

The Intern-American

Final Newsletter

19th Model of the Permanent Council for OAS interns

Development with Social Inclusion

A Note from the Public Information Officers



Now that the 19th session of the MOAS/PC is over, we wanted to take the opportunity to thank the MOAS Coordination Team and the HR Team for giving us the opportunity to have such a great experience. We have both learned so much from observing debates and getting a front-row seat to how the youth views such a controversial issue as is implementing development policies in indigenous communities.

This newsletter begins by resuming the events of the debates in both the General Committee and the CIDI, and highlighting the major motions of each committees' resolutions.

Then, there is an exposé on the involvement of specialists Mr. Santiago Noboa and Mr. Luis Toro as advisers in the General Committee and the CIDI, respectively, and how their advice enriched the resolutions of the delegates.

We close with an interview with one of the delegates for the Bolivarian Republic of Venezuela, undoubtedly the most passionate of debaters and role-play crusaders.

We've enjoyed putting this together and hope that this experience will stick with you as you move forward professionally.

MOAS Love
Alyssa and Isabella



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- Make students aware of the most important issues in the Americas.
- Train committed leaders.

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Delegates of the General Committee Motion to Establish Two New Sections



After hours of debate over content and semantics, the General Committee finally agreed to create two new sections within the OAS. The first, to be established within the Department of Sustainable Democracy and Special Missions, would seek to enhance the political participation of minorities in decision-making institutions and raise awareness about the importance of such participation. The second section would be responsible for analyzing the data sent in by Member

States to determine the impact of projects on the economic, political, and cultural development of minorities. After taking their ideas to the PC and a tough round of negotiations (during which Venezuela was almost expelled after disagreeing with the Chair), the initiatives of the General Committee were adopted unanimously.

The idea to create two new sections within the OAS emerged the day before from the General Committee's three working groups. Tasked with drafting three clauses each for potential inclusion in the resolution, delegates contemplated ways to improve minorities' participation in social development projects in rural areas. While some delegates thought about launching programs to equip and certify minorities with certain sets of skills, others thought of ways to use tourism as a tool to promote social inclusion and strengthen the community. It was only after feisty debate, with Canada, Paraguay, and Bolivia trying to oppose each others' initiatives, that delegates finally reached a consensus leading to the establishment of two new sections.



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Delegates of the CIDI Resolve to Encourage Participation of Indigenous Peoples



In the debate of the resolution to be presented by the CIDI resolutions was, different Member States reconciled their own conceptions on human rights and environmental conservation with different indigenous tribes' world views. This was exemplified in the

working group stage, which had to be extended into the next day in order to accommodate continuing debate on such a delicate topic. Then came an arduous debate on the inclusion of the word "cosmovision," which refers to the indigenous peoples' relationship to nature, into the resolutions on cultural preservation.

All in all, the CIDI resolved to take indigenous culture, experience, priorities and knowledge when implementing development policies and to ensure their participation in such projects. Furthermore, the committee resolved to make sure any policy on health, education and culture involve the participation of indigenous authorities and leaders. The committee even resolved to introduce a new permanent institution -the Inter-American Institute of Indigenous Culture-in order to promote, defend and learn from different indigenous cultures around the Hemisphere. The Institute will also hold a summit for the exchange of such knowledge, and will even ensure access to education about governmental practices for indigenous peoples. The committee also presented a new Model Law to be followed which gives policy makers a certain structure to follow in the policy making and consultation of indigenous peoples in the creation of development policies to be imposed upon them.



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Interventions of Specialists Help Keep Challenges Real

Brimming with ideas and youthful optimism, delegates sometimes drafted clauses without fully considering their implications. Specialist Santiago Noboa in the General Committee and Specialist Luis Toro in the CIDI helped keep the simulation highly realistic by highlighting the concerns that real delegates would voice. When the General Committee promoted establishing a judicial and legislative framework for ensuring minority participation in development, Mr. Noboa reminded delegates that resolutions apply to the executive branch and that it would be difficult for countries to respect clauses pertaining to the other two branches of government. Mr. Noboa also urged delegates to examine the consequences of economic development for indigenous traditions, suggesting that the representatives think twice before enacting clause altering the economy of indigenous communities. In the CIDI when delegates discussed establishing the Inter-American Institute of Indigenous Culture, Specialist Luis Toro intervened to ask delegates how they would fund the project. Venezuela, the main proponent of the initiative, was caught on the defensive, saying that it had already discussed the issue during the working group session and that it envisioned the funding coming from Member States and external sources. This then prompted interventions from Chile, Nicaragua, Bolivia, Argentina and Canada. After the delegates reached an agreement, Specialist Luis Toro informed them that the OAS had a similar institute in Mexico City for 48 years, but that it closed eight years ago due to lack of funding.



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Spotlight on the Bolivarian Republic of Venezuela

Venezuela could be called anything but a passive bystander at this 19th session of the MOAS/ PC for OAS Interns. Venezuela was a game-changer and an often impassioned break from the formality of Permanent Council protocol. We got to chat with one of the delegates representing Venezuela, Marco Germano, and got an insider's perspective on the most memorable delegation of the session.

As with all of the other delegations, the interns who represented Venezuela had to stay true to their Member States' positions in the Permanent Council. As such, Mr. Germano details that although the delegation agrees with the General Committee's resolution, they would have preferred some more care for the indigenous tribes' self-determination and also for more understanding of their "cosmovision" in the resolution developed by CIDI. However, the extent of Venezuela's did not stop there. Mr. Germano described how Venezuela tends to be very present and vocal in these situations, and in order to make the experience more realistic they decided to act a bit more forcefully than most other delegations. After all, as he said, this is a learning experience and by making it more realistic, they got to squeeze some fun out of the experience, too. What a way to spice up the MOAS!



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