



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

# SKN INSIDER

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Moas skn

**ELECTION IS OVER!!! Committees voted to choose the Authorities for the 34th MOAS for Universities of the Hemisphere**



Declaration of Operative Clause had 14 resolves all of which were passed.

The General Committee had 3 resolutions passed, Committee Two and Three each had 4 resolutions passed.



## General Committee discussed Outcome of Brainstorming sessions



The General Committee were divided into three (3) working groups to discuss the points derived from the brainstorming sessions. Each group focused on a specific point. Delegates argued for, gave ideas and perspectives within the groups and contributed to the creation of the draft resolution. This process consumed most of the morning and continued into the afternoon. While in their groups, both the Chair, President Lee and the Expert, Ms. Yadira Soto, visited each table and gave advice and knowledge.

In their respective groups, delegates from Brazil, Canada, Costa Rica, Mexico, St. Kitts and Venezuela were present and active in the discussions. The conversation focused on the point ***“Hemispheric cooperation to provide expert advice and technical assistance to resolve conflicts caused by investment projects and natural resource exploration”***. Several views and arguments were presented. The conflict between indigenous people and companies or government bodies were looked into. Points brought about included the training of native people by companies, cases of alliances between indigenous people and government, and the possibility of promoting a summit between high pollutant companies and the indigenous people whose land and resources are affected. Costa Rica raised the question of who would be defined as “indigenous people” as governments should take care of all their people. The argument of the OAS attempting to resolve conflicts was also debated. Delegates shared how conflicts arose in their countries or regions.

Costa Rica spoke on migration into the country from the South and how this can cause conflicts. St. Kitts gave the point of their Citizenship by Investment program causing a few international discrepancies. Venezuela expressed that the OAS should give expert advice and draft policies with steps to take and ways to go about resolving conflicts. The idea of opening up discussions to the public in a broadcasted forum to give locals a voice was also expressed.



## Committee Two Debates on Cannabis



The fifth session of the second committee began with the debate of the draft resolutions presented by the four working groups. The debates of the four working groups included: decriminalization of cannabis for personal use; to promote educational programs addressing the harmful effects of cannabis on students; initiative in the regard to the scientific research of cannabis for medical use and the inter-American coordination with the OAS on professional assistance through hemispheric Non-Governmental Organizations (NGO)’s on strategies for decriminalization and prevention of underage usage. The debates were slightly complex and were filled with questions and comments for clarification purposes.

Delegates of Mexico were in support of the decriminalization of cannabis for personal use while the delegates of the Federation of St. Kitts and Nevis were strongly against it, stating that the OAS should not promote decriminalization because it would impose on existing policies and it is not acceptable. However, the delegate from Columbia insisted that the main objective is to support countries that are already considering the decriminalization of cannabis for personal use and not to impose on existing policies.

After a brief coffee break, the delegates presented on amendments for the different operative clauses. Votes were cast in order to pass a motion. After votes were cast, different delegates aired their concerns on the operative clauses on the controversial topic. Eventually, all four resolutions were passed and were then displayed electronically.



### Committee Three Debates on Draft Resolutions



The session opened with the presentation of the first resolution which revolved around the idea of improving the education of disaster preparedness and response. This resolution wished to adapt a system similar to that of The United Nations Children’s Fund (UNICEF), through the implementation of “School in a Box,” enhancing curriculum to improve awareness and to provide effective financial management. During this debate, the resolution received many criticisms and amendments as a result of vagueness and ambiguity that existed within these proposals. In response, members of the working group, clarified misconception for puzzled delegates. However, after much debate, the resolution received two (2) votes in opposition and thirteen (13) votes in support. Hence, the resolution was passed.

The second resolution appeared to be well researched as the clauses included no ambiguity. As a result, the resolution had an overwhelming majority of support with no votes in opposition. On the other hand, resolution three which revolved around the topic of “Gender perspective,” raised issues in support of gender inequality versus the community on a whole. During the discussion, delegates in this particular working group provided other delegates with convincing evidence that allowed for the resolution to be passed with no votes in opposition. The final resolution that was based on enforcing legislation for strict adherence to building codes followed the established trend of resolution two and three and ended with no votes in opposition. However, clarification was needed for point three of the resolve. All proposals of committee three were passed.



### Declaration General Committee Vote



On March 26, 2015, the draft of the Declaration of Basseterre as written by the Preparatory Committee was presented to the General Committee for debate. The Declaration now entitled “Declaration on the Multilateral Cooperation of the Western Hemisphere States on Migration and Development” aims to address migration as a key issue facing the region giving particular attention to human rights, as well as youth who account for forty per cent of the global population.

The review process proceeded smoothly with only two motions to amend the draft resolutions ahead of its presentation in the plenary session of the General Assembly. This included an ardent attempt by the delegate from Canada to amend Resolve 3 in such a way that it would put more emphasis on the return of nationals to their home territories after educational or professional training abroad. Mexico’s objection to the proposal was based on the idea that such a change would infringe on the internal management of member states. Although Colombia disagreed with Mexico’s assessment, no support was offered to Canada’s rephrasing. The amendment was denied when only Canada voted in favour of the change.

While Mexico raised a question concerning the implementation of Resolve 10 which seek “to promote the growth of the national economy, establishing and enhancing opportunities within society via infrastructural development,” it was agreed that such a degree of specificity was not required of the Declaration.

Before the Declaration was passed, a final motion to amend Resolve 14 was put forward by the delegate from St. Kitts-Nevis. The amendment passed without contest and the resolve now indicates that the Department of Financial and Administrative Management will handle “voluntary contributions of member states, international donors and civil society.” Following these changes the Declaration passed by consensus at the General Committee and moved on to be presented at the General Assembly.



### News of the Americas

#### OAS Secretary General Discusses Regional Issues in Bogotá

OAS Secretary General José Miguel Insulza recently met with the Minister of Foreign Affairs of Colombia, Maria Angela Holguin to discuss a number of regional issues. Chief among these issues was the April 10 and 11 Summit of the Americas to be held in Panama.

#### Cuba Grows Closer with the West

Cuba and the European Union are moving towards normalizing relations by the end of 2015 following a meeting between President Raul Castro and EU Foreign Policy Chief Federica Moherini on Tuesday.

#### Caribbean Ideal for Medical Tourism

Medical or healthcare tourism in the Caribbean is bound to get more attention after an article entitled “13 Opportunities for the New Caribbean” is published by a consulting group.

#### UN Ranks Chile High

The United Nations special rapporteur on extreme poverty and human rights has praised Chile for the “extraordinary progress” made in economic growth and poverty reduction.



The Winners are In!!!!

*In the afternoon sessions, the election process was the main event for every committee. Candidates vied for the title of chair, vice chair and president. They both delivered a two minute presentation highlighting the reasons why they should be chosen.*



Name: Kennedy Hatfield (Standing)  
 Delegation: Peru  
 Position: MOAS President

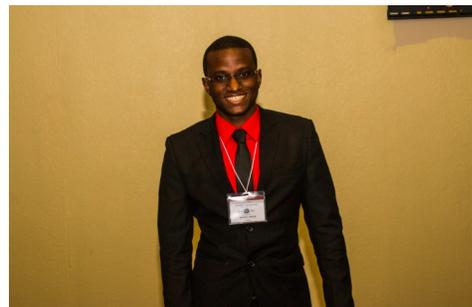


*“Leadership is not about commanding respect but depicting humility and encouraging others to lead via your example.”*

Name: Kurba Marie Questelles  
 Delegation : Colombia  
 Position Vice Chair—General Committee



Name: Denson Modeste  
 Delegation: Jamaica  
 Position: Chair—Second Committee



Name: Rondelle Keller  
 Delegation: Columbia  
 Position: Vice Chair—Second Committee



Name: Gustavo Carillo  
 Delegation : Barbados  
 Position: Chair—Third Committee



Name: Le-Shante La Toya Marks (Front)  
 Delegation : USA  
 Position: Vice Chair—Third Committee

## MOAS or MOEA: Does it Really Matter?

The past MOAS in St. Kitts (March 24-26, 2015) was the first time it has been conducted in an English-speaking country in the Caribbean. The Model OAS (MOAS) General Assembly programme for universities of the hemisphere started in Washington D.C. in 1980. Sessions have been held in Spanish and English in member states over three decades.

The significance of the MOAS being held in St. Kitts in English was underscored by faculty member of the University of Guyana (UG), Kadasi Ceres.



“I had a meeting with my students and they reported that the rules of procedure are more strictly observed in the Spanish model,” Kadasi said. “I can put that down to the fact that we basically are now starting the English model in the Caribbean, so obviously it is going to take some time for us to get familiar with these things.”

“They are trying to solve some of the problems confronting the citizens of the hemisphere from their particular perspective and of course you know just meeting their colleagues from across the region and hearing their ideas, that’s a positive,” Mr. Kadasi said.

Students from the University of Guyana have not had to struggle with the language barrier that required translators at the Spanish model and are very comfortable here in St. Kitts and Nevis, Mr. Kadasi said. Regarding future Spanish models, Mr. Kadasi said “We believe that these experiences are extremely rewarding overall, so that’s why we will continue to go to that model.”

## First Time Participants reflected on experiences



Shilohna Phillanders & Rondelle Keller, both from the University of the West Indies-St. Augustine Campus in Trinidad and Tobago, were present at the MOAS for the very first time, representing the Republic of Colombia.

When asked how the experience had been so far, both remarked positively saying that it had been good and would aid in their International Relations studies. Ms. Phillander spoke on how the entire process was interesting as she was able to experience the various procedures firsthand. Mr. Keller called the experience “enlightening”, expounding on the point made by his colleague and partaking in the procedures, rather than reading or hearing about them in class. He also commented on the chance to visit St. Kitts.

When questioned about their participation in anything similar to MOAS 2015, they both recalled their experiences partaking in the Model United Nations (MUN). They paralleled the experience to that of the MOAS. However, they agreed that they were still different. Mr. Keller noted that MOAS was “more detailed and more specific in how you go about procedures”, commenting also that at the MOAS, he felt that he was an actual delegate for that country compared to MUN and took the opportunity to give thumbs up to the organizers.

The duo commented on their preparations for the model and stated that as a result of the initial postponement, and eventual cancellation of the event in 2014, their preparations took a “backburner” to their studies. After the model was reinstated, it then became a priority again. However, due to the fact that UWI has never participated in MOAS, there was no one to pull insight from. As explained by Mr. Keller, they basically had to rely on each other and any information their lecturers knew about OAS. They agreed that this may not have been sufficient as they experienced a few “surprises” while participating but were able to adapt and remained confident.

The delegates stressed their interest in participating in upcoming MOAS. Mr. Keller seemed very excited at the chance to run for a position, though he said he would not do it this year as a novice, but would wait and build more experiences. Ms. Phillander on the other hand, expressed that she was in the last year of her Master’s degree and may not be able to fill the requirements, however, if she was given the opportunity, she would take it gladly.



### The Diplomatic Academy of the Caribbean shares similar values with the OAS



Margot Mesnard, Project Assistant for the Diplomatic Academy of the Caribbean at the University of the West Indies, St. Augustine, Trinidad, says that it is important for students from the Diplomatic Academy to be present at the 33<sup>rd</sup> Model OAS (MOAS) General Assembly for Universities of the Hemisphere in St. Kitts.

Ms. Mesnard says that the Organization of American States (OAS) and their academy share similar goals in the areas of communication, negotiation and conflict management and treaty drafting. The Diplomatic Academy has as its motto “Learning and Advocacy for Peace, Development and Diplomacy.” The four pillars of the OAS are democracy, human rights, security and development.

“It’s important for the Diplomatic Academy of the Caribbean to be present here because we offer very hands-on, practical training and we believe in simulation and real life exercises so this opportunity for students is great as they can apply theory and they can see how to negotiate with persons with different theories,” Ms. Mesnard said.

Ms. Mesnard believes that in a globalized world, diplomacy is of vital importance. She especially underscored the need for trade diplomacy in the Caribbean region.

“Trade is the backbone of a country’s economy and the Caribbean is still trying to find some kind of integration within itself with the CARICOM and also with Latin America and right now there is a lot of negotiation with the European Union in terms of the European Partnership Agreement,” she said.

“All these free trade movements to which the world is going through need some kind of new thinking in terms of negotiation you need to learn the strategies of how to negotiate and make your point clear our students are learning how to,” Ms. Mesnard said.

Ms. Mesnard believes that the Caribbean needs a new era in Caribbean diplomacy and hemispheric institutions such as the OAS are working to create this.

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### SKNYPA Members Commit to Share Benefits from MOAS



Members of the St. Kitts National Youth Parliament Association (SKNYPA) have “learned a lot” from the first MOAS to be held in a Caribbean Community (CARICOM) member country.

Eight members of SKNYPA and three of its partners assumed the role of OAS Secretary General, Assistant Secretary General, and other key authority positions during the 33<sup>rd</sup> MOAS. The group’s president DeHaan Henry said that the members are quite familiar with parliamentary procedures from their sessions in youth parliament and that the MOAS has expanded their understanding of international protocols.

“It’s a different style of debate,” Mr. Henry said. “While parliamentary protocol is still observed, the way that resolutions are passed and the way that the work is done were really eye openers.”

SKNYPA intends to take the lessons learned from the past three days (March 24 to 26) and share them with youth across St. Kitts and Nevis.

“We are actually going to be doing model-styled work,” Mr. Henry indicated. “That is something that we have to encourage throughout by having or hosting more models in St. Kitts and Nevis, it will inform persons of what the OAS is doing and what it stands for. That is our commitment coming out of this.”

The SKNYPA president insisted that youths must embrace their responsibility in society.

“Young people, we are a majority and we should have more say. But having more say doesn’t mean we should just walk into a building and say we have a right. With rights, come responsibilities and we have to be more responsible as young people with our country and the decision- making process. We have a responsibility to be informed and with the information that we receive, we have to do what is necessary to put us in the forefront,” Mr. Henry said.

## OAS THANKS ST. KITTS-NEVIS FOR SUCCESSFUL MOAS



Officials at the Organization of American States (OAS) have thanked the government of St. Kitts and Nevis and several private entities for the close partnership that resulted in a successful 33<sup>rd</sup> Model OAS General Assembly for Universities of the Hemisphere.

Yadira Soto, Senior Advisor to the OAS Assistant Secretary General said the deliberations were of a high quality, which was testament to the preparation of the students and the coordination of the conference activities.

“I love St. Kitts and Nevis and I thoroughly enjoyed being part of this,” she stated. “As an advisor on youth, I really see that we need to do more to have these kind of exercises. That we really need to give our youth opportunities to share their knowledge and show their creativity.”

The model session debated three topics. The General Committee considered the “Hemispheric commitment to prevent the migration of youth as a result of lack opportunities in their communities.” The Second Committee reviewed “changes in cannabis policies that include options such as decriminalization, medical and non-medical supply and uses of cannabis”, while the Third Committee debated “building capacity and resilience for the most vulnerable communities to prevent and mitigate disasters in a changing climate.” “What we do is we share these resolutions with the authorities in Washington D.C., with the political bodies and we share them in the hopes that they can see some of the innovative work that the young people can do in the Americas towards solving our problems.”

Given the success of the 33<sup>rd</sup> MOAS and the support of partners, Ms. Soto indicated that serious consideration will be given to host additional Model sessions in a CARICOM country.

“We will work towards another MOAS in the Caribbean,” she said. “We already started informal talks with a few of the countries that attended this MOAS so we have our fingers crossed and we definitely are going to push for this.”

The MOAS 2015 was held at the St. Kitts Marriott Resort from March 24 to 26. It was attended by university students from Peru, Belize, Mexico, Trinidad and Tobago, Suriname, Guyana, Grenada, the United States and host St. Kitts and Nevis. However, the students were assigned to represent different countries. There were 16 OAS member delegations in total.



### Sixteen Delegations, Sixteen Adjectives

*As a way of describing their experiences, one representative from each Delegation summed up the 33<sup>rd</sup> Model Organization of American States for Universities of the Hemisphere in one word.*



COSTA RICA - EXCEPTIONAL



ARGENTINA - EVERYTHING



SURINAME - CHALLENGING



MEXICO - AMAZING



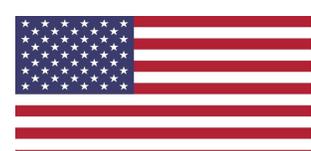
ST. KITTS - WONDERFUL



BOLIVIA - IMPRESSIVE



BRAZIL - EXHILERATING



U.S.A - GOLDEN



TRINIDAD & TOBAGO - INNOVATIVE



BARBADOS - EMPOWERING



VENEZUELA - INFORMATIVE



GUYANA - PHENOMENAL



PERU - STIMULATING



JAMAICA - ASTONISHING



CANADA - EXTRAVAGANT



COLOMBIA - INSPIRATIONAL

# Day Three of MOAS 2015 in Images

