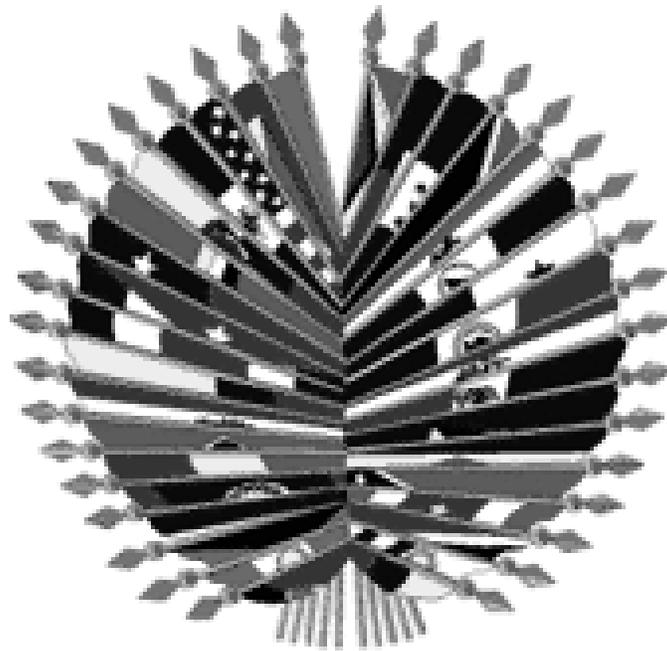


**2015 Washington Model Organization of
American States General Assembly**

Electronic Packet

First Committee



INCREASING ACCESS TO JUSTICE

First Committee: Juridical and Political Affairs
Draft Resolution Presented by the Delegation of Panama

Topic 1 of the Agenda

THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY,

HAVING SEEN:

The Organization of American States (OAS) Charter Preamble says that “representative democracy is an indispensable condition for stability, peace and development of the region” and that “juridical organization is a necessary condition for security and peace founded on moral order and on justice”;

Chapter 2, Article 3, Section J of the OAS Charter proclaims that “social justice and social security are bases of lasting peace”;

Chapter 1, Article 2, section E of the OAS Charter implores member-states “to seek the solution of political, juridical, and economic problems that may arise among them”;

CONSIDERING:

That Latin America has some of the highest homicide rates in the world which are largely attributed to drug and arms trafficking;

The 2013-2018 SMS Strategic Plan, Section 3 which states that “Perceived security (or insecurity) is largely dependent on the capacity of a country’s police force(s) to respond to the diverse threats and challenges facing their citizens”; and

TAKING INTO ACCOUNT:

Constitution of Panama 1972 (2014 Amendments) Title 3, Article 22 which says that “Persons accused of committing a crime have the right to be presumed innocent until proven guilty, at a public trial, under due process of law. Whoever is arrested shall have the right, from that moment, to legal counsel in all police and judiciary proceedings”;

The Inter-American Convention against Corruption embodies the commitment of the member-states to carry out actions both internally and internationally to combat corruption,

RESOLVES:

1. To congratulate member-states in their dedication to democracy by allowing access to justice for all citizens and aliens in their respective member-states.
2. To initiate the creation of a joint criterion for criminal and civil legal aid providers ensuring their detachment from cases they will be involved in by:
 - a. Requesting that legal aid providers will not work in areas they have resided in for over 10 years.
 - b. Ensuring that lawyers adhere to the ethics code set by the OAS in all matters.
 - c. Requiring that they do not have a previous record in relation to drugs or arms trafficking.
 - d. Strongly discouraging lawyers work in cases wherein they are familiar with one or more

parties involved.

3. To encourage member states to classify citizens as innocent until proven guilty allowing easier search for legal counsel.
4. To establish that violence related to selling and transporting of illegal narcotics be met with no bail and trials be held in the member state with which they are arrested.
5. To strongly urge all member states to work towards having adequate penitentiary programs throughout the hemisphere.
6. To employ that this initiative be funded by voluntary member states, NGO's, and Non-Profits.

Approved for Form and Substance: _____
(Signature of Faculty Advisor)

Cosignatories:	1.	_____	_____
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BEYOND CHILDREN JUSTICE PROJECT

First Committee

Topic No: 1 of the Agenda

Draft Resolution Presented by the Delegation of the Republic of Colombia

THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY,

TAKING INTO CONSIDERATION:

Article 12 of the Convention on the Rights of the Child, which considers that children must be “provided the opportunity to be heard in any judicial and administrative proceedings affecting the child, either directly or through a representative or an appropriate body, in a manner consistent with the procedural rules of national law”;

Article 16 of the Convention on the Rights of the Child, states that “child has the right to the protection of the law against such interference or attacks”;

RECALLING:

That Article 30 of the Charter of the Organization of the American States (OAS) based on the principles of Inter American solidarity and cooperation, “assure to a united effort to ensure international social justice in their relations and integral development for their people, as conditions essential to peace and security. Integral development encompasses the economic, social, educational, cultural, scientific, and technological fields through which the goals that each country sets for accomplishing it should be achieved”;

That the Articles 16, 17 and 18 about the functions of the OAS Department of Legal Services established in its area of competence, the cooperation with entities of the OAS and with other international organizations, and at the same time, “maintains a training program for law students and for attorneys from the member states in the form of law internships”;

That the Inter-American Democratic Charter resolves democracy as "essential for the social, political, and economic development of the peoples of the Americas" and that impunity in the judicial system threatens democracy and its institutions inhibiting complete enjoyment of Human Rights;

KEEPING IN MIND:

Resolution AG/RES. 2714 (XLII-O/12), “Official public defenders as a guarantee of access to justice for persons in situations of vulnerability”, reaffirms the access to justice, as a fundamental right by restoring the exercise of rights that have been disregarded or violated;

Resolution AG/RES. 2853 (XLIV-O/14), “Strengthening the Activities of the Inter American Program of Judicial Facilitators”, helps to prevent crime and violence, promotes a culture of peaceful resolution of legal disputes and reduces the prosecution of conflict;

Resolution AG/RES. 2849 (XLIV-O/14), “Annual Reports of the Inter American Court of Human Rights, the Inter American Commission on Human Rights, the Inter American Juridical Committee and the Justice Studies Center of the Americas”;

HIGHLIGHTING:

The Plan of Action from the Third Summit of the Americas held in Quebec City on April 20-22, 2001, in which the members “reaffirmed their determination to combat and eliminate impunity at all levels within their societies by strengthening judicial systems and national human rights institutions”;

REFERRING TO:

The Government of Colombia which has offered to host the Tenth Meeting of Ministers of Justice or Other Ministers or Attorneys General of the Americas (REMJA X), which is expected to take place in the second semester of 2015. At REMJA X, it is expected, among other things, that the Ministers define concrete actions to strengthen cooperation among the countries on access to justice policies, a topic considered crucial for strengthening and consolidating the rule of law in the region; and

RECOGNIZING:

The efforts made by the Inter-American Children Institute to develop innovative plans of actions to guarantee the children’s rights defense, with the promotion of public policies in order to provide assistance to States and increase new approaches for the Americas children welfare;

The relevance of the studies carried out by the Justice Studies Center of the Americas (JSCA) regarding the judicial systems of the hemisphere, thus the contribution to strengthening the Inter-American justice reform process, as an International Organism the JSCA is comprised by the OAS Member States and it seeks to create a support for the strategies designed to help overcome the issues, enhancing the quality of the Americas’ judicial systems;

The Guide created by the Inter American Association of Public Defenders (IAPD), which states that the “institutional strengthening of Official Public Defenders is one of the key factors for the insurance of the right to access to justice as true human right that must be guaranteed to all people”, and the approach that the IAPD had to the Inter-American Commission on Human Rights (IACHR) in the last year;

The need to provide a meeting place for the analysis of the children’s access to justice in the Americas and the Caribbean with the assessment on the OAS system, and to encourage improvements in the training of Public Defenders regarding Child issues,

RESOLVES:

1. To encourage the Member States to continue improving the access to justice by children in the Hemisphere, looking forward to cooperation between the Member States.
2. To develop effective ways to improve the access to justice, specifically for children, the Beyond Children Justice Project will consist in two parts:
 - a. To request the Department of Legal Services of the OAS develop Intensive Summer Workshops based in the Inter-American Association of Public Defenders (IAPD) Guide to Official Public Defenders and Criminal and Civil Legal Aid Providers for children, in order to evaluate and study the general situation of vulnerability for the children of

the Americas and the Caribbean, and also to analyze the Public Defenders management in the Hemisphere:

- b. The Intensive Summer Workshops will be addressed online during the third quarter of the year (from July till September) in 2016 and will be sponsored by the IAPD with the support of Non-Governmental Organizations (NGOs) such as Humanium and Niños de Papel, and the Justice Studies Center of the Americas (JSCA) with the purpose of facilitating access to improve the professional skills of Official Public Defenders and Criminal and Civil Legal Aid Providers for children of all Member States.
 - c. To promote the strengthening of training for Official Public Defenders and Criminal and Civil Legal Aid Providers regarding child issues, by giving them internships of a year in the IAPD, JSCA and the Department of Legal Services; after attending the internship training the interns must return to their countries of origin:
 - i. the internships applicants will be evaluated by the Department of Legal Services, the IAPD and the JSCA Internships Departments.
 - ii. each intern will have volunteer service in low income zones of his/her community by giving free legal assistance to children when going back to their origin country in order to get a certificate sponsored by the IAPD, JSCA and the Department of Legal Services for the fulfillment of the internships.
3. To request the financing of the Beyond Children Justice Project from Member States, pertinent NGOs such as Humanium and Niños de Papel, and other interested parties.
 4. To provide information to the General Assembly regarding the performance of the Public Defenders and Criminal and Civil Legal Aid Providers concerning child issues after two years of receiving this program in order to evaluate the efficiency of this Resolution.
 5. To call a conference the third year of adoption of this Resolution inviting the Inter-American Children Institute, Universities, Colleges and other Law Institutes of the Americas and the Caribbean, Humanium, Niños de Papel and other interested NGOs, in order to evaluate the results of this resolution's application in each country identifying possible solutions to the judicial systems in the Hemisphere that couldn't be improved.

6. To request the General Secretariat to report to the General Assembly in the next 45th Regular session, on the implementation of this Resolution.

Approved for form and substance: _____

(Signature of Faculty Advisor)

Cosignatories:

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**TOWARDS THE DEVELOPMENT OF GUIDELINES FOR EASIER ACCESS TO
SUPPORT PROGRAMS DIRECTED TO REFUGEES, ASYLUM SEEKERS AND
STATELESS IN THE INTER-AMERICAN COMMUNITY**

First Committee
Draft Resolution Presented by the Delegation of Barbados

Topic No. 2 of the Agenda

THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY,

HAVING SEEN:

Article 47 of the OAS Charter, which states that “The Member States will give primary importance within their development plans to the encouragement of education, science, technology, and culture, oriented toward the overall improvement of the individual, and as a foundation for democracy, social justice, and progress”;

Article 3 of the American Convention on Human Rights, “Pact of San José, Costa Rica” which emphasizes how “Every person has the right to recognition as a person before the law”;

Article 20 of the American Convention on Human Rights, “Pact of San José, Costa Rica”, which affirms “Every person has the right to a nationality. 2. Every person has the right to the nationality of the State in whose territory he was born if he does not have the right to any other nationality. 3. No one shall be arbitrarily deprived of his nationality or of the right to change it.”;

Article 22 of the American Convention on Human Rights, “Pact of San José, Costa Rica”, which claims “(...) Every person has the right to leave any country freely, including his own, (...) Every person has the right to seek and be granted asylum in a foreign territory, in accordance with the legislation of the state and international conventions, in the event he is being pursued for political offenses or related common crimes. In no case may an alien be deported or returned to a country, regardless of whether or not it is his country of origin, if in that country his right to life or personal freedom is in danger of being violated because of his race nationality, religion, social status, or political opinions; The collective expulsion of aliens is prohibited”;

Article 24 of the American Convention on Human Rights, “Pact of San José, Costa Rica” which emphasizes “All persons are equal before the law. Consequently, they are entitled, without discrimination, to equal protection of the law”;

BEARING IN MIND:

The situation of those who every year flee their country or are unwilling to return to it based on a well-founded fear of persecution for religious, racial, gender reasons or for being part of a certain social group or political belief and the stateless people “who is not considered as a national by any State under the operation of its law”, as defined by the Article 1 of the 1954 UNHCR Convention relating of the status of Stateless persons, adopted by the General Assembly of United Nations on 28 September 1954;

EMPHASIZING:

The 1951 UN Convention Relating to the Status of Refugees, adopted by the United Nations Conference of Plenipotentiaries on the Status of Refugees and Stateless Persons, held at Geneva from 2 to 25 July 1951, which states that “the personal status of a refugee shall be governed by the law of the country of his domicile or, if he has no domicile, by the law of the country of his residence”;

The 1967 Protocol Relating to the Status of Refugees, which emphasize that “the States Parties to the present protocol undertake to co-operate with the office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees, or any other agency of the United Nations High Commissioner for the Refugees, or any other agency of the United Nations which may succeed it, in the exercise of its functions, and shall in particular facilitate its duty of supervising the application of the provisions of the present Protocol”; and

RECALLING:

The third conclusion adopted by the 1984 Cartagena Declaration on Refugees, which states the importance of extending the concept of refugee to those “persons who have fled their country because their lives, safety or freedom have been threatened by generalized violence, foreign aggression, internal conflicts, massive violation of human rights or other circumstances which have seriously disturbed public order.”;

OAS Resolution AG/RES. 2047 (XXXIV – O/04) which refers to the “protection of asylum seekers, refugees, returnees, and stateless persons in the Americas” which urges states parties to take or continue taking the necessary measures to strengthen refugee protection and make it more effective, (...) implementation of national provisions pertaining to refugees and stateless persons and procedures for the determination of refugee status and treatment of asylum seekers”;

OAS Resolution AG/RES.1892 (XXXII-O/02) which stresses the importance “to continue and increase support provided by member states and organs of the inter-American system to the Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for refugees as the multilateral institution with the mandate to provide protection to refugees, to promote lasting solutions, and to supervise the application of the provisions of the 1951 convention and its 1967 Protocol”,

RESOLVES:

1. To congratulate the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR) for his continuous efforts to provide protection to refugees and the development and application of the 1951 Convention of Genève.
2. To call upon Member States to recognize the importance, as established in the Article 22 of the American Convention of Human Rights, “Pact of San José, Costa Rica” of resolving the stateless cases and defining their juridical situation so that they can be granted a nationality and take place in the national rights.
3. To strongly urge the Member States, according to Article 22 and 23 of the American Convention of Human Rights, “Pact of San José”, to continue strengthening their governmental institutions as well as their internal legislation, bearing in mind that the target is to make the process of requesting and granting asylum for those in need of such status as efficient as possible.

4. To commend Member States, to continue working towards strengthening protection of asylum seekers, refugees, returnees, and stateless persons in the Americas by cooperating with the United Nations Organization, using the Inter-American system as a bridge of connection for ensuring to the refugees, asylum seekers, returnees, and stateless persons that their Human Rights will be respected.

Approved for form and substance: _____
(Signature of Faculty Advisor)

Cosignatories:

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**CREATION OF A MEETING TO EXPLORE THE ESTABLISHMENT OF
SURVIVAL MIGRATION STATUS**

First Committee
Draft Resolution Presented by the Delegation of Grenada

Topic No. 2 of the Agenda

THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY,

RECALLING:

Article 30 of the Charter of the Organization of American States, which emphasizes “The Member States, inspired by the principles of Inter-American solidarity and cooperation, pledge themselves to a united effort to ensure international social justice in their relations and integral development for their peoples, as conditions essential to peace and security. Integral development encompasses the economic, social, educational, cultural, scientific, and technological fields through which the goals that each country sets for accomplishing it should be achieved”;

Article 31 of the OAS Charter, which states “Inter-American cooperation for integral development is the common and joint responsibility of the Member States, within the framework of the democratic principles and the institutions of the Inter-American system. It should include the economic, social, educational, cultural, scientific, and technological fields, support the achievement of national objectives of the Member States, and respect the priorities established by each country in its development plans, without political ties or conditions”;

BEARING IN MIND:

The 2006 OAS Resolution, “Protection of Asylum Seekers, Refugees, and Returnees In the Americas”, which sees the resolution “underscore the importance of cooperation among the organs of the Inter-American system and the Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR), in an effort to ensure that innovative regional approaches are taken regarding refugee issues in the Americas”;

That “The presentation made by the Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR) to the Committee on Juridical and Political Affairs on February 17, 2005, entitled “International Protection of Refugees in the Americas: Recent Developments,” on the complexity and the dimensions of forced displacement in the Americas, which primarily affects refugee”;

GUIDED BY:

The Preamble of the Organization of the American States Charter which states “Convinced that the historic mission of America is to offer to man a land of liberty and a favorable environment for the development of his personality and the realization of his just aspirations”;

Article 95(C)1 of the OAS Charter, “In order to achieve its various goals, especially in the specific area of technical cooperation, the Inter-American Council for Integral Development shall: Promote, coordinate, and assign responsibility for the execution of development programs and projects to the subsidiary bodies and relevant organizations, on the basis of the priorities identified by the Member States, in areas such as:” economics, hemispheric integration, and the environment;

TAKING INTO ACCOUNT:

The 1951 Conference of Plenipotentiaries on the Status of Refugees and Stateless Persons finding that the term “refugee” “shall apply to any person who owing to well-founded fear of being persecuted for reasons of race, religion, nationality, membership of a particular social group or political opinion, is outside the country of his nationality and is unable, or owing to such fear, is unwilling to avail himself of the protection of that country; or who, not having a nationality and being outside the country of his former habitual residence as a result of such events, is unable or, owing to such fear, is unwilling to return to it”; and

RECOGNIZING:

The growing and impending danger of human displacement in this hemisphere because of a changing climate;

The OAS acceptance of the Conference of the Parties (COP) to the UN Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC) held on December 2010 which resolves to “strengthen the resilience of the OAS member States to the adverse impacts of climate change, especially the most vulnerable States of the Hemisphere, and to support the development of climate change adaptation activities”,

RESOLVES:

1. To extend gratitude toward all Member States in their independent pursuits to offer assistance to refugees and displaced persons throughout the hemisphere.
2. To applaud the efforts made by the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR) and their work to promote the protection of refugees and displaced persons.
3. To reaffirm this body’s support for the UNHCR 1951 Conference on the Status of Refugees and Stateless Persons.
4. To convene a special meeting on August 25, 2015 with the goal of presenting the Organization of American States with a full report on negative aspects leading to forced migration in the hemisphere, and to prepare a resolution to present to the OAS General Assembly to reaffirm and build upon the goals set forth by the 1951 Conference on the Status of Refugees and Stateless Persons to include the definition of a survival migrant:
 - a. Grenada, in the interest of diplomacy, will volunteer to hold this meeting in St. George’s for all member states and their delegates.
 - b. This special meeting shall convene with the primary goal of forming and presenting the OAS with a report on what steps the Organization shall take to explore the status of survival migrants:
 - i. This special meeting will review and report on the current state of climate change as well as threats facing citizens and its effects on the hemisphere and to provide forecasting as to what the region can expect in terms of human migration due to climate change and other factors forcing citizens to flee their homes.

- ii. This special meeting shall also create a comprehensive report and draft resolution that investigates survival migration status and submits this report with its findings for changing or adding to the previously held definition found in the 1951 Conference on the Status of Refugees and Stateless Persons, as well as in the 2006 OAS Protection of Asylum Seekers and Refugees.
5. The resulting draft resolution formed during this special meeting shall determine what a survival migrant is and what their protections are in accordance with current OAS and international laws pertaining to displaced persons.
 6. Each Member State shall assemble its own envoy with selected delegates to represent its country in this special meeting in St. George's, Grenada.
 - a. The Government of Grenada shall bear the costs for the meeting venue as well as the cost of housing for every delegation.
 - b. The cost for transportation to St. George's will be met by each individual delegation.
 7. Keeping in mind the sovereignty of each Member State, this Special Meeting shall be optional for each Member and shall have no more power than proposing and submitting recommendations to be voted on in the OAS on expanding the standing definition of survival migration.

Approved for form and substance: _____
(Signature of Faculty Member)

Cosignatories:

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(Signature of Delegate)	(Country Represented)
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**TACKLING CORRUPTION OF JUDICIAL SYSTEMS BY ENHANCING TRAINING OF
PUBLIC DEFENDERS TO GUARANTEE EQUAL ACCESS TO JUSTICE**

First Committee
Draft Resolution Presented by the Delegation of Honduras

Topic No. 1 of the Agenda

THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY,

CONSIDERING:

The 1948 Charter of the Organization of American States (OAS), chapter VII, Article 45, Section I, which states, “Adequate provision for all persons to have due legal aid in order to secure their rights;” in the spirit of which all people, regardless of creed, sex, race, or situation, are guaranteed the protection and access to tools to defend their rights from those who would harm them;

RECOGNIZING:

That Article 8 of the American Convention on Human Rights gives a broad establishment of the equal judicial guaranties of each individual. Also, that member states have the obligation to respect the rights documented in the international treaties they are part of, requiring the states to ensure full access to justice and public defenders;

BEARING IN MIND:

That in the Second Summit of the Americas, held in Santiago, Chile in April 1998, all member states in the hemisphere agreed that “effective administration of justice plays an essential role in the process of consolidating democracy, strengthens its institutions, guarantees the equality of all its citizens, and contributes to economic development, we will enhance our policies relating to justice and encourage the reforms necessary to promote legal and judicial cooperation”;

RECALLING:

That the OAS’ committee on Juridical and Political Affairs for convening at the Special Meeting on the Exchange of Best Practices and Experiences with Public Defenders as a Guarantee of Access to Justice for Persons in Situations of Vulnerability in 2013 to discuss best practices for member states regarding accessibility of public defenders; and

REALIZING:

That all member states in the hemisphere should promote strengthening of judicial systems and improvements of transparency mechanisms through the establishment of a stronger hemispheric rule of law. All member states should ensure that basic human rights are met by ensuring access to justice and due process by tackling impunity within states,

**STRENGTHENING SANCTUARY OF INTER- AMERICAN
ASYLUM SEEKERS AND REFUGEES**

First Committee

Topic No. 2 of the Agenda

Draft Resolution Presented by the Delegation of the Bolivarian Republic of Venezuela

THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY,

HAVING SEEN:

Article 30(g) of the Organization of American States (OAS) Charter which ascertain that “The Member States, inspired by the principles of inter-American solidarity and cooperation, pledge themselves to a united effort to ensure international social justice in their relations and integral development for their peoples, as conditions essential to peace and security”;

That Article 32 of the OAS Charter affirms that “The Member States shall contribute to inter-American cooperation for integral development in accordance with their resources and capabilities and in conformity with their laws”;

That the Charter of the Organization of American States Article 45 (a) declares that “All human beings, without distinction as to race, sex, nationality, creed, or social condition, have a right to material well-being and to their spiritual development, under circumstances of liberty, dignity, equality of opportunity, and economic security”;

CONSIDERING:

That refugees and asylum seekers need access to courts and a right to earn a livelihood in the country that they settled with freedom of movement and not to be fearful of being removed from the country;

That permanent Inter-American solution for refugees and asylum seekers will not only improve lives but also make the Member States effective in the responsibility in the Inter-American values of the OAS charter;

RECALLING:

That 1951 Convention relating to the Status of Refugees the term “refugee shall apply to any person who owing to well-founded fear of being persecuted for reasons of race, religion, nationality, membership of a particular social group or political opinion, is outside the country of his nationality and is unable, or owing to such fear, is unwilling to avail himself of the protection of that country; or who, not having a nationality and being outside the country of his former habitual residence as a result of such events, is unable or, owing to such fear, is unwilling to return to it”; and

TAKING INTO ACCOUNT:

That the 1951 Convention relating to the Status of Refugees the commitment understood by the OAS member states to extend protection to asylum seekers and refugees and to seek long-lasting solutions to their situation;

**TO CREATE AND PROMOTE CONCILIATION AND MEDIATION CENTERS
TO REDUCE CASELOADS FOR HIGHER COURTS**

First Committee
Draft Resolution Presented by the Delegation of Brazil

Topic No. 1 of the Agenda

THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY,

HAVING SEEN:

Article 3n of the Charter of the Organization of American States, which reaffirms the principle that “the education of peoples should be directed toward justice, freedom and peace”;

Article 16 of the Charter, which states that “The jurisdiction of States within the limits of their national territory is exercised equally over all the inhabitants, whether nationals or aliens”;

Article 45i of the Charter, which calls for “Adequate provision for all persons to have due legal aid in order to secure their rights”;

Article 99 of the Charter, which establishes that “the purpose of the Inter-American Juridical Committee is to serve the Organization as an advisory body on juridical matters; to promote the progressive development and the codification of international law; and to study juridical problems related to the integration of the developing countries of the Hemisphere and, insofar as may appear desirable, the possibility of attaining uniformity in their legislation”;

Article 103 of the Charter, which states that “the Inter-American Juridical Committee shall establish cooperative relations with universities, institutes, and other teaching centers, as well as with national and international committees and entities devoted to study, research, teaching, or dissemination of information on juridical matters of international interest”;

The 2009 Summit of the Americas Declaration of Port of Spain, number 79, in which the Heads of State and Government reaffirmed: “We recognize the role of good governance at the local level as a tool for strengthening democracy and sustainable development. We affirm the importance of enhancing decentralization, local government and citizen participation”;

BEARING IN MIND:

That the Organization of American States’ Department of International Legal Affairs, through its International Law Office, aims to achieve a hemispheric goal for inclusion, and the strengthening of political and diplomatic dialogue, and has mandated the “promotion of a more effective exchange of information on legislation”;

That the Justice Studies Center of the Americas is an inter-governmental entity whose mission is to support the Member States of the region in their juridical reform processes;

That the Meeting of the Ministers of Justice (REMJA) has “highlighted the importance of access to justice for the effective fulfillment of rights conferred on people, and in enabling them to access and benefit from the necessary guarantees for the observance of those rights as well as removing obstacles to the effective exercise of the fundamental rights of persons, and considered that access to justice must cover all sectors of society, understanding it to be one of the pillars for ensuring social justice, and entailing access not only to the judicial system but also to alternative mechanisms for conflict resolution, such as mediation, conciliation, and arbitration”;

That the REMJA has noted that “international legal cooperation is essential for the development of justice systems and the consolidation of the rule of law in the region; attaining this goal, *inter alia*, under the REMJA umbrella through meetings, networks, and other methods for exchanging information”; and

CONSIDERING:

That on the 25th January 2009, the Plurinational State of Bolivia approved a new constitution affirming the status of that nation’s indigenous majority and ratifying the legitimacy of indigenous cultural practices, recognizing the practice of community justice alongside the state justice system as an alternative model to that of individual rights on which Western legal systems are grounded;

That in 2014, Jamaica implemented a Restorative Justice process in 11 inner-city communities, a process which focuses on holding the offender accountable in a more meaningful way, repairs the harm caused by the offence, helps to reintegrate the offender into the community and to achieve a sense of healing for both the victim and the community;

That the Inter-American Development Bank (IDB) and the Executive Secretariat for Integral Development of the Organization of American States (OAS) implemented a pilot project to improve access to legal services provided by universities in Uruguay, El Salvador and Guatemala to vulnerable groups;

That many experts criticize case backlog and slow justice systems in the Americas and that the United Nations 2013 Global Study on Homicide reveals that the homicide conviction rate in Latin America of cases reported is only 24% compared to the world average of 43%,

RESOLVES:

1. To recognize and commend those Member States that have sought to promote justice for all peoples.
2. To encourage Member States to continue efforts to promote and provide assistance to guarantee access to justice to overlooked populations.
3. To instruct the Inter-American Juridical Committee and the Justice Studies Center of the Americas, and request the Meeting of Ministers of Justice, to be responsible for the overall research and coordination of the initiation of Conciliation and Mediation Centers to reduce the case load for higher courts in participating Member States.

4. That these three entities should create, in conjunction, an outline to guide interested Member States through the process of implementation of Conciliation and Mediation Centers, which should include, but not limited to:
 - a. Member States following a three-pronged approach to Justice when implementing Mediation and Conciliation Centers, including the Victim, the Offender, and the Community.
 - b. Higher Courts of the Member States overseeing the maintenance of these centers.
 - c. Creation of a steering committee for Conciliation and Mediation Centers, which will work at the community level to oversee the operation of these centers.
 - d. The appointment of center managers who will manage daily operations and report to the higher courts about operations of the centers.
 - e. The training of members of the community to become facilitators of these centers.
 - f. Limiting these centers to cases favoring low-level offenders.
5. To recommend that the Inter-American Juridical Committee and co-collaborators research educational mechanisms to increase awareness of basic rights for all citizens, assisting participating Member States in the implementation of this program and monitoring their progress.
6. To request Member States to seek funding from the Inter-American Development Bank to help implement this program.

Approved for form and substance: _____
(Signature of Faculty Advisor)

Cosignatories:

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EDUCATION AND THE RIGHT TO TRUTH

First Committee
Draft Resolution Presented by the Delegation of Belize

Topic No. 4 of the Agenda

THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY,

HAVING SEEN:

Article 1 of the 1948 Charter of the Organization of American States (OAS) in which member states assert that one of the essential purposes of the OAS is “To achieve an order of peace and justice”;

The 1948 American Declaration of the Rights and Duties of Man, asserting the freedom of speech and movement, the 1969 American Convention on Human Rights (Pact of San José, Costa Rica), guaranteeing the right to a fair trial and freedom of expression, and the Inter-American Convention to Prevent and Punish Torture;

CONSIDERING:

The 1992 Declaration on the Protection of All Persons from Enforced Disappearance, which asserts, “enforced disappearance undermines the deepest values of any society committed to respect for the rule of law, human rights and fundamental freedoms, and that the systematic practice of such acts is of the nature of a crime against humanity” and the 1994 Inter-American Convention on Forced Disappearance of Persons;

ACKNOWLEDGING:

The 2006 UN Study on the Right to Truth, which grants that “the right to the truth about gross human rights violations and serious violations of human rights law is an inalienable and autonomous right, linked to the duty and obligation of the State to protect and guarantee human rights, to conduct effective investigations and to guarantee effective remedy and reparations”;

The 2010 International Convention for the Protection of all Persons from Enforced Disappearances (ICCPED), which confirms the right to truth is an enforceable right, relatives have the right to know the fate of their loved ones, and victims have a right to know the progress of investigations;

RECALLING:

Resolution AG/RES. 2725 (XLII-O/12) “Right to the Truth,” which recognizes the right to truth as important in protecting human rights and ending impunity;

The 2013 UN Resolution A/RES/68/165, which promotes the right to truth and “Encourages the States concerned to disseminate, implement and monitor the implementation of the recommendations of non-judicial mechanisms”;

VIEWING WITH APPRECIATION:

The success of truth commissions in Chile and El Salvador, which led to the ratification of international human rights’ treaties;

Various Inter-American Court on Human Rights (IACHR) cases: *Velasquez Rodriguez*, which requires states to inform victim's families of the circumstances surrounding crimes, *Myrna Mack Chang*, which states that outcomes from proceedings must be revealed to the public, *Bamaca Velasquez*, which asserts that society has the right to know about crimes to prevent them in the future, and *Barrios Altos*, which prohibits amnesty laws inhibiting investigations of gross human rights violations;

DEEPLY CONCERNED:

By the lack of public awareness about past human rights violations in the Hemisphere and the misconception that human rights concerns only apply to criminals and foreigners; and

GUIDED BY:

The successful efforts of non-governmental organizations (NGOs), such as the Society for the Promotion of Education and Research (SPEAR), which has served to educate the Belizean populace through television programs on democratic means to seek justice,

RESOLVES:

1. To commend member states for their commitment to the right to truth.
2. To recommend member states continue in their development of memorials and museums for the victims of human rights violations.
3. To establish a committee under the Special Rapporteurship on Human Rights Defenders in conjunction with the Education Portal of the Americas (EDUCADEM) and the Art Museum of the Americas to create a human rights education program targeting ages 14 and up:
 - a. That this committee be composed of the Special Rapporteur on Human Rights Defenders, the three board members of the IACHR, three members of EDUCADEM, as well as the director and two staff members from the Art Museum of the Americas specialized in exhibit design.
 - b. That this committee create a comprehensive program giving an overview of past human rights abuses in the Hemisphere for implementation in museums and schools.
 - c. That this committee also develop more detailed, region-specific programs for adoption in the pertinent member states, showing what progress has been made and what can still be improved upon.
 - d. That this committee develop the curriculum in a way that shows how learning from the past can better the Hemisphere in the future.
 - e. That part of this education program consist of an online mini-series modeled on the initiatives of SPEAR.
 - f. To publish this program on the Education Portal of the Americas in English, Spanish, French, and Portuguese, and other indigenous languages as deemed appropriate.
4. To urge member states to implement this educational program in their museums, schools, and community centers as deemed fit by each member state.
5. To request funding from pertinent NGOs (such as Amnesty International, Global Rights, and Human Rights Watch), member states, and permanent observer states.

6. To request that the General Secretariat report to the General Assembly at its forty-sixth regular session on the implementation of this resolution, the execution of which shall be subject to the availability of financial resources in the program-budget of the Organization and other resources.

Approved for form and substance: _____
(Signature of Faculty Advisor)

Cosignatories: 1. _____
(Signature of Delegate) (Country Represented)

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**IMPROVING ACCESS TO JUSTICE BY STRENGTHENING THE HOUSES OF JUSTICE
(LAS CASAS DE JUSTICIA) IN THE HEMISPHERE**

First Committee
Draft Resolution Presented by the Delegation of Peru

Topic No. 1 of the Agenda

THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY,

HAVING SEEN:

Article 45(i) of the Organization of American States (OAS) Charter, which affirms the commitment of the member states to promote “adequate provision for all persons to have due legal aid in order to secure their rights”;

Article 26 of the Inter-American Democratic Charter, which asserts that “the OAS will continue to carry out programs and activities designed to promote democratic principles and practices and strengthen a democratic culture in the Hemisphere”;

Article 8(2e) of The American Convention on Human Rights, which establishes “the inalienable right to be assisted by counsel provided by the state, paid or not as the domestic law provides, if the accused does not defend himself personally or engage his own counsel within the time period established by law”;

CONSIDERING:

That alternative dispute resolution (ADR) is a widely accepted, low cost, and expeditious means for addressing low-level and non-violent crimes, and can therefore provide alternatives to going to trial, lessen courts’ case loads, achieve faster legal outcomes, and allow public defenders to give priority to more complicated and crucial cases;

That according to a Joint Report by the World Bank and the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime (UNODC) titled “Crime, Violence, and Development” (2007), offender rehabilitation programs better address the source of crime than time served in prison, thereby decreasing the likelihood of repeat offenders and lessening prison overpopulation by reducing the incarceration rate;

That Houses of Justice, which are legal aid centers established by several member states that prioritize the use of alternative dispute resolution, can be a beneficial tool for public defenders;

CONCERNED:

Regarding the challenges facing judicial systems caused by excessive caseloads, which reduce public defenders’ ability to give each case sufficient time and effort; insufficient budgets to employ more public defenders; citizens’ limited access to alternate dispute resolution; and the priority placed on punishing crime rather than addressing its sources;

RECOGNIZING:

The Plan of Action for the Third Summit of the Americas, which supports “public and private initiatives and programs to educate people about their rights relating to access to justice,” and promotes “measures that ensure prompt, equal and universal access to justice,” as well as “cooperation to exchange experiences in alternative dispute resolution mechanisms to expedite the administration of justice”; and

RECALLING:

AG/RES. 2821 (XLIV-O/14) “Toward Autonomy for and Strengthening of Official Public Defenders as a Guarantee of Access to Justice”, which affirms member states’ obligation to remove “the obstacles that may impair or limit access to a public defender, in such a way as to ensure full and free access to justice”,

RESOLVES:

1. To commend those member states which have successfully established Houses of Justice within their nations.
2. To call upon member states to collaborate on an initiative that will provide increased access to judicial services for all citizens; expand the use of alternative dispute resolution; and reduce public defenders’ caseloads.
3. To recommend that this initiative be supervised by the OAS Department of Legal Cooperation and the Inter-American Juridical Committee (IAJC), and that it focus on expanding the Houses of Justice and strengthening their affiliation with court systems.
4. To propose that the initiative include the following components:
 - a. Encourage member states to establish Houses of Justice in all their regions.
 - b. Encourage the creation of a preliminary review system through the Houses of Justice. This system would select low-level or non-violent criminal cases for review by trained legal aid providers (such as mediators and legal counselors), who would perform the following tasks for each case:
 - i. Determine the appropriate means of resolution (such as mediation, arbitration, negotiation, or trial); alternative dispute resolution should take precedence over going to trial.
 - ii. In instances where alternative dispute resolution is appropriate, evaluate the reason for the crime and draft a program to address the source (for example, youth/social inclusion program or substance abuse rehabilitation program) that would replace jail time with the completion of the program.
 - iii. Submit the program for judge and prosecutor approval to replace the need for a trial.
 - iv. Conduct a financial assessment to determine the accused offender’s eligibility for legal fee waivers.
5. To strongly urge the OAS Department of Legal Cooperation to sponsor a training program through member states’ Houses of Justice to provide public defenders with greater knowledge of alterative dispute resolution processes, in order to provide better services to their clients and learn how to work effectively with the Houses of Justice.

6. To request that USAID continue their generous funding of the Houses of Justice; and to call upon member states, The World Bank, Lawyers Without Borders, The Inter-American Development Bank (IBD), The United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime (UNODC), and other Non-Government Organizations to provide additional funding.

Approved for form and substance: _____
(Signature of Faculty Advisor)

Cosignatories: 1. _____
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**TOWARD CREATING A UNIFORM REGIMEN IN THE PROTECTION OF OLDER PERSONS
AGAINST ELDER ABUSE IN THE HEMISPHERE**

First Committee
Draft Resolution presented by the Delegation of Nicaragua

Topic No. 3 of the Agenda

THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY,

HAVING SEEN:

Chapter II, Article 3j of the OAS Charter that states: “Social justice and social security are bases of lasting peace”;

The 2007 UN Brasilia Declaration, in which member nations agree to “spare no effort to promote and protect the human rights and fundamental freedoms of all older persons, to work to eradicate all forms of discrimination and violence and to create networks for the protections of older persons with a view to the effective exercise of their rights”;

The 2012 San Jose Charter on the “Rights of Older Persons in Latin America and the Caribbean,” in which state parties denounce elder abuse of any kind and commit to working to eradicate elder abuse;

That Article 9 of the 2014 OAS Committee on Juridical Affairs “Working Group on Protection of the Human Rights of Older Persons” report urges parties to promote the “creation and strengthening of support services to address cases of violence, mistreatment, abuse, exploitation, and abandonment of older persons”;

BEARING IN MIND:

The 2013 UN Department of Economic and Social Affairs report on “World Population Aging,” which projects the proportion of older persons aged 60 and above will double by 2050 in Latin America and the Caribbean, reaffirming the need for the protection of older persons;

The Second World Assembly (2002) on Aging report that stated that even in developing countries, where most of the world's older persons live, there is a lack of research on the issue of elder abuse, and despite this, there is ample evidence from crime records, news reports, social welfare records and some small studies that show that elder abuse in all its forms, physical, emotional and financial, is widespread;

DEEPLY CONCERNED:

That the Second World Assembly on Aging reported a survey in one member state found that up to 35 percent of reported cases of abuse were psychological, physical or financial, while the other 65 percent of incidents involved "social abuse", where the victims believed they were discriminated against by society because of their age, and the report also found that 45 per cent of an urban sampling of older persons in another member state reported that they had been mistreated, most often through psychological abuse;

That the 2002 World Health Organization (WHO) “World Report on Violence and Health” estimated that the number of older persons who have experienced abuse was approaching seven percent (7%) worldwide;

That the United States National Center On Elder Abuse estimates that for every one case of elder abuse, neglect, exploitation or self-neglect reported to the authorities, about five more go unreported; and

RECALLING:

Resolution AG/RES. 2792 (XLIII-O/13), “Draft Inter-American Convention on Protecting the Human Rights of Older Persons” which stresses “the need for a legally binding regional instrument to protect the human rights of older persons”,

RESOLVES:

1. To commend those member states that have passed domestic laws aimed at formalizing and strengthening the rights of older persons and enhancing their access to social programs.
2. To request that the OAS Inter-American Committee on Human Rights (IACHR) create a task force composed of gerontologists, social workers, social economists, psychologists and specialized NGO’s to address the issue of elder abuse in the Americas.
3. That said Task Force would hold a series of conferences called “Protecting our Elders” to develop a framework of basic principles and guidelines that will assist member states in the development of similar legal regimens aimed at eliminating elder abuse.
4. That “Protecting Our Elders” will focus on, but not be limited to, the following topics:
 - a. Creating a cohesive set of guidelines that address mental, physical and social issues concerning older persons.
 - b. Educating the public on elder abuse and dispelling the negative attitudes held toward older persons in the media.
 - c. Exploring existing avenues of healthcare for older persons, especially to prevent malnutrition, bacterial and viral disease, and other health problems that place older persons at risk as a result of neglect.
 - d. Exploring possibilities for providing short-term psychotherapy to victims of elder abuse and mistreatment.
 - e. Coordinating pro-bono legal counseling for cases of elder abuse and mistreatment.
4. That the initial conference be held virtually and organized and hosted by the IACHR and the OAS Committee on Juridical Affairs “Working Group on the Protection of Human Rights of Older Persons” at the OAS Headquarters in Washington DC. The timing and nature of subsequent conferences/meetings will be determined at the end of the initial meeting.
5. Reports of these meetings be disseminated on the OAS website and to the General Assembly.

6. To seek funding for the initial and subsequent meetings from the HelpAge International (HAI), the WHO, Global Action on Aging, International Association of Gerontology, International Federation on Ageing, International Institute on Ageing (INIA), International Institute for Human Resources Development (IIHRD), International Network for the Prevention of Elder Abuse (INPEA), International Project on Rural Ageing--West Virginia University Center on Ageing, World Veterans Federation, and other specialized International NGOs as well as the UN Human Rights Committee and the IACHR.

Approved for form and substance: _____
(Signature of Faculty Advisor)

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**THE PROTECTION OF THE STATELESS THROUGH SUPPORT FOR
THE RIGHTS OF INDIGENOUS PEOPLES**

First Committee
Draft Resolution Presented by the Delegation of Dominica

Topic No. 2 of the Agenda

THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY,

HAVING SEEN:

That the Preamble of the Charter of the Organization of American States (OAS) proclaims that “the true significance of American solidarity and good neighborliness can only mean consolidation on this continent, within the framework of democratic institutions, of a system of individual liberty and social justice based on respect for the essential rights of man”;

CONSIDERING:

That while there have been great strides made to promote the welfare and representation of indigenous peoples, much work still needs to be done to ensure justice and fair treatment;

BEARING IN MIND:

That Article 45a of the OAS Charter holds that “all human beings, without distinction as to race, sex, nationality, creed, or social condition, have a right to material well-being and to their spiritual development, under circumstances of liberty, dignity, equality of opportunity, and economic security”; and

RECOGNIZING:

That Section 51 of the Plan of Action of Mar del Plata (Fourth Summit of the Americas) declares the national commitment of attending countries “To promote an ongoing, respectful, and constructive dialogue with indigenous peoples and develop policies to create the necessary conditions to facilitate their integral and sustainable development, access to decent work, and living conditions, enabling them to overcome poverty with full respect to their rights”;

That Article 3f of the OAS Charter states that, “The elimination of extreme poverty is an essential part of the promotion and the consolidation of representative democracy and is the common and shared responsibility of the American States”;

That Section J of the same Article contends that, “Social justice and social security are the bases of lasting peace”;

That Section M of the same Article affirms the statement, “The spiritual unity of the continent is based on respect for the cultural values of the American countries and requires their close cooperation for the high purpose of civilization”;

RESOLVES:

1. To congratulate those Member States who have already taken efforts to promote equitable treatment of indigenous communities in accordance with the principle of social justice.

2. To authorize and sponsor a conference in Roseau, Dominica on the rights of indigenous peoples, inviting representatives from both the Member States and concerned indigenous communities, while asking Member States to voluntarily report back to the conference on an annual basis regarding the progress of these issues.
3. To recommend that Member States, on a voluntary basis, permanently delineate the borders of territories belonging to indigenous peoples, and to support prohibition of non-residents farming in such territories without the permission of indigenous communities.
4. To exhort Member States to voluntarily promote policies so as to further integrate indigenous communities desiring greater participation in national affairs and to so strengthen the rights of all humans throughout the states.

Approved for form and substance: _____
(Signature of Faculty Advisor)

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THE CREATION OF A MANUAL TO ASSIST AND STRENGTHEN THE WORK OF PUBLIC DEFENDERS IN THE AMERICAS

First Committee
Draft Resolution Presented by the Delegation of Ecuador

Topic No. 1 of the Agenda

THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY,

HAVING SEEN:

Article 45(i) of the Charter of the Organization of American States (OAS), which ensures the “Adequate provision for all persons to have due legal aid in order to secure their rights”;

Article 24 of the American Convention of Human Rights, which states that “All persons are equal before the law. Consequently, they are entitled, without discrimination, to equal protection of the law”;

Article 8(a) of the American Convention of Human Rights, which asserts that “Every person accused of a criminal offense has...the inalienable right to be assisted by counsel provided by the state, paid or not as the domestic law provides (...)”;

CONSIDERING:

That legal aid provided by public defenders is vital to vulnerable people and the lack of judicial assistance and representation may cause the violation of the individual’s rights;

That autonomy, impartiality and the strengthening of the judicial system in every American nation is important and should not be limited in order to preserve democratic stability;

TAKING INTO ACCOUNT:

The “Brasilia Regulations Regarding Access to Justice for Vulnerable People” approved by the XIV Ibero-American Judicial Summit on 2008, which guarantees the effective access to justice for vulnerable people without discrimination; and

RECALLING:

AG/RES. 2656 (XLI-O/11) “Guarantees for Access to Justice. The Role of Official Public Defenders”, which recognizes the autonomy of public defenders and the importance of free legal assistance especially to those in a vulnerable position;

AG/RES. 2821 (XLIV-O/14), “Toward Autonomy for and Strengthening of Official Public Defenders as a Guarantee of Access to Justice”, which urges member states and public defense offices in the region to cooperate in application of human rights protection mechanisms and instruments as well as encourages members states to create the institution of free legal counsel,

RESOLVES:

1. To congratulate the efforts made by Member States, the cooperation among the organs of the Inter-American system and the Inter-American Association of Public Defender Offices (AIDEF), in the effort to affirm access to justice and the strengthening of the autonomy of public defenders.
2. To recognize the diversity of the legal systems across the Americas and the importance of autonomy of the public defender offices in order to guarantee access to justice, especially to those in a vulnerable position.
3. To encourage those Member States that do not yet have the institution of free legal counsel to consider this possibility within their legal system.
4. To support the creation of a manual which will provide public defenders a guide to motivate the use of mechanisms and instruments to protect human rights especially with cases regarding vulnerable people and to promote the strengthening of autonomous public defender offices:
 - a. This manual will not be an imposition on the legal systems of each state; it will be a recommendation on the importance of access to justice and the role of public defenders.
 - b. This manual will be created with the technical and financial assistance of the Inter-American Commission on Human Rights and the Inter-American Association of Public Defender Offices (AIDEF).
5. To request the Secretariat for Legal Affairs to report in the next regular session the implementation of this resolution.

Approved for form and substance: _____
(Signature of Faculty Advisor)

Cosignatories: 1. _____ (Signature of Delegate) _____ (Country Represented)
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ADVANCEMENT OF NATIONAL LEGALIZATION TO ACHIEVE ACCESS TO LEGAL STATUS DOCUMENTATION FOR REFUGEES

First Committee
Draft Resolution Presented by the Delegation of Trinidad and Tobago

Topic No. 2 of the Agenda

THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY,

HAVING SEEN:

Article 3(l) of the Charter of the Organization of American States (OAS) which establishes that, “The American States proclaim the fundamental rights of the individual without distinction as to race, nationality, creed, or sex”;

Article 45(a) of the Charter of the OAS which affirms the belief that, “All human beings, without distinction as to race, sex, nationality, creed, or social condition, have a rights to material well-being and to their spiritual development, under circumstances of liberty, dignity, equality of opportunity, and economic security”;

Article 45(i) of the Charter of the OAS which stresses the need for “adequate provisions for all persons to have due legal aid in order to secure their rights”;

The Inter-American Democratic Charter which affirms that, “the promotion and protection of human rights is a basic prerequisite for the existence of a democratic society” and to which “Member States reaffirm their intention to strengthen the inter-American system for the protection of human rights for the consolidation of democracy in the hemisphere”;

RECALLING:

AG/RES.2047 (XXXIV-O/04), titled “Protection of Asylum Seekers, Refugees, Returnees, and Stateless Persons in the Americas” which emphasizes, “The importance of international dialogue, solidarity, and cooperation among the states and the international community to strengthen the international framework of protection for refugees and to address new challenges”;

CONSIDERING:

That 28 Member States have adopted the Cartagena+30 Brazil Declaration, “A Framework for Cooperation and Regional Solidarity to Strengthen the International Protection of Refugees, Displaced and Stateless Persons in Latin America and the Caribbean” and therefore recognize the risks asylum-seekers and refugees experience when attempting to seek protection, the responsibility to provide protection to asylum-seekers and refugees, and the necessity to ease the integration process of these individuals at risk;

NOTHING WITH SATISFACTION:

The cooperation between Member States and the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR) during the Cartagena+30 process that allowed for open dialogue and collaboration between UNHCR and Member States, in efforts to design programs that will increase the protection of refugees in the region; and

RECOGNIZING:

The Compilation Report- Universal Periodic Review submitted on March 2011 by the UNHCR which brings to attention the lack of “temporary residency rights and/or work permits” which lead refugees to “face

detention, prosecution for illegal work, increase vulnerability to labor exploitation, difficulty achieving self-sufficiency, obstacles to accessing social services, prolonged situations of family separation, and uncertainty about their future. This lack of legal rights has tended to lead to depression, anxiety, and secondary trauma amongst some of the more vulnerable refugees”,

RESOLVES:

1. To congratulate Member States for adopting the Cartagena+30 Brazil Declaration and their strategic efforts, during the Cartagena+30 Process, to propose programs that will enhance regional solidarity for the protection of asylum-seekers, refugees, and the stateless.
2. To urge Member States to continue their positive efforts alongside the UNHCR and local NGO's to establish and/or expand the protection and formation of legal rights for refugees within their borders.
3. To recommend to Member States that the 1951 Convention relating to the Status of Refugees, the 1967 Protocol relating to the Status of Refugees, the 1954 Convention relating to the Status of the Stateless, and the 1961 Convention on the Reduction of Statelessness be signed and ratified.
4. To create an OAS body to be known as the Committee for the Advancement of National Legislation for Refugee Integration (CANLRI) as an organ of the Inter-American Commission on Human Rights, with the specific purpose of assisting Member States with the development, implementation, and expansion of national refugee status determination procedures, and the implementation of strategies to quicken access to legal status determination for refugees.
5. That the proposed committee, CANLRI will:
 - a. Collaborate with UNHCR and local state NGO's in the analysis of national refugee policies of the Member States, and to make recommendations on needed improvements in the procedures and policies of each of the Member States;
 - b. Establish mechanisms through which Member States may have access to national policies implemented by other states as a way to promote distribution of “best-practices” and “responsibility sharing”;
 - c. Recommend policies for Member States based on analysis and data of current policies; recommendations should best align with requested policies of each state, as well as requirements under international law; and
 - d. Evaluate policies after their implementation and determine effectiveness of the policies.

6. To seek funding from UNHCR, local state NGO's and global NGO's such as, but not limited to, Amnesty International, and volunteer donations from Member States.

Approved for form and substance: _____
(Signature of Faculty Advisor)

Cosignatories: 1. _____
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IMPROVE THE ACCESS TO LEGAL INFORMATION THROUGH WEB PLATFORM

First Committee
Draft Resolution Presented by the Delegation of the Dominican Republic

Topic No. 4 of the Agenda

THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY,

CONSIDERING:

That nearly half of the people in Latin America see their human rights to access justice violated;

That the justice system is complex and multidimensional and it needs constant adaptation;

That the underprivileged citizens are too often unable to have their voice heard and exercise their rights through the legal system;

That the Rule of law, legal principle that law should govern a nation is the basis for a healthy, fair and democratic society;

BEARING IN MIND:

Article 3 of the OAS Charter, which recognizes “ The education of people should be directed toward justice, freedom, and peace”;

Article 99 of the OAS Charter, which establishes that “the purpose of the Inter-American Juridical Committee is to serve the Organization as an advisory body on juridical matters; to promote the progressive development and the codification of international law; and to study juridical problems related to the integration of the developing countries of the Hemisphere and, insofar as may appear desirable, the possibility of attaining uniformity in their legislation”;

The Charter of the Organization of American States, which recognizes that member states, inspired by the principles of inter American solidarity and cooperation, pledge themselves to a united effort to ensure international social justice in their relations and integral development for their peoples, as essential conditions for peace and security;

TAKING INTO ACCOUNT:

Resolution AG/RES. 2714 (XLII-O/12) “Official Public Defenders as a Guarantee of Access to Justice for Persons in Situations of Vulnerability,” agreed upon in a meeting of the Permanent Council on May 25, 2012 which called for a special meeting to occur in 2013 of the “OAS Committee on Juridical and Political Affairs for an exchange of practice and experiences, inviting member states, members of the Inter-American Association of Public Defender Offices (AIDEF), scholars, experts from civil society, and international organizations to attend”;

Resolution AG/RES. 2768 (XLIII-O/13) “Strengthening of the Activities of the Inter-American Program of Judicial Facilitators”, which highlights the importance of the Inter-American program of Judicial Facilitators as an overriding tool to reinforce access to justice to people in situation of vulnerability and encourage member states to participate in the program;

Resolution AG/RES. 2656 (XLI-O/11), “Guarantees For Access To Justice. The Role Of Official Public Defenders”, which states the wholehearted support by the OAS of public defenders and their importance to free and just society in both the guarantors of justice to the least advantaged and essential to the future elimination of injustice and poverty;

That the Inter-American Development Bank (IDB) and the Executive Secretariat for Integral Development of the Organization of American States (OAS) implemented a pilot project to improve access to legal services provided by universities in Uruguay, El Salvador and Guatemala to vulnerable groups;

RECOGNIZING:

That according to the United Nations Secretary-General (A/59/2005), "The protection and promotion of the universal values of the rule of law, human rights and democracy are ends in themselves. They are also essential for a world of justice, opportunity and stability";

The United Nations development program and several non-governmental organizations work towards a fair access to justice around the world;

RECALLING:

Article 31 of the OAS Charter, which sets forth: "Inter-American cooperation for integral development is the common and joint responsibility of the Member States, within the framework of the democratic principles and the institutions of the inter-American system. It should include the economic, social, educational, cultural, scientific, and technological fields, support the achievement of national objectives of the member states, and respect the priorities established by each country in its development plans, without political ties or conditions"; and

Article 45(f) of the OAS Charter, which stresses "The incorporation and increasing participation of the marginal sectors of the population, in both rural and urban areas, in the economic, social, civic, cultural, and political life of the nation, in order to achieve the full integration of the national community, acceleration of the process of social mobility, and the consolidation of the democratic system",

RESOLVES:

1. To commend the work of member states to strengthen access to justice through the instruction of jurists in all practice settings, about the legal needs of the underprivileged including minorities.
2. To encourage law schools around the continent to offer inexpensive legal consultation, arbitration and alternative dispute resolution in order to grant citizens a fair access to justice.
3. To request to governments to implement participative justice through e-learning training offered to the law community in order to strengthen the access to justice in remote areas.
4. To design a bi-annual e-forum in order to exchange on the improvement access to justice to:
 - a. Devote the e-forum specifically for access to justice issues.
 - b. Introduce a set of standards, identify future objectives and bring improvement if it is required, to provide a fair access to justice for all the member states.
 - c. Invite experts on the subject in order to share on the e-platform informative videos.
5. To deplore the complexity of justice documents and invite the members states to:

SPECIALIZED WORKING GROUP TO STUDY THE MECHANISMS TO STRENGTHEN LEGAL AID PROVIDERS' WORK IN RURAL AREAS

First Committee
Draft Resolution Presented by the Delegation of Mexico.

Topic No. 1 of the Agenda

THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY,

HAVING SEEN:

The Preamble of the Charter of the Organization of American States (OAS), which establishes that “juridical organization is a necessary condition for security and peace founded on moral order and on justice”;

Article 3 (j) of the OAS Charter, which asserts that “Social justice and social security are bases of lasting peace”;

Article 45 (i) of the OAS Charter, which states as one of its principles “Adequate provision for all persons to have due legal aid in order to secure their rights”;

The Preamble of the Social Charter of the Americas, which reaffirms “the universality, indivisibility, and interdependence of all human rights and their essential role in the promotion of social development and the realization of human potential; and recognizing the legitimacy and importance of international human rights law for their promotion and protection”;

CONSIDERING:

That Legal Aid Providers are a fundamental piece in the Judicial Branch in order to secure the effective exercise of the right to access to justice and the defense of the most fundamental Human Rights;

That rural areas present judicial asymmetries in comparison with cities, especially in the access to justice and it is important to understand the different mechanisms to reduce them in order to promote their adoption and to expand the access to justice particularly to those who are especially vulnerable;

TAKING INTO ACCOUNT:

The Resolution of the United Nations (A/RES/67/187) “United Nations Principles and Guidelines on Access to Legal Aid in Criminal Justice Systems”, which establishes in the “Guideline 2, the right to be informed” that States should ensure that “Information on the right to legal aid and what such aid consists of and on the availability of legal aid services and how to access such services, as well as other relevant information, is available in the community and to the general public” and that that information should be “available to isolated groups and marginalized groups”;

The “Regional Guide for the Public Defense and the Integral Protection of Persons Deprived of Liberty”, which aims to enhance, strengthen and extend existing good practices established by the Inter-American Association of Public Defenders (AIDDEF);

REAFFIRMING:

The “100 Brasilia Regulations Regarding Access to Justice for Vulnerable People” adopted by the Ibero-American Judicial Summit that establish the necessity to draft some Basic Regulations regarding access to justice for vulnerable people; and

RECALLING:

AG/RES. 2821 (XLIV-O/14), “Toward autonomy for and strengthening of official public defenders as a guarantee of access to justice”, which reiterates that “those Member States that already provide free legal counsel to take steps to ensure that official public defenders have an adequate budget and are independent and functionally, financially and/or budgetarily, and technically autonomous”;

AG/RES. 2801 (XLIII-O/13), “Toward autonomy for official public defenders, criminal and civil legal aid providers as a guarantee of access to justice”, which asserts “the fundamental importance of cost-free legal counsel services provided by official public defenders, criminal and civil legal aid providers in promoting and protecting the right of access to justice for everyone, particularly those who are especially vulnerable at all stages in the proceedings”;

AG/RES. 2714 (XLII-O/12), “Official public defenders as a guarantee of access to justice for persons in situations of vulnerability”, which highlights that “human rights and fundamental freedoms must be guaranteed and respected, without distinction of any kind”,

RESOLVES:

1. To congratulate the Committee on Juridical and Political Affairs (CAJP) for the efforts made to exchange best practices and experiences among Member States on access to justice and the importance of official public defenders and legal aid providers.
2. To instruct the Secretariat for Legal Affairs (SLA) to create a Specialized Working Group, composed by specialists who will be selected jointly by the Member States.
3. To entrust the specialized Working Group to carry out a study on the mechanisms to strengthen legal aid providers’ work in rural areas and good practices undertaken by Member States, in order to develop a conceptual framework, promote access to justice and have a proposal of experiences, taking into account, but not be limited to, the following tasks:
 - a. The relevance of training programs considering the characteristics of the rural areas.
 - b. Diverse forms of judiciary territorial decentralization toward those areas.
 - c. Pacific settlement of disputes in order to reduce the overload of cases in the Judiciary and increasing efficiency.
 - d. The signification of programs to ensure that legal aid providers are technically and operational autonomous.
4. To propose guidelines for the creation and implementation of new mechanisms related to this matter.
5. To establish that this working group, if it is requested, will act as an Ad Hoc Advisory Body of the SLA, in order to implement the aforementioned mechanisms.
6. To produce and publish in the OAS website a report on the results obtained from the Working Group’s labor with recommendations from those who integrate it.

7. To request the Permanent Council to hold, in the first quarter of 2016, a fourth special meeting of the OAS Committee on Juridical and Political Affairs for an exchange of best practices and experiences and present the precedent report.
8. To encourage non-governmental organizations (NGOs), Civil Society Organizations (CSOs), Law Schools, Attorneys, pro bono attorneys and AIDEF, to support the activities developed in the current Working Group.
9. To finance this Working Group with specific funds allocated to the budget of the SLA.

Approved for form and substance: _____

(Signature of Faculty Advisor)

Cosignatories:

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**RESOLUTION ON THE THRESHOLD OF THE RIGHT
TO TRUTH IN ARMED CONFLICT**

First Committee
Draft Resolution Presented by the Delegation of Chile

Topic No. 4 of the Agenda

THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY,

BEARING IN MIND:

The principles, rights and prerogatives recognized to humanity and the purposes of the Charter of the Organization of American States and the United Nations Charter;

HAVING SEEN:

AG / RES. 1904 (XXXII-O / 02), AG / RES. 2175 (XXXVI-O / 06), AG / RES. 2231 (XXXVI-O / 06), AG / RES. 2267 (XXXVII-O / 07), AG / RES. 2406 (XXXVIII-O / 08), AG / RES. 2509 (XXXIX-O / 09), AG / RES. 2595 (XL-O / 10), AG / RES. 2662 (XLI-O / 11) and AG / RES. 2725 (XLII-O / 12), AG / RES 2800 (XLIII-O / 13), resolutions containing provisions on the right to truth ;

TAKING INTO ACCOUNT:

The resolution 65/196 of the United Nations General Assembly entitled "Proclamation of March 24 as International Day for the Right to the Truth concerning Gross Human Rights Violations and for the Dignity of victims";

REAFFIRMING:

That the Universal Declaration of Human Rights and the American Convention on Human Rights indicate that all individuals of the human race, recognized as persons are invested for dignity in their existence, and are free and equal before the law, without distinction of any the grounds of sex, race, religion, economic status and generally anyone who tends towards negative discrimination;

That these statutes that materialize liberties, privileges and rights of all humans in their capacity as such should be interpreted according to the principles universality, indivisibility and interdependence;

That human rights do not exist because if attributes recognized by any state or international organizations, but by the mere existence of the human person and is therefore the promotion of them is "conventional, enhances and complements" character;

HAVING REGARD:

The annual report of the United Nations on the Millennium Development Goals by 2014;

RECOGNIZING:

That there are several Member States that has advanced and are advancing processes for the cessation of armed conflict;

That has not been established parameters that limit the arbitrary exercise of other rights against the right to truth;

That infringement of the right to the truth constitutes a flagrant assault on other human rights;

That the scourge of violence has left millions of victims who deserve the right to become effective to truth; and

WHEREAS:

That the public interest and the right to peace have an important paper backing facing the right to truth, since it must meet principles of necessity, appropriateness and proportionality for weighting,

RESOLVES:

1. To reaffirm the commitment of the Members Estates in the guarantee the right of truth of the victims, their families and the civil society in the Americas, and in turn, recognizing the importance of the systematic application of the established principles and approaches within the American Convention of Human Rights (1969) and the American Declaration of the Rights and Duties of Man (1948).
2. To celebrate the commitment of Member States that have already signed, ratified and acceded to the American Convention of Human Rights (1969) and the American Declaration of the Rights and Duties of Man (1948), in their effort to promote common mechanisms in order to fully respect the right to the truth on the continent. In the same way encourage Member States to maintain the spaces that in each country contributing to the right to the truth is materialized in reparation for victims.

3. To urge the Member States to consider the following recommendations in order to guarantee the right to the truth:
 - a. To achieve a balance between the laws of transitional justice that grant amnesties and the right to truth claimed by the victims.
 - b. To promote the academic investigation of the shortcomings of the judicial processes so as to contribute with viable solutions for the strengthening the internal regulations in each member state, in order to comply the American Convention of Human Rights (1969) and the American Declaration of the Rights and Duties of Man (1948).
 - c. To invite Member States to sign cooperation agreements to exchange information on investigating serious violations of human rights during dictatorships and internal wars, to stimulate the development of justice in terms of the right to truth in the Americas.
 - d. To secure and maintain sufficient spaces legislative representation of nationals living outside their origin country, whose migrations are from persecution or conflict.

Approved for form and substance: _____
(Signature of Faculty Advisor)

Cosignatories: 1. _____
(Signature of Delegate) (Country Represented)

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REPORTING ON PROGRAMS FOR REFUGEES AND ASYLUM SEEKERS

The First Committee
Draft Resolution presented by the Delegation of El Salvador

Topic No. 2 of the Agenda

HAVING SEEN:

The Inter-American Judicial Committee's Annual Report detailing the encouraging progress made in drafting a set of Guidelines on the Protection of Stateless Persons (AG/RES. 2826 (XLVI-O/14)), as mandated in the forty-fourth regular session of the General Assembly held June 3rd to 5th, 2014 in Asunción, Paraguay;

NOTING WITH SATISFACTION:

The efforts that states are making to prevent peoples from seeking asylum or refuge in terms of internal conflict, violence, and poverty;

The efforts made by the Permanent Council to create "a course on international refugee law for staff of the permanent missions of member states to the Organization of American States (OAS), General Secretariat personnel, and other interested persons" as stated in resolution AG/RES. 2402 (XXXVIII-O/08) "Protection of Refugees and Asylum Seekers in the Americas" which was adopted at the thirty-eighth regular session of the General Assembly held June 1st to 3rd, 2008 in Medellín, Colombia;

UNDERSCORING:

The presentation of the process known as Cartagena+30 which took place in Brasilia on the 2nd and 3rd of December, 2014, as a way to develop a regional plan of action for the protection of refugees by the UNHCR created in the commemoration of the 30th anniversary of the Cartagena Declaration on Refugees from 1984;

The Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees' (UNHCR)'s promotion of adherence to the standard that surrounds the international and regional protection, including but not limited to the recognition of the extraterritorial status of refugees, and special protection and actions to be taken when dealing with unaccompanied 'minor' asylum seekers;

RECOGNIZING:

The efforts and progress that countries have made in receiving refugees and implementing protection mechanisms as well as international, technical, and economic cooperative techniques;

UNHCR's overall goal to preserve and further advance protection space in the region by working on implementing programs that focus on the physical and legal protection of people of concern, including stateless;

The need for the enhancement of asylum systems and quality of protection for those asylum seekers in need; and

RECALLING:

The resolution AG/RES 2402 (XXXVIII-O/08), “Protection of Asylum Seekers and Refugees in the Americas”, which asked that the Permanent Council of the OAS “urge member states and the international community to increase technical and economic cooperation to the countries of the Hemisphere that receive refugees”,

RESOLVES:

1. To stress the importance of the 1951 Convention Relating to the Status of Refugees and the 1967 Protocol as a fundamental tool for the protection of refugees.
2. To require all members of the OAS to give an annual report of their efforts to improve conditions domestically for refugees and asylum seekers in order to evaluate their attempts to accommodate refugees and asylum seekers.
3. To use the information in the annual reports to improve current programs or detect deficiencies in the system, as well as work with policies that are already in place.

Approved for form and substance _____
(Signature of Faculty Advisor)

Cosignatories:

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Signature of Delegate Country Represented

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**HEMISPHERIC COMMITTEE TO AID AND PROTECT REFUGEES,
ASYLUM SEEKERS, AND THE STATELESS**

First Committee
Draft Resolution Presented by the Delegation of Costa Rica

Topic No. 2 of the Agenda

THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY,

REAFFIRMING:

Article 106 in the Charter of the Organization of American States in the Inter-American Commission on Human Rights, which recognizes that the “principal function shall be to promote the observance and protection of human rights and to serve as a consultative organ of the Organization in these matters”;

That the Inter-American Democratic Charter recognizes “that a safe environment is essential to the integral development of the human being, which contributes to democracy and political stability”;

That Article 9 of the Inter-American Democratic Charter establishes that, “the elimination of all forms of discrimination, especially gender, ethnic and race discrimination, as well as diverse forms of intolerance, the promotion and protection of human rights of indigenous peoples and migrants, and respect for ethnic, cultural and religious diversity in the Americas contribute to strengthening democracy and citizen participation.” ;

RECOGNIZING:

AG/RES. 2232 (XXXVI-O/06) which states that “efforts to provide protection and assistance and find lasting solutions for refugees in the region are inspired by humanitarian principles, are consistent with international refugee law, and are guided by the spirit of international solidarity and responsibility-sharing, as appropriate, with the support of international cooperation”;

AG/RES. 2826 (XLIV-O/14) which emphasizes “the importance of the Inter-American Program for Universal Civil Registry and the Right to Identity, given that recognition of the identity of persons is one of the means through which observance of the rights to recognition as a person before the law, a name, a nationality, civil registration, and family relationships is facilitated, among other rights recognized in international and inter-American instruments”; and

BEARING IN MIND:

That the 1951 Convention relating to the Status of Refugees defines the term: "refugee shall apply to any person who owing to well-founded fear of being persecuted for reasons of race, religion, nationality, membership of a particular social group or political opinion, is outside the country of his nationality and is unable, or owing to such fear, is unwilling to avail himself of the protection of that country; or who, not having a nationality and being outside the country of his former habitual residence as a result of such events, is unable or, owing to such fear, is unwilling to return to it”,

RESOLVES:

1. To commend the work of the Organization of American States on the work that has been done on the issue of refugees, asylum seekers, and the stateless.

2. To urge member states, in accordance with UNHCR and the Mexico Declaration and Plan of Action to Strengthen the International Protection of Refugees in Latin America, to accept refugees and offer assistance and asylum to the extent of the member states' abilities.
3. To urge member states to work internally to decrease the number of refugees and asylum seekers leaving their states by promoting, in conjunction with the Inter-American Juridical Committee, access to justice through strong and autonomous public defenders and legal aid providers.
4. To create the Committee for the Protection and Support of Refugees, Asylum Seekers and the Stateless composed of two qualified individuals from each member state chosen by the immigration department, or the equivalent in each state, to solely advise member governments on the protection of refugees, asylum seekers and the stateless,
 - a. The Committee will be responsible for making sure each member government has the resources to promote employment and housing. This will ensure that refugees, asylum seekers and the stateless can be integrated into the new culture and can be productive members of society.
 - b. The Committee will be trained in order to guide refugees, asylum seekers and the stateless in a way that will be most beneficial to their success and assimilation into the new country.
 - c. The Committee will work with individual state governments to promote legal citizenship for refugees, asylum seekers and the stateless in a way that is quick and efficient.
 - d. The Committee will be supervised by the Inter-American Commission on Human Rights.
5. To strongly urge the Committee for the Protection and Support of Refugees, Asylum Seekers and the Stateless to meet at least twice a year in order to share progress and ideas and request support from other states within the committee.
6. To encourage the Committee for the Protection and Support of Refugees, Asylum Seekers and the Stateless to create guidelines to prevent the need for citizens to become refugees which all OAS member states must adhere to in order to receive refugee assistance.
7. To request that each member state establish "seed grants" (or startup money) that should be administered by the proposed Committee for the Protection and Support of Refugees, Asylum Seekers and the Stateless, to assist member states in caring for, protecting and integrating refugees into society.

8. To fund this program through the Organization of American States Organizations Operations budget and Special Funds which will match the seed grants by the member states.

Approved for form and substance:

(Signature of Faculty Advisor)

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PROMOTING THE ELECTORAL RIGHTS OF ELDERLY CITIZENS

First Committee

Topic No. 3 of the Agenda

Draft Resolution Presented by the Delegation of the Republic of Guatemala

THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY,

RECALLING:

That the preamble of the Charter of the Organization of American States establishes that the Organization of American States is “Convinced that representative democracy is an indispensable condition for the stability, peace and development of the region”;

That Article 2 of the same document establishes that an essential purpose of the Organization of American States is, “To promote and consolidate representative democracy, with due respect for the principle of nonintervention” in accordance with the obligations under the Charter of the United Nations;

That Article 3 of the same document determines that “The solidarity of the American States and the high aims which are sought through it require the political organization of those States on the basis of the effective exercise of representative democracy”;

RECOGNIZING:

The commitment made to the advancement and promotion of democracy in the Hemisphere through the Inter-American Democratic Charter, which states in Article 1 that “The peoples of the Americas have a right to democracy and their governments have an obligation to promote and defend it”;

That additionally, Article 6 of the same document states that “It is the right and responsibility of all citizens to participate in decisions relating to their own development” and that “This is also a necessary condition for the full and effective exercise of democracy”;

CONSIDERING:

That Article 21 of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights states that “Everyone has the right to take part in the government of his country, directly or through freely chosen representatives” and that “Everyone has the right of equal access to public service in his country”; and

BEARING IN MIND:

That according to data published by the Pan American Health Organization, elderly citizens experience a disproportionately high prevalence of severe disability, including conditions such as blindness, decreased mobility, and mental handicap, which act as barriers to electoral participation;

That according to the United Nations Human Development Index, the average life expectancy at birth in Member States has increased from an average of 66 years in 1980 to an average of 73 years in 2013, which, if continued, will lead to an increase in the proportion of the population with an elevated risk of the aforementioned conditions,

RESOLVES:

1. To recognize and commend the invaluable efforts of the Member States to promote democracy, both nationally and in the Hemisphere.
2. To request that the Department for Effective Public Management publish a report, as part of its regular functions, aimed at facilitating the exercise of electoral rights by elderly citizens, specifically to:
 - a. Analyze voter turnout among elderly citizens and its impact on democracy in consenting Member States.
 - b. Summarize the special obstacles that elderly citizens face in exercising their right to vote, including but not limited to mobility impairment, blindness, and higher rates of illiteracy in some countries.
 - c. Through an examination of electoral laws and regulations, generate a list of current best practices in the Hemisphere to remediate age-related obstacles to the exercise of suffrage.
 - d. To develop a strategy for encouraging the broader implementation of these practices.

Approved for form and substance: _____
(Signature of Faculty Advisor)

Cosignatories: 1. _____ (Signature of Delegate) _____ (Country Represented)
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**PROMOTING THE RESPECT OF HUMAN RIGHTS OF OLDER PERSONS BY THE
ORGANIZATION OF AN INTER-AMERICAN FORUM “FIGHTING FOR OUR ELDERLY
COMMUNITY” AND CAMPAIGNS**

First Committee
Draft Resolution Presented by the Delegation of Argentina

Topic No. 3 of the Agenda

THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY,

REAFFIRMING:

The Charter of the Organization of American States, Chapter VII, Article 45 which states “All human beings, without distinction as to race, sex, nationality, creed, or social condition, have a right to material well-being and to their spiritual development, under circumstances of liberty, dignity, equality of opportunity, and economic security”;

The American Declaration of the Rights and Duties of Man, Chapter I, Article XVII, which states “Every person has the right to be recognized at any place as a subject of rights and obligations, and to enjoy the fundamental civil rights”;

TAKING INTO ACCOUNT:

The critical situation of the elderly persons and the various challenges that they face, such as discrimination that can mar the enjoyment of their human rights;

That older persons are free and equal to all other persons and have the right to be free from discrimination, the American Convention of Human Rights, Chapter I, Article 1, states “1. The States Parties to this Convention undertake to respect the rights and freedoms recognized herein and to ensure to all persons subject to their jurisdiction the free and full exercise of those rights and freedoms, without any discrimination for reasons of race, color, sex, language, religion, political or other opinion, national or social origin, economic status, birth, or any other social condition”; and

HAVING SEEN:

Article 3 of the Charter of the Organization of American States (OAS), which proclaims that “j) social justice and social security are bases of lasting peace”;

The work that has been done by the Working Group on Protecting the Human Rights of Older Persons of the OAS, the negotiation of the Draft Inter-American Convention on Protection of the Human Rights of Older Persons CAJP/GT/DHPM/145/14, article 3 “a) Promotion and defense of the human rights and fundamental freedoms of older persons ... d) Equality and non-discrimination”,

RESOLVES:

1. To commend all Member States for the steps they have taken to promote the respect of human rights of all the individuals in the Hemisphere.
2. To reinforce and ensure the work and investigations done by the Working Group on Protecting the Human Rights of Older Persons of the OAS.

**WORKING GROUP FOR LEGAL COOPERATION TO PROTECT REFUGGES, ASYLUM
SEEKERS AND STATELESS PEOPLE**

First Committee
Draft Resolution presented by the Delegation of the United States of America

Topic No. 2 of the Agenda

THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY,

CONSIDERING:

United Nations General Assembly Resolution 319 (IV) in which the above mentioned organ established a High Commissioner's Office for Refugees (UNHCR) with the purpose of providing international protection to this vulnerable population and to seek permanent solutions to the problem of refugees;

RECOGNIZING:

The Charter of the Organization of the American States, specifically Articles 30, 31 and 32, related to the importance of the Inter-American cooperation as it ensures international social justice in continental relations, and integral development for every country's population, as essential conditions for peace and security;

TAKING INTO ACCOUNT:

Articles 19 and 27 of American Declaration of the Rights and Duties of Man, which refer to the right to nationality and the right of asylum, respectively;

GUIDED BY:

The American Convention on Human Rights "Pact of San José, Costa Rica", in particular by Article 20 which refers to the right to nationality and Article 22 paragraph (7) which recognizes the right to seek and be granted asylum in a foreign territory;

HAVING EXAMINED:

Resolutions AG/RES. 2511 (XXXIX-O/09), AG/RES. 2597 (XL-O/10), AG/RES. 2678 (XLI-O/11), AG/2758 (XLII-O/12) and AG/RES. 2839 (XLIV-O/14), "Protection of Asylum Seekers and Refugees in the Americas", which reaffirm the importance of strengthening bilateral and regional cooperation in this policy area and of ensuring an effective implementation of international standards related to the due process for determining refugee status, established by both the Inter-American System on Human Rights and every country legislation; and

HAVING ADOPTED:

Resolution AG/RES. 2232 (XXXVI-O/06) "Protection of Asylum Seekers, Refugees, and Returnees in the Americas", in which the General Assembly urged Member States to continue implementing mechanisms for the protection of these vulnerable populations in accordance with international refugee law and international principles of refugee protection,

RESOLVES:

1. To congratulate the Organization of American States, specifically the General Secretariat, the Department of International Law, the Permanent Council and the Committee on Juridical and Political Affairs for their effort in the protection of refugees, asylum seekers and stateless persons.
2. To urge Member States to continue regulating and regimenting measures consistent with principles of international law and international refugee, asylum seekers, and stateless people protection, including non-refoulement, family unity, confidentiality in cases of asylum and resettlement, having as priority the return of this population to the last country in which they resided.
3. To request the Department of International Law, together with the Department of Sustainable Democracy and Special Missions and the Department of Social Inclusion to establish a working group to define mechanisms of legal cooperation in the protection of refugees, asylum seekers and stateless people in the Hemisphere, in order to establish a more efficient legal framework for the situation of this population.
4. To suggest the first task of the Working Group to be a comprehensive evaluation of the resources used by Member States in this policy issue, in order to determine strategies in which all countries can contribute to implement a new centralized technical and juridical mechanism to protect refugees, asylum seekers and stateless people and to optimize the functions associated to this activity.
5. To propose that the first meeting of the Working Group takes place in Washington D.C. at the OAS Headquarters.
6. To recognize the efforts made by the countries of origin with the support of the OAS and other international organizations and to promote further and solid actions to deal with the circumstances that generate waves of refugees and persons seeking asylum.
7. To request to the General Secretariat to present a report on the implementation of this Resolution in the Forty-fifth Regular Session of the General Assembly.

Approved for form and substance _____
 (Signature of Faculty Advisor)

Cosignatories:

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CONSIDERING EXPANDING THE DEFINITION REFUGEE IN THE HEMISPHERE

First Committee

Agenda Topic 2

Draft Resolution Presented by the Delegation of the Plurinational State of Bolivia

THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY,

RECOGNIZING

That one of the main pillars of the Organization of the American States (OAS) is the Defense of Human Rights set forth in the Charter of the OAS in Chapter XV, that creates the Inter-American Commission on Human Rights and states, "... the present Inter-American Commission on Human Rights shall keep vigilance over the observance of human rights." ;

The 1951 Convention Relating to the Status of Refugees which set the standard for the region's commitment to the promotion of the rights of refugees recognized by the international definition through legal protection and asylum, as well as protection at sensitive borders;

The 1984 Cartagena Declaration that sought to recognize a regional broadening of the term refugee in the third part of its conclusion which states, "Hence the definition or concept of a refugee to be recommended for use in the region is one which, in addition to containing the elements of the 1951 Convention and the 1967 Protocol, includes among refugees persons who have fled their country because their lives, safety or freedom have been threatened by generalized violence, foreign aggression, internal conflicts, massive violation of human rights or other circumstances which have seriously disturbed public order.";

The Mexico Plan of Action to Strengthen the International Protection of Refugees in Latin America, which created provisions for implementing economic and educational opportunities for refugees as to help them become a self sufficient population in their newfound home;

That the issue of refugees continues to pose a complex problem to the hemisphere and places a collective strain on all nations, especially due to complex factors in the region such as organized crime, trafficking, and mixed migration movements that have challenged the region to come up with an effective method of protection for those fleeing;

The unique regional conditions, such as natural disasters, economic despair, and organized crime that make the definition of refugee in the Americas slightly different than the international definition created by the 1951 Refugee Convention which states the definition of Refugee to be , "owing to well-founded fear of being persecuted for reasons of race, religion, nationality, membership of a particular social group or political opinion, is outside the country of his nationality and is unable or, owing to such fear, is unwilling to avail himself of the protection of that country; or who, not having a nationality and being outside the country of his former habitual residence as a result of such events, is unable or, owing to such fear, is unwilling to return to it.";

CONSIDERING:

The 2006 Commitment made by the Organization of the American States (OAS) in resolution AG/RES. 2232 (XXXVI-O/06), "Protection of Asylum Seekers, Refugees, and Returnees in the Americas," to work with and cooperation the UNHCR and other international organizations seeking to improve the rights of refugees;

The reaffirmed commitment made by Member States comprising of and associated with the MERCOSUR sub-regional bloc to protect refugees as promised in the MERCOSUR Declaration of Principles on International Refugee Protection in 2012; and

ACKNOWLEDGING:

The efforts of member states to continue to accept refugees despite the state's own political or economic position, and the commitment of member states to improve the quality of life of refugees;

The efforts of Member States to address the issues that cause internal displacement both in the countries of origin and the countries accepting an influx in refugees;

RESOLVES:

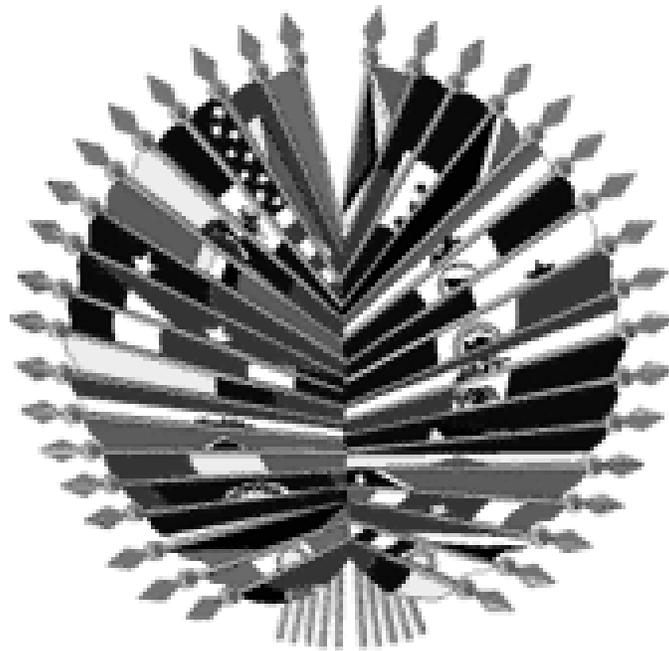
1. To urge Member States that have not previously committed to past initiatives for refugee protection to commit themselves to action in their own state and the hemisphere.
2. To request the Inter-American Commission on Human Rights convene a forum of experts and interested parties to examine whether a revision of the definition of "refugee" as it pertains to the Western hemisphere is needed as the Member States confront the challenges of the 21st Century.
3. To request the Inter-American Commission on Human Rights produce a summary of the conclusions of the forum and report it to the Permanent Council and Secretary General.

Approved for form and substance _____
(Signature of Faculty Advisor)

Cosignatories:	1. _____	_____
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**2015 Washington Model Organization of
American States General Assembly**

**Electronic Packet
ADDENDUM
First Committee**



JUDICIAL REFORM IN THE AMERICAS

First Committee
Draft Resolution Presented by the Delegation of Haiti

Topic No. 1 of the agenda

THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY,

HAVING SEEN:

That Article 1 of the OAS Charter states that “The peoples of the Americas have a right to democracy and their governments have an obligation to promote and defend it. Democracy is essential for the social, political, and economic development of the peoples of the Americas”; and

Article 2 of the Democratic Charter which states that “the effective exercise of representative democracy is the basis for the rule of law”;

RECOGNIZING:

That the Mechanism for the Follow-Up on the Implementation of the Inter-American Convention against Corruption (MESICIC) establishes a set of preventative measures including the criminalization of acts of corruption and a code of conduct and ethics for public employees;

CONSIDERING:

That the objectives of the Inter-American Program for Cooperation in the Fight against Corruption (MESICIC/CEP-II/doc.5/06 rev. 2), are to “detect, punish and eradicate corruption”;

That MESICIC (MESICIC/CEP-III/doc.4/10 rev. 1), the “Follow-up on Recommendations”, enables a review of the progress that has been made since the first report;

EMPHASIZING:

That the strong link between citizen education and effective democratization allows for the meaningful participation in the political decision-making process;

NOTING:

That the lack of effective justice systems directly harms all states in the hemisphere and that, according to the 2014 Corruption Index, 17 countries in the Americas exceeded internationally recognized thresholds for corruption;

That the Inter-American Development Bank (IDB) study of “Education as a Tool Against Corruption” found that students with the highest education levels were less likely to be influenced by corruption;

ACKNOWLEDGING:

That Transparency International has recommended steps in reducing corruption within justice systems by setting higher salaries and pensions in an effort to make judges less vulnerable to bribery and external influences;

That the United Nations Convention against Corruption (UNCAC) has implemented anti-corruption projects in 158 countries with the goal of “Enhancing coordination and cooperation with relevant internal and external partners to better support country efforts to fight corruption”; and

ALSO NOTING:

That the United Nations Development Program (UNDP) has started 22 different anti-corruption projects in the Americas,

RESOLVES:

1. To urge Member States to adhere to a “OAS Judicial Transparency Policy” which would promote the exchange of information and uniformity in the application of law such that member states pledge to strengthen the consistency and function of their judicial systems and consist of:

a. The consistent enforcement of judicial decisions through the set mechanisms of MESICIC.

b. The strengthening of the rule of law by:

1. The effective and thorough investigation of all crimes including those where there is reason to suspect the involvement of state officials.

2. Disavowing the use of the judicial system to punish citizens for political expression.

3. Strengthening the principle of judicial independence in light of sovereignty.

4. Providing effective legal protection for government whistleblowers who release information of public interest to the media or the public.

c. Encouraging the free flow of information about the execution and creation of law.

Approved for form and substance: _____
(Signature of Faculty Advisor)

Cosignatories:

- | | |
|-------------------------|-----------------------|
| 1. _____ | _____ |
| (Signature of Delegate) | (Country Represented) |
| 2. _____ | _____ |
| 3. _____ | _____ |
| 4. _____ | _____ |
| 5. _____ | _____ |