



# EIGHTH MODEL OF THE PERMANENT COUNCIL FOR OAS INTERNS (8TH MOAS/PC)

NOVEMBER 15, 2010

## 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

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Group Photo (p.5)  
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## MOAS/PC PASSES RESOLUTIONS ON MIGRATION, PREVENTION OF HUMAN TRAFFICKING



Washington, DC.- The 8<sup>th</sup> Model of the Permanent Council (MOAS/PC) for OAS interns was held on November 15, 2010 at OAS Headquarters.

Seventy-five interns, representing the 33 OAS active Member States and the Permanent Council authorities, worked for seven hours to pass two resolutions pertaining to issues of migration and trafficking in the Americas. The first resolution, "Education and Information Strategies for Promotion of the Human Rights of Migrant Workers and their Families in the Americas: Recognition and Adoption of the International Migrant Day and support for the Creation of an Anonymous Migrant Human Rights Hotline," passed with a final vote of 28 to 5. The second resolution, "Prevention of Trafficking of Children and Adolescents: Implementation of Educational Programs," passed with a vote of 30 to 3.

The MOAS/PC opened with remarks from Ms. Irene Klinger,

Director of the Department of International Affairs (DIA/SER) at the OAS. She thanked the interns and the MOAS support staff for their work over the past two and half months in preparation for the Model.

Ms. Klinger focused her introductory remarks on the global transcendence of migration. Drawing upon international statistics, Ms. Klinger presented a comprehensive representation of the migration situation in the world today, where one in every thirty-five people is a migrant worldwide. Additionally, "around 15% of global migration originates from [the Americas] and one in seven current migrants in the world was born either in Latin America or the Caribbean," she said.

Citing the United States Department of Homeland Security, Ms. Klinger said that "as of 2009, the undocumented population in the United States reached nearly 12 million." Of those migrants, 13% (or 1.5 million people) are under the age of 18, she said.

Ms. Klinger closed by asking the interns to envision themselves in the position of OAS ambassadors. "Use your privileged position, your democratic values and diplomatic skills to make a difference for your fellow citizens."

Ambassador Darío Paya, the Permanent Representative of Chile to the OAS, addressed the MOAS interns afterwards, and emphasized the importance of learning about the needs and wants of other delegates during the international policy-making process. According to Paya, it is essential to recognize the "local" (country-specific) issues within globally-debated topics, such as migration.

"I think there is no better exercise," said Paya, in reference to the MOAS.

Following Amb. Paya, the MOAS President, Rudy Herrera, gave his opening remarks during the first plenary session of the MOAS/PC. "Today is a great day to practice what you've learned," he said, addressing the interns.

## MOAS passes resolutions on migration, prevention of human trafficking (cont.)



The Plenary session began with the approval of the Order of Business, the topics of the Agenda, and the Modus Operandi of the MOAS, which were all approved without conflict.

It continued with the establishment of the Order of Precedence, by lot. The first place in the Order of Precedence fell to Haiti, who had to present its opening remarks first, and was followed by the remaining 32 countries in alphabetical order.

Head Delegates were allotted a maximum of one minute to make their general statements to the MOAS plenary. Delegations used their general statements to identify and contextualize the ramifications of the migration and trafficking issues in each of their respective countries. "We are descendents of migrants, so we should care about them," said the Head Delegate from Argentina.

For many delegations, the topics of migration and trafficking were defined by human rights, and equal justice issues. The delegation of the Bolivarian Republic of Venezuela said it would reaffirm its commitment to "creating tolerance, solidarity, equality and justice for all persons, regardless of race, sex, gender or nationality."

Similarly, the delegation of Antigua and Barbuda called for the MOAS to recognize "the increasing feminization of migration," and that migrants are susceptible to racial and xenophobic treatment by citizens and the authorities.

Many delegations linked the achievement of a comprehensive migration or trafficking program with other national successes of their countries. In the context of trafficking of children and adolescents, the delegation from Saint Lucia stated that "democratic stability for our nations must be based on principles of equality, justice, public participation, and the full respect for the human rights of all."



After all the delegations had given their general statements, President Herrera broke the plenary of the Council into two Working Groups. Working Group 1, chaired by Stephanie Weiss with 16 countries; and Working Group 2, chaired by Dewi Zamora, with 17 countries.

Both groups revised their proposals, with the help of Rapporteurs, Gillian Goodrich and Daphne Hiatt, respectively. The first Working Group revised their wording, grammar, and format with the additional assistance of specialists. The second group reviewed their resolution, and voted on the name of their proposed education program.

After the official role call was taken for the 2<sup>nd</sup> plenary session, the resolution of Working Group 1, entitled "Education and Information Strategies for Promotion of the Human Rights of Migrant Workers and their Families in the Americas: Recognition and Adoption of the International Migrant Day and support for the Creation of an Anonymous Migrant Human Rights Hotline," was presented by Chair Stephanie Weiss. The resolution called for the recognition of International Migrant Day (December 18) and the creation and implementation of an anonymous migrant human rights hotline in Member States.

The delegations from Belize, El Salvador and Argentina were slated to speak in favor of the resolution. The delegation from Guyana asked why a specific day was needed to recognize migrants, to which the delegation from El Salvador replied that many countries celebrate other days of remembrance (such as Mother's Day). The addition of the day would be to specifically honor migrant heritage.

Additionally, the delegation of Saint Lucia asked to clarify the purpose of the hotline (whether it would be used to disseminate information to migrants or used to prosecute migration-related crimes), and also wanted to make sure that it did not



duplicate any legislation already in place. The delegation from Belize responded, saying that the hotline would be meant as a tool to reach out to migrant workers and would not conflict with any existing legislation, according to their research.

The delegations of Bahamas, Mexico and Nicaragua spoke against the resolution, and a motion was made to extend the number of questions. At the time of voting, the resolution garnered 16 votes in favor and 17 votes against, thus not passing the resolution.

At this point, Mrs. Nelly Robinson, MOAS Program Coordinator, invited the delegations to take into account the positions of their assigned countries in regards to the resolution, instead of their Working Groups' membership, and presented the option of reconsidering the vote on the resolution presented by WG1. She explained that "if they were willing to reconsider the decision they could do it with a vote". Then, she invited the delegations to lobby in the room and try to reach an agreement on the resolution. A five minute break was granted, during which the delegates negotiate with others in the room about the status of the resolution. When the plenary reconvened, the delegation of El Salvador made a motion to cancel the original vote, which was passed by majority, and the resolution was reopened for debate.

An amendment to the resolution proposed by the delegation of Bahamas called for "a non-disclosure agreement" to further protect the anonymity of migrant hotline users. Additionally, Grenada proposed another amendment to include non-governmental and civil society organizations in the implementation of programs. The amendments passed with 31 and 29 votes in favor, respectively. The resolution finally passed with 28 votes in favor.

The 2<sup>nd</sup> resolution of the MOAS, entitled "Trafficking of Children and Adolescents: Implementation of Educational Programs," was presented by Chair Dewi Zamora.

The resolution of the 2<sup>nd</sup> Working Group proposed an educational campaign entitled, "Your voice, your choice, your destiny!" which would teach children and adolescents about human trafficking at its legal ramifications.

Two amendments were brought to the floor by the delegations of Panama and Paraguay. The delegation of Panama proposed that the wording of one of the resolves be changed, but the amendment did not pass. The delegation of Paraguay proposed that the education campaign should be implemented within "all points of entry, including airports and seaports." The resolution passed with 30 votes in favor of the amended version.

The MOAS concluded with closing remarks from the MOAS Secretary General Erick Marin, who also commended the delegations of El Salvador and Jamaica for their hard work drafting the resolution in their Working Groups. The Secretary Marin also thanked the delegation of Belize for their "active participation" in the MOAS session.

"I would also like to acknowledge the delegate of Bahamas for his active voice in today's session, for his wonderful British accent and for always being politically incorrect," the Secretary General said.

Finally, the Secretary General recognized the delegations of Grenada and Colombia for their work outside of scheduled MOAS meeting times. He concluded thanking the delegates "for this wonderful opportunity, and I look forward to seeing all of you as future leaders in your countries one day," said the Secretary General at the close of the 8<sup>th</sup> Model of the Permanent Council.

## Meet the Working Groups

In preparation for the MOAS/PC, the Department of International Affairs assigned the interns to two Working Groups. These groups worked to produce a resolution pertaining to each of its own theme. On the day of the actual MOAS, approximately two hours are given to the working groups to review, edit and print their resolutions, as well as review and propose amendments to the resolution of the other group.

Although they worked to achieve the same goal of passing their respective resolution, the groups developed their own distinct negotiation styles.



*Working Group 1 (above left photo)*

**Resolution:** "Education and Information Strategies for Promotion of the Human Rights of Migrant Workers and their Families in the Americas: Recognition and Adoption of the International Migrant Day and support for the Creation of an Anonymous Migrant Human Rights Hotline."

**Chair:** Stephanie Weiss

**Rapporteur:** Gillian Goodrich

**Countries Represented:** Antigua and Barbuda, Argentina, Barbados, Belize, Bolivia, Costa Rica, Dominican Republic, El Salvador, Jamaica, Paraguay, Panama, Saint Vincent and the Grenadines, Suriname, Trinidad and Tobago, United States of America, and Venezuela

"With respect to the challenges, I believe that the ones presented in our working group were the ones we could expect in a real Permanent Council meeting, since each country will defend its interests and priorities, keeping in mind that all challenges were solved on a clear and democratic way... I believe that to have a successful MOAS experience, it's necessary to rely on leaders who communicate in a clear and direct manner. I also believe that it is essential to have a high level of compromise and patience, since the MOAS is a new experience for many interns (including me)." - Stephanie Weiss\*\*



"Working in a group like this seems to me to be an interesting exercise for the interns, because in this process they perhaps discovered an aspect of themselves that they didn't know. Maybe they had never imagined being interns of different departments who would end up being country representatives within a model of the Organization in which they worked. And that is interesting, seeing them develop, seeing them become leaders, seeing their concern with a concrete theme that is, above all, real." - Dewi Zamora\*\*

*Working Group 2 (above right photo)*

**Resolution:** "Prevention of Trafficking of Children and Adolescents: Implementation of Conventional and Non-Conventional Education Programs"

**Chair:** Dewi Zamora

**Rapporteur:** Daphne Hiatt

**Countries Represented:** Bahamas, Brazil, Canada, Chile, Colombia, Dominica, Ecuador, Grenada, Guatemala, Guyana, Haiti, Mexico, Nicaragua, Peru, Saint Kitts and Nevis, Saint Lucia and Uruguay

## The Last Word



### A message from the President

Overall, the 8<sup>th</sup> Model of the Permanent Council for the Fall 2010 Interns was a very successful and rewarding activity. I believe it is of utmost importance to understand how the Permanent Council functions and to experience personally some of the challenges of reconciling national political agendas with regional interests while using a very specific protocol for dialogue.

From the beginning of the Model, I noticed that both groups developed in their own way, and it was very encouraging to see that, regardless of their different approaches, they both achieved their goal of writing a resolution. Almost immediately after the first meetings occurred, both Chairs allowed all the participants in their groups to take initiative, Rapporteurs provided key support towards motivating the group and made it clear that the decisions, content and priorities of the resolutions had to come from the delegations. Progressively, leadership in terms of writing the resolution emerged in various delegates and more than one resolution was drafted in both working groups.

Witnessing the interaction between all the delegations present at the Model Permanent Council was truly rewarding. All participants had the chance to truly experience the dialogue that takes place between the representatives of the Member States, including the protocol used to discuss these resolutions in an organized manner.

Finally, I believe models such as this one should be made more accessible to more individuals of the Americas so that more people understand what the responsibilities of our governments are in facing the challenges in the region through international collaboration. More importantly, however, I think this activity enables us to improve our understanding of the current structure and think critically of it in order to constructively improve our efforts. After all, it is our responsibility, as citizens of our countries, to use our experience, education and political awareness to implement the ideals we believe in through action and personal example.

Thanks to the organizers of the MOAS/PC to the Authorities and to all the delegations who contributed to making of this event a success.

-President Rudy Herrera



I only have to thank you all, and say that it was a pleasure working with you. Each moment of the MOAS I felt moved by your work. The laughs, the anger of some, the debates in each Working Group, all the emails that filled the inboxes of everyone were the daily bread that made this activity so successful.

I carry every one of you in my heart, there are 77 spaces that I have reserved, and thank you so much for allowing me to enjoy this experience. Buena suerte, Good luck, Boa sorte, Bonne chance.

-Alethia Arango\*\*



Patrícia Leiva/OAS

### 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.

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Photo portraits by Jill Foley for OAS

\*\*Translated from the original Spanish