



# OAS | MOAS

## CONCEPT PAPER ON GENERAL THEME AND PRELIMINARY AGENDA OF TOPICS

42<sup>nd</sup> Model OAS General Assembly for High Schools of the Hemisphere

November 15-17, 2023 | OAS Headquarters, Washington, D.C.

### ***Digital Transformation for Sustainable Development in the Americas: Empowering the Youth to be Catalysts for Change***

#### **Background on General Theme of the Model OAS for High Schools:**

The 42<sup>nd</sup> Model OAS for High Schools of the Americas will take place following the Ninth Summit of the Americas, which was hosted by the United States of America from June 6-10, 2022 in Los Angeles, California. During this institutional gathering, Heads of State and Government of the Member States of the OAS committed to charting a path towards a sustainable, resilient, and equitable future for the Americas. The Summit of the Americas serves as the highest decision-making body of the Inter-American system whose mandates are executed by regional entities including the Organization of American States.

Among the mandates emanating from the Summit included a Regional Agenda for Digital Transformation in which the leaders affirmed, “The essential role of dynamic and resilient digital ecosystems in supporting vibrant digital economies, enhancing preparedness for future health, natural disaster, and climate events, promoting digital inclusion for all peoples, encouraging respect for human rights and fundamental freedoms, increasing innovation, competitiveness and investment, optimizing the provision of public services, and strengthening digital governance, transformation, and trust in the region by leveraging emerging and digital technologies.” To that end, leaders of the hemisphere have recognized the imperative of ensuring equitable and sustainable access to emerging technologies for all citizens of the Americas as a means of addressing the hemisphere’s most pressing challenges.

In that context, this year’s Model OAS for High School students from the Hemisphere will follow-up on this mandate and address its pivotal thematic areas. The Model will be held under the general theme, *Digital Transformation for Sustainable Development in the Americas: Empowering the Youth to be Catalysts for Change*. In their committees, delegations will address key themes and mandates emanating from the Ninth Summit of the Americas, the 53<sup>rd</sup> Regular Session of the General Assembly of the Organization of American States which was held in Washington, D.C. from June 21-23, 2023, as well as by referring to the

United Nations' Sustainable Development Goals (where applicable) and derive concrete ideas to address the hemisphere's most imminent socio-economic and political concerns.

In that regard, the Model OAS Coordination Team is pleased to share with delegations the agenda of topics to be included in the 3 Committees of this year's Model: General Committee; Committee on Juridical and Political Affairs; and the Committee on Hemispheric Security.

In accordance with Articles 44 through 48 of the MOAS Rules of Procedure, the format of the MOAS for High Schools is a Working Group Format. The working group instructions of each committee are the following:

1. The head delegates will work and debate **Topic No.1** in each committee.
2. The alternate delegates will work and debate **Topic No. 2** in each committee.
3. **Subtopics** ("a" through "c") **have been assigned by the MOAS Team**. Each subtopic will originate a Working Group. A table will be prepared shortly with the distribution of delegates into the working groups.
4. Each of these Working Groups will produce one (1) resolution on the subtopic.
5. Please follow the times and instructions included in the Calendar of Events to organize the work within each Working Group.
6. The joint resolutions issued by the Working Groups of the alternate delegates will be debated by the head delegates and vice versa (according to Art. 54 to 56). Please note the following:
  - a. Each working group elects a "Working Group Leader" to present the resolution to the committee (this applies also to the Alternate delegates' working groups).
  - b. The Alternate delegates may respond to the questions that any head delegate asks during the debate of their working groups' resolutions. However, both the head and alternate delegates for the same country must have the same position and cannot go

## GENERAL COMMITTEE

### 1. CLIMATE CHANGE AND CLEAN ENERGY

- a. Promoting innovation and cooperation to mitigate the impacts of climate change in the Americas.
- b. Strengthening the regional and international legal framework to address climate change.
- c. Sharing best practices on inclusive and equitable energy-efficient transportation infrastructure and urban designs.

## **2. DIGITAL EDUCATION**

- a. Best practices for implementing a digital education action plan to include new technologies in the classroom.
- b. Analyzing the use of digital technologies in educational curricula for the promotion of inclusive and quality education in the Americas.
- c. Proposals for national initiatives to combat the long-term consequences of the COVID-19 pandemic on education in rural communities in the Americas.

## **COMMITTEE ON JURIDICAL AND POLITICAL AFFAIRS**

### **1. DEMOCRACY IN THE DIGITAL ERA**

- a. Analyzing the role of youth in combating corruption and holding governments accountable.
- b. Strengthening the use of open data and technological resources to foster transparency in government processes.
- c. Encouraging multi-stakeholder forums for dialogue among the public sector, the private sector, and civil society, including youth organizations, to strengthen democratic practices and respect for human rights.

### **2. OPEN GOVERNMENT AND DIGITAL TRANSFORMATION**

- a. Promoting regional efforts to share knowledge and digital tools to accelerate digital transformation and open government in the Americas.
- b. Analyzing the impact of emerging technologies on the right to privacy and the protection of personal data.
- c. Strengthening national policies on open government through the use of digital tools.

## COMMITTEE ON HEMISPHERIC SECURITY

### 1. TRANSNATIONAL ORGANIZED CRIME

- a. Promoting regional cooperation to effectively address the challenges of transnational organized crime with particular attention to strengthening international legal frameworks and public policies in the digital era.
- b. Measures to mitigate and counter the impact of transnational organized crime on youth in the Americas.
- c. Enhancing collaboration and technological capacities to protect citizens and local economies in the Americas in the face of transnational organized crime activities.

### 2. CYBER-SECURITY

- a. Developing digital literacy among young people in the Americas to encourage appropriate digital behaviors in cyberspace.
- b. Improving digital technologies to combat cyber-security threats and safeguard critical infrastructure.
- c. Strengthening collaboration among international agencies and regional public entities, and Computer Emergency Response Teams (CERTs) to manage cybersecurity incidents.