable help of MOAS/PC Rapporteurs, Anjali Shahani and Melissa Saucedo, the delegates of each group engaged in debates discussing their initiatives. Also present throughout the process were Ms. Nelly Robinson, MOAS Program Coordinator and Luis José Consuegra from the Department of International Affairs, who patiently guided the delegates in their discussions, assisting them on the best ways to draft the resolutions.

“I found the MOAS to be a rewarding experience that gave me further insight into the workings of the OAS, as well as the difficulties and benefits of compromise.”

Allison Brusie, Delegate of Antigua and Barbuda

On the second day, the two working groups got together to present their resolutions, which were discussed and voted during a session of a Permanent Council Committee, where all the delegates had the chance to have their voices heard. The first resolution entitled “Towards the promotion of micro and medium enterprises” focused on the creation of local jobs for marginalized groups,



including indigenous peoples, afro-descendents and women, according to the States capacities. The delegation of Uruguay showed its main opposition to the resolution, questioning the amount of state resources and commitment necessary to implement it.

Supporting the resolution, the delegate of Paraguay, Elsa Peraldi, highlighted its importance, stressing the fact that it was consented by the majority of nations which showed their support to allocate resources for its implementation. She went on by saying that the resolution would bring integral economic development to the Americas, paying specific attention to vulnerable and marginalized groups through the creation of SME's.

The second resolution entitled *"Education as an approach to promote development and reducing inequality"* was presented by the delegate of Santa Lucia, who explained that the aim of the States that adopted the resolution was to use education as a tool to empower disadvantage groups. According to the delegate, this resolution would allow marginalized groups to overcome structural disadvantages by strengthening the educational systems of the States. During his presentation, the delegate highlighted the importance of hemispheric cooperation, and pointed out that sharing experiences on best practices in educational programs would improve the region's educational standards.

Finally, the delegate of Uruguay outlined that the relationship between education and equality emphasizing that it is necessary for the people of the Americas to have capacity and knowledge, and that the only way to achieve this goals is through education.

It was through joint efforts and a constant and enriching dialogue that delegates came to an agreement by adopting both resolutions in pro of consolidating democracy and promoting economic growth and inclusion in the hemisphere. The exercise was an inspiring experience for all participants who by passing both resolutions showed real commitment for improving the everyday life of the people of the Americas.



"Finally, all the participants have now a greater knowledge of the institution's relevance in the hemisphere and its role as a roundtable, promoting essential values for a peaceful coexistence among our peoples and nations."

- Alvaro Zapatel, Delegate of Saint Lucia

The procedures of the 11th edition of the MOAS-PC were staged within the same settings and protocols in which the Permanent Council meets to debate the various challenges facing the region. Through this rigorous enactment, delegates had the unique opportunity of experiencing the everyday dilemma that a diplomat faces. Within the context, they engaged in conscientious debates on the issues surrounding the main themes. The Member States were careful to make their proposals, taking into account the individual and regional priorities that came into play when decisions of this genre are made. It must be mentioned, that this encounter was briefly graced with the distinguished presence of the Ambassador of Guatemala.

It is highly appropriate to emphasize the persistent efforts of all the delegations in the time preceding the MOAS and amidst its execution. Their dedication enabled the session to be performed successfully: the objectives were achieved and the solutions that emanated from their engagement were based on multilateral cooperation among the Americas.



During the Closing Ceremony, MOAS Secretary General Kenneth Acuña, congratulated the delegates for their vigorous participation and highlighted the importance of compromise when adopting agreements. In addition, Mrs. Nelly Robinson, MOAS Program Coordinator, saluted both resolutions and made several remarks on the success of the Model, furthermore Mrs. Robinson kindly congratulated the authorities of the MOAS-PC on leading the discussions to fruitful resolutions.

The event finalized with the distribution of certificates to the participants by the staff of the Departments of International Affairs and Human Resources. It must be noted that both resolutions will be forwarded to the President of the Permanent Council, who having attended the Opening Ceremony, might be inclined to consider the ideas put forward by the youth attending this MOAS. This is a clear example of how the voices of the youth could influence changes in the region.

Resolution: "Towards the Promotion of Micro and Medium Enterprises"

- To invite Member States to place special emphasis on the creation of SME's public policies
To implement corporate social responsibility programs and guidelines
- To support micro-business models for sustainable development
- To encourage Member States in their efforts to create flexible taxation programs for SMEs.
- To raise the awareness of micro-finance services to micro-entrepreneurs



"The opportunity to participate in the MOAS enables us interns to enhance our knowledge about relevant issues in the hemisphere."

- Alejandro Go, Delegate of United States



"I think the MOAS is a great opportunity for students and young people to see how decisions are made on an international platform and the challenges that go along with consensus making."

- Hillary Claug, Delegate of Colombia

Resolution "Education as an approach to promote development and reduce inequality"

- To request Member States to promote the education of vulnerable groups and social actors
- To support capacity building programs for vulnerable groups and social actors
- To develop and strengthen national training and certification systems that enhances basic education and skilled employment for youth
- To build partnerships with the private sector and corporations to fulfill best practice initiatives

A MESSAGE FROM MOAS SECRETARY GENERAL



This year's topic was of particular interest to our internship class. Considering Latin America's recent economic success, the issue of equitable growth and inclusion is vital to ensure that this period of "boom" is sustainable and will not be followed by a "bust" like many times in the past. Understanding the relevance of the topic, our class successfully balanced our day-to-day work duties at the OAS with MOAS/PC preparation.

Not knowing what to expect from the MOAS/PC, we submerged ourselves in our roles and before we knew it we had two resolutions completed and made many new friends. Considering the diversity of this year's group, coming to agreement was not easy. However, by trusting each other and allowing the best ideas come to the table, we were able to succeed.

I would like to thank everyone involved in the MOAS process. In particular, I would like to thank Natalia Franco for her dedication and stellar efforts in helping to make this internship so rewarding!

Kenneth Acuña

THE 11TH MOAS/PC IN PICTURES



About the MOAS

The Model of Permanent Council for Interns of the Organization of American States is organized by the Department of International Affairs and the Department of Human Resources three times a year at the OAS headquarters in Washington, DC. This semester marks the 8th MOAS for interns, since its inception in 2008.

The MOAS promotes democratic values among the youth through simulation exercises of the main political bodies of the hemispheric Organization. Interns represent each one of the Member States, in accordance with the policies of the assigned countries. The MOAS allows the interns to practice negotiating with other delegations, and to practice public speaking while debating resolutions.

For more information about the MOAS/PC and MOAS General Assembly programs, please contact:

Department of International Affairs
moas@oas.org (202) 458-6897