



XXXIII MODEL OAS GENERAL  
ASSEMBLY FOR UNIVERSITIES OF  
THE HEMISPHERE  
ST. KITTS MARRIOTT RESORT  
BASSETERRE, ST. KITTS  
FROM 24-26 MARCH, 2015

# SKN Insider

Communications Center

Volume 2

March 2015

**General Editor**  
*Sherema Matthew*

**Writers**  
*Ian Richards*  
*Zonique Browne*  
*Hasani Mc Donald*  
*Siobhan Phipps*  
*Zoe Quinlan*  
*Melissa Bryant*  
*Ghanja O'Flaherty*  
*Lesroy Williams*

**Editors**  
*Lesroy Williams*  
*Millicent Palmer -  
Dawson*

**Designers**  
*Sherema Matthew*  
*Eugene Vanterpool*

**Photographers**  
*Pierre Liburd*  
*Dason Fraser*  
*Van' Dre Gilbert*  
*Winsroy Duporte*

**MOAS Coordination**

~~Nelly Robinson~~  
Program Coordinator

Jeymar Bianchis  
MOAS Program  
Consultant

Visit us at [33moas.kn](http://33moas.kn)

[@skbmoas](https://www.instagram.com/skbmoas)

Moas skn



**Strong Female Presence for MOAS 2015**



*MOAS 2015 female participants delivers powerful presentations in their respective committees.*

## First Session of the General Committee on the Resolution



The first session of the General Committee was chaired by President Lauren Lee, and after some procedural matters, general statements and perspectives from experts, the general committee broke off into two (2) groups. The first being the branch in charge of the resolution and the other being for the declaration. The brainstorming session for the resolution was generally quite fruitful. Several points were brought to the Chair, among these were the encouragement for corporate social responsibility and the inclusion of civil society in this venture; the inclusion and training of indigenous and marginalized communities and people for peace building and conflict resolution, and the ideas of hemispheric cooperation, encouraging democratic participation and public education. Delegates of Venezuela, Mexico, Peru, the United States and Colombia showed a particular interest in the topic of indigenous representation and training, while Barbados gave numerous arguments for the idea of hemispheric cooperation in particular.

Peru, Colombia and Barbados were the most active in the discussion and gave a number of thoughts and perspectives on all perspectives presented. Delegates exercised most of their rights in the sitting, including directing questions to other delegates, moving motions and voting on the points to be discussed within the working groups. After two (2) unmoderated caucuses, the delegates were able to agree on three approaches for the working groups to discuss. The group was then separated into thirds to debate the following perspectives:

1. *Hemispheric cooperation to provide expert advice and technical assistance to resolve conflicts caused by investment projects and natural resource exploration.*
2. *A mechanism to encourage corporate social responsibility between corporations and the government and disadvantaged stakeholders.*
3. *Encouraging the incorporation of civil society perspectives at the local level relating to natural resource exploration, with consideration for environmental impact.*



## Delegates in the Third Committee continue Debating the draft resolutions in their working groups



Working group sessions for the Third Committee began at approximately 9:00 a.m. In these groups, delegates were engaged in discussions that provided the opportunity to deliberate the proposed perspectives in an effort to arrive at a resolution.

It was observed that the negotiation process for the four working groups presented a myriad of techniques to achieve their goals. Delegate Hayma S. Singh, representing USA emphasized that “despite the different approaches amongst member states, the process involved great diligence as consensus building was a top priority.” This was reinforced by the fact that other working groups incorporated similarities and differences in their approach to find a “common ground.” The delegates explained that the use of this structural format “encouraged the practice of democratic values in facilitating the negotiation process.”

The majority of the perspectives discussed in these working sessions were ideas previously discussed in the OAS. However, delegates saw the need for some of these perspectives to be revisited and improved upon for issues surrounding lack of finances and strategic and sustainable planning. In addition, the need for the introduction of proper awareness of disaster mitigation was recognized.

During the discussions of the different perspectives a number of hindering factors were highlighted. These included the difference in legislature and trading policies, the different level of development within member states, lack of community and national involvement, marginalization of the topic and lack of monetary funds. In an attempt to prevent these hindering factors, delegates justified the reasons why these resolutions would be successful. They were of the view that through the use of an inclusive and strategic approach to the perspective and the employment of reliable and credible information to support, their resolutions would be successful.

After delegates finalized their resolutions, they were reviewed by the OAS expert, Mr. Pablo González. Changes and recommendations were made; drafts were electronically forwarded to the Committee chair and later given to the MOAS General Secretariat to be reproduced.

## The Second Committee Working Groups

Session four started at 9:00 am, and consisted of working groups assembling again for the delegates to pick up from where they left off from Tuesday's session. The delegates of the four working groups were all actively partaking in the discussions and gave their opinions and perspectives. The MOAS authorities were present in the working groups despite their inability to vote. This allowed them to share ideas and contribute to the debate of the delegates.



## MOAS Building Life Skills



**Q and A with Professor Scott Dittloff- University of Incarnate Word – Texas USA**

**Q: Tell us about your responsibility at the 33rd MOAS?**

A: Well, my job is basically over. I have been preparing the students to do negotiations, to learn a little bit about the OAS, how the OAS process works and then teaches them about the basic issues that they are addressing. There are half a dozen issues such as disaster relief, humanitarian responses in things of this nature, migration and then probably the most important thing from my point of view, how to arrive at a consensus among different states that may have different sorts of concerns.

**Q: That is a perspective that I am not sure that most persons would have thought of, the fact that negotiation is a life skill that can serve you in any area of life.**

A: Absolutely. It includes anything from marriage, getting a job or even getting a raise. It is a great skill to have. The other person is competing against you in most things anyway, even though it is not a physical battle. The fact is, you know that if one person gets the raise, that means that you don't. If one person gets the house or the particular car, that means that you don't.

**Q: It also branches off into conflict resolution.**

A: Absolutely, and it's a good way of avoiding the conflict in the first place. Simple conflicts do not have to end in animosity. If you can recognize that, then you can say 'okay, what do I do to resolve the issue in an amicable way?'

**Q: That is an important skill for a young person, especially the delegates here given the fact that the world is getting smaller. You know that people are traveling and migrating more which results in exposure to different cultures around the world.**

A: Absolutely. They will meet other people who are different and they have to recognize that there are different approaches, different cultures, and different viewpoints on things. You must recognize that even though we are politically very powerful, we do not make up the majority of the world's population. There are many others in the world who want the same sort of things that we want such as oil, development and jobs. You have to learn that you can't have everything, it's not necessary to have everything.

## It's All In The Numbers

**Number 1:** St. Kitts and Nevis is a progressive country. The Federation is number **1** in exports to the US in the Organization of Eastern Caribbean States (OECS). It has the **highest** minimum wage as well as claiming number **1** in foreign direct investment in the OECS. The Federation is at it again as it now cops the title as 1st CARICOM country to host the Model OAS General Assembly (MOAS) for Universities of the Hemisphere..

**The 3s Have It:** St. Kitts and Nevis' Minister of Foreign Affairs, the Hon. Mark Brantley, welcomed delegates to the start of the **33<sup>rd</sup>** MOAS on the **24<sup>th</sup>** day of the **3<sup>rd</sup>** month of the year. The opening came exactly **33** days after the Federation's **third** Prime Minister began duties at Government Headquarters leading a coalition of **3** political parties.

**Number 33:** There are **10** universities from **9** countries participating in the **33<sup>rd</sup>** MOAS. **Seven** of the universities are participating for the first time. **10+9+7=?**



*"It's very intense in the working groups, but I am enjoying it. It's very interesting and it's a great experience."*

*(Vladamir Budhu— Delegate: Columbia)*

**The Declaration Committee seeks not only to mitigate but also use migration for regional development**



Discussions continued Wednesday in the Declaration working group with delegates focusing on diaspora engagement in conjunction with promoting development through migration; increasing human development while actively combating human trafficking in the region, and strengthening sub-regional work in the area of migration. While the delegates deliberated, the MOAS Authorities continued to diligently assist committee members with editing and compiling throughout the day.

Delegates from Suriname, Jamaica and Argentina are looking at existing programs geared towards migration in the region. According to Gladys Augustus (from the delegation of Jamaica), much of this includes looking at the resolutions put forward at the OAS and other international fora to determine what must be considered in the proposals made today in terms of human rights' policies. Augustus and her colleagues from Suriname and Argentina believe this is an important measure in addressing loopholes in the existing framework.

In the area of diaspora engagement, representatives from Bolivia and Brazil are hoping to present resolutions that will work towards increasing national pride among the region's diaspora. It is important to "maintain the national pride of those who migrate, mainly for job opportunities, because they help with the development of their countries from afar with remittances", said Roleece Brookes from Brazil. Brookes indicated that one avenue being explored to maintain and increase national pride is to offer foreign nationals representation at the OAS and other sub-regional bodies like CARICOM.

Colombia, the United States, Trinidad & Tobago and Peru, as a diverse group spanning the region in geography and experience, have taken up the issue of human trafficking as well as human development. It was decided at large that they would address the youth aspect of the Declaration as human development naturally presents as means to do so. The immediate goal is not only to increase access to youth development and capacity building programs but to increase awareness of existing programs as well. On the matter of human trafficking, the delegates seek to present ways for the region to strengthen policies to eradicate human trafficking with special focus on creating legislation to criminalize this practice in countries which have no legal repercussions for perpetrators.



Maria Moreno, the expert supporting the committee, expressed how impressed she was with the knowledge and understanding of the delegates on the issue and how efficiently the group was proceeding.

**Entertaining Reception at Government House**



Consensus in committee sessions may take some deliberation but it was immediate when participants were asked about the welcoming reception held at Government House. Delegates from the United States, Colombia and Trinidad & Tobago agreed that the event was very entertaining.

Kurba-Marie Questelles (from Trinidad & Tobago) from the delegation of Colombia expressed that it was a *"nice change to see the dances and promotion of Kittitian culture, because although there are similarities [throughout Caribbean culture], there were [also] observable differences."*

*"I loved all the different dances"*, said Shellon Fraser when asked what she felt were the evening's highlights. Fraser even admitted to a little dancing of her own. Although the evening began with smaller groups tentatively socializing amongst themselves, before the night was over true regional integration was on display with delegates enjoying the music together.



## Interview with the Second Committee Chair

An interview was conducted with the Second Committee Chair, Nicolás Alarcón, from Universidad Católica San Pablo, in order to obtain the perspective from a non-voter concerning the topic under discussion, cannabis policies, and his experience as MOAS authority.

**Q. How do you personally feel about the topic?**

A. I think it is a very complicated topic with different perspectives that can have political, social and economic consequences. In order to properly approach the topic, we must be innovative and creative without forgetting the past actions of the OAS.

**Q. Do you have any concern that you will not be able to vote on?**

Yes, the perspective on decriminalization. I would have liked to vote on that because it is a very sensitive topic and different countries have so many [different] views.

**Q. Do you believe that there should be one type of rule or definition for what decriminalization is since it varies from country to country?**

I do think we are moving forward to have a common consensus on the topic. However, the issue of having the same view on decriminalization would be difficult, since countries have different policies.

**Q. Do you think this initiative of working groups is effective?**

Of course it is effective. In fact I think it is more effective. The group work dynamic process was absent from the previous procedure of this Model OAS. I think it is effective since we can hear ideas of different delegates and it is also realistic, since negotiation is involved, which is [an] integral part of OAS procedures.



## News from the Americas

### OAS Secretary General Honoured by IADB

The Secretary General of the Organization of American States (OAS), José Miguel Insulza, was recognized on Tuesday (March 24) for his sterling *“support, management and valuable services”* over the past 10 years to the development and integration of the Inter-American Defense Board of the OAS.

### Uruguay Refuses Gitmo Detainees

The new Government in Uruguay says the country will no longer accept detainees from the United States detention center in Guantanamo Bay, Cuba. Last December, it accepted six Arab inmates.

### Youth from Caribbean Region Get Animation and Software Training

Four hundred young people in Barbados and the Eastern Caribbean will benefit from a training programme in mobile application and animation.



# Day Two of MOAS 2015 in Images

