



SIXTH MODEL OF THE PERMANENT COUNCIL FOR OAS INTERNS



6TH MOAS-PC

MARCH 18, 2010

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

The mission 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

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Uniting to Confront Natural Disasters

INTERNS PASS RESOLUTIONS TO PROMOTE DISASTER RISK REDUCTION AND MITIGATION STRATEGIES



WASHINGTON, D.C.-70 interns from across the Americas gathered March 18th, 2010, for the Sixth Model of the OAS' Permanent Council (MOAS-PC) to strategize on vulnerability reduction and disaster mitigation and management, two highly relevant issues in light of the recent earthquakes in Haiti and Chile.

It has been noted that recent increases in the severity of natural disasters have been linked to climate change. MOAS-PC President, Natalia Hermida, stated that the current environmental situation is at a critical juncture: "the outlook for future generations is grim, whole ecosystems are being destroyed, jeopardizing the lives and livelihoods of entire communities all around the world."

2010 Winter Interns at the 6th MOAS-PC

Representing the 33 active Member of the OAS, interns faced the complex tasks of drafting, debating, and voting on viable proposals to reduce disaster vulnerability and enhance disaster mitigation strategies. Jeymar Bianchis, chair of the vulnerability reduction working group, and Laura Navarro, chair of the disaster mitigation and management working group, helped lead interns in the drafting of the resolutions.

Irene Klinger, Director of the Department of International Affairs, which along with the Department of Human Resources helped organize the MOAS-PC, gave the opening remarks stressing the relevance of these topics.

She mentioned that during that week, the OAS would be hosting the Haitian Diaspora Forum in an attempt to address critical issues like reconstruction. She added that about 11 billion dollars are needed for reconstruction efforts in Haiti and 30 billion are needed in Chile. She closed her remarks by stressing the importance of the MOAS-PC as it promotes awareness among the youth about current issues and the work of the OAS.

Ambassador José Enrique Castillo-Barrantes, Permanent Representative of Costa Rica to the OAS and President of the Permanent Council was the keynote speaker; he began by congratulating the Department of International Affairs for using the MOAS to promote democracy among the youth in the hemisphere; "the simulation teaches interns about the

EDITORIAL

By Alexandra Tate, MOAS/PC Public Information Officer



As climate change prompts the intensification of natural disasters, we must identify ways and means to prevent and mitigate these phenomena and the risks of grave social consequences. In many nations, such catastrophes cause tragic deaths and injuries, as well as critical material losses, with long term negative impacts for countless families and the social fabric as a whole. Oftentimes, emergencies bring about the breakdown of the basic political and economic processes, undermining overall security. Some can be absolutely devastating, as in Haiti.

The most vulnerable people in our societies, those with less resources and protection, particularly women and children, are disproportionately affected, and thus, the promise of freedom is severely curtailed for them. Furthermore, catastrophes may boost the process of disempowering people and further isolate populations from democratic processes.

We must make every effort to alleviate these sufferings and contribute to achieve an enhanced security for all peoples around the world. Climate change must be decisively mitigated, upon the principle of common but differentiated responsibilities. Preparedness to natural disasters must be strengthened through appropriate capacity and institutional building and early warning systems, that are well supported by international aid and global public goods financing. Also, the affected people will benefit from a participatory, democratic involvement in the reconstruction of their own communities and nations.

The wellbeing of the people is the true foundation of democracy. The certainty of a decent livelihood, shared with dignity, provides the basis for the peaceful development of the full potential of all members of our societies. —Alexandra Tate—

27 of the 33 delegations were represented by women in this MOAS/PC



“The Earth was not given to you by your parents; it was loaned to you by your children. We do not inherit the Earth from our ancestors; we borrow it from our children”
Natalia Hermida quoting Oglala Sioux in her opening remarks.

70 interns took part in the 6th MOAS-PC for OAS Interns



Interns debate key hemispheric issues

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complexity of an international organization like the OAS and how to use its tools to help mitigate problems and reach

resolutions.” The Ambassador also spoke on the strengths and challenges of consensus: “while a consensus can be difficult to reach, it is the best way to ensure an effective level of cooperation among countries; it is also a good way to protect minorities.”

The second guest speaker to take the floor was Ambassador Frank Almaguer, Secretary for Administration and Finance. He congratulated the interns for participating in this exercise, as it gives interns a better idea of the negotiation process and the politics that go on behind it. In this MOAS, interns will reflect on the role of the OAS in disaster mitiga-

tion and, also how the roles of the UN and OAS play into this. He said that rather than competing against each other, the two have been trying to coordinate efforts.

Disaster mitigation and risk reduction strategy is of central importance in the region; natural disasters adversely affect countries ability to support democratic principles and human rights. He encouraged the interns to take full advantage of the MOAS. After all, “among us may well be a President of the future Permanent Council.”

Following the Opening





Ceremony, the OAS interns

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took over and MOAS President Natalia Hermida, along with MOAS Secretary General John Sparagowski, took their places at the head table. President Hermida then brought the MOAS-PC to order, establishing the order of precedence, presenting the order of business, and taking a vote on the Modus Operandi. Delegates then proceeded to make a general statement on the topics of the agenda, stating their country's perspective.

The delegate of Nicaragua commented on the lateral consequences of natural disaster and stressed the need for further cooperation and coordination between countries and greater information sharing.

The delegation of Saint Vincent and the Grenadines talked about its own vulnerability to natural disasters like hurricanes and tropical storms and noted the importance of preparing for the next hurricane season as the intensity of these storms has increased in recent years. The delegation then called for a unified rather than independent front, when confronting natural disasters.

The delegation of Argentina stated: "earthquakes remind us of how vulnerable our countries are to disasters," adding that investing in precautionary measures is more cost effective than investing in reconstruction and relief efforts.

The delegation of Barbados highly encouraged the enforce-

Interns Debate Key Hemispheric Issues

Delegates from Panama, Nicaragua, & Mexico listen to the debate

ment of building codes, hospital programs, and hemispheric cooperation in the region.

The delegation of Brazil suggested

that the Permanent Council keep three key points in mind throughout the day's meeting: human rights, the OAS's power to highly impact the region, and the importance of reaching a consensus today.

Costa Rica also discussed the relevance of today's topic, as it is directly linked to climate, social and economic changes.

The session then broke into two working groups, each assigned to one of the two agenda topics. In these working groups, interns met with expert Rosa Trejo, from the Department of Sustainable Development, to discuss and shape the scope of their resolutions.

Later, the two groups met for the Second Plenary Session, where delegates debated, questioned, and vote on the resolution proposals. In this session, motions were made to extend the speakers list to allow for more participation and insight.

The first resolution proposal discussed was entitled: "Meeting of Experts of the Inter-American Network for Disaster Mitigation (INDM) to Evaluate the Cases of Haiti and Chile." It was argued that through increased awareness and the exchange of information, Member States can better prepare for natural disasters. In terms of funding it was proposed that the Department of Sustainable Development would seek funding from Permanent Observer Countries.

A question was then asked about why the focus of the

resolution was mostly restricted to earthquakes and not extended to other types of natural disasters in more countries. To which a delegate from Working Group No. 1 answered that the proposal was intended to serve as an example on how to allocate resources and improve response mechanisms: "If this proposal is successful, it is hoped that other similar proposals will be passed, extending their scope." With a final vote of twenty in favor and thirteen against, the resolution passed.

The second proposal debated was entitled: "Inter-American Efforts for Effective Disaster Mitigation through Multilateral Coordination." Working group 2 called for an increased exchange of information and better coordination of resources among its Members. The group argued that more emphasis should be placed on the Inter-American Committee on Natural Disaster Reduction (IACNDR). With twenty-one votes in favor and twelve against, the resolution passed.

MOAS President Natalia Hermida and the Secretary General then gave their closing remarks. The Secretary General noted how impressed he was by the direction and commitment of the group; "it was a privilege to work with the group and see how fully engaged everyone was." Nelly Robinson, the MOAS Program Coordinator, stated that this has, so far, been the most successful group of interns and that we should be proud of our work, adding that this exercise shows that even if we come from diverse political positions, consensus is still possible. Tony Gaxiola, a DHR specialist on behalf of Rosa Maria Barreiro, Director of the Department of Human Resources, congratulated the interns and stressed how lessons learned during this important exercise can be utilized later in life.

-Alexandra Tate

Resolution 1
"Meeting of Experts of the Inter-American Network for Disaster Mitigation (INDM) to Evaluate the Cases of Haiti and Chile"

Final Vote:
In favor: 20
Against: 13



Resolution 2
"Inter-American Efforts for Effective Disaster Mitigation through Multilateral Coordination"

Final Vote:
In favor: 21
Against: 12



Interns Reflect on the MOAS-PC Experience



“Our organization, preparation, and dedication were key in the success of this year’s MOAS-PC” Delegation of Canada, Vitor Dos Santos, Brazil



“I would like to close by saying that in my three years of experience in Model United Nations simulations, I have never had the pleasure of working with such a dedicated and creative group of people as this one, and I am glad to have had this experience” - Secretary General John Sparagowski, USA



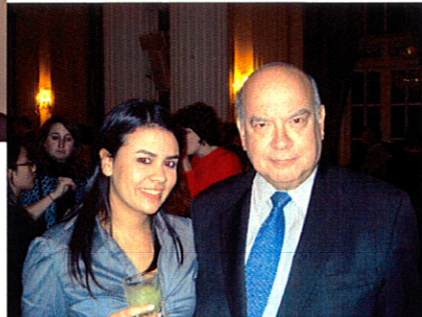
“Make the best of this experience, and always bear in mind that in each one of you rests a leader. And that this time, more than any other in recent history, is a time for fresh leadership. This is your time, to lead the way, to become the example, and to finally bring relief to those many nations that now rest the fates of their children, in your hands” - President Natalia Hermida



**THANKS! — GRACIAS!
OBRIGADO! — MERCI!**

The sixth MOAS-PC would like to thank Dr. Klinger, Ambassador José Enrique Castillo Barrantes, Ambassador Frank Almaguer, Mrs. Nelly Robinson, Ms. Betty Arevalo, and Mr. Luis Consuegra for all their help, direction, and inspiring words!

Pictures by Juan Manuel Herrera, Natalia Hermida, Walter Bonilla, and Alexandra Tate



“We must not forget that the success of the Model is in our hands, and so we must all rise to the task and make of this occasion an unprecedented success. Cooperation, preparation, along with the ability to work together with clear minds and warm hearts, are our most important assets” -President Natalia Hermida, Colombia

“I am proud to have participated in the 6th MOAS-PC. As chair for working group one I had to opportunity to interact and lead many fellow interns. Although reconciling different opinions within the group was certainly a challenge, it showed me, first hand, how difficult the task of the Permanent Council can be” - Jeymar Bianchis, Chair, Venezuela



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