NMUN • NY

ORGANIZATION OF AMERICAN STATES
BACKGROUND GUIDE 2011

WRITTEN BY: Sheryn Barham, Dexter Ballard, Molly Deacon and Cale Crammer

NATIONAL MODEL UNITED NATIONS
nmun.org

NATIONAL COLLEGIATE CONFERENCE association™

17 - 21 April 2011 - Sheraton
19 - 23 April 2011 - Marriott

CONTACT THE NMUN

Please consult the FAQ section of nmun.org for answers to your questions. If you do not find a satisfactory answer you may also contact the individuals below for personal assistance. They may answer your question(s) or refer you to the best source for an answer.

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NMUN Director-General (Marriott)
Brianna Johnston-Hanks | dirgen@nmun.org

NMUN Secretary-General
Ronny Heintze | secgen@nmun.org

NMUN•NY 2011 Important Dates

IMPORTANT NOTICE: To make hotel reservations, you must use the forms at nmun.org and include a $1,000 deposit. Discount rates are available until the room block is full or one month before the conference – whichever comes first. PLEASE BOOK EARLY!

SHERATON	MARRIOTT	DESCRIPTION
31 January 2011	31 January 2011	• Confirm Attendance & Delegate Count. (Count may be changed up to 1 March) • Make Transportation Arrangements - DON'T FORGET! (We recommend confirming hotel accommodations prior to booking flights.)
15 February 2011	15 February 2011	• Committee Updates Posted to www.nmun.org
1 March 2011	1 March 2011	• Hotel Registration with FULL PRE-PAYMENT Due to Hotel - Register Early! Group Rates on hotel rooms are available on a first come, first served basis until sold out. Group rates, if still available, may not be honored after that date. See hotel reservation form for date final payment is due. • Any Changes to Delegate Numbers Must be Confirmed to: outreach@nmun.org • Preferred deadline for submission of Chair / Rapp applications to Committee Chairs • All Conference Fees Due to NMUN for confirmed delegates. ($125 per delegate if paid by 1 March; $150 per delegate if received after 1 March. Fee is not refundable after this deadline.
15 March 2011	15 March 2011	• Two Copies of Each Position Paper Due via E-mail (See Delegate Preparation Guide for instructions).
NATIONAL MODEL UNITED NATIONS		The 2011 National Model UN Conference • 17 - 21 April – Sheraton New York • 19 - 23 April – New York Marriott Marquis The 2012 National Model UN Conference • 1 - 5 April – Sheraton New York • 3 - 7 April – New York Marriott Marquis

Two copies of each position paper should be sent via e-mail by 15 MARCH 2011

1. TO COMMITTEE STAFF

A file of the position paper (.doc or .pdf) for each assigned committee should be sent to the committee e-mail address listed below. Mail papers by 15 March to the e-mail address listed for your particular venue. These e-mail addresses will be active when background guides are available. Delegates should carbon copy (cc:) themselves as confirmation of receipt. Please put committee and assignment in the subject line (Example: GAPLEN_Greece).

2. TO DIRECTOR-GENERAL

• Each delegation should send one set of all position papers for each assignment to the e-mail designated for their venue: positionpapers.sheraton@nmun.org or positionpapers.marriott@nmun.org. This set (held by each Director-General) will serve as a back-up copy in case individual committee directors cannot open attachments.
Note: This e-mail should only be used as a repository for position papers.

• The head delegate or faculty member sending this message should cc: him/ herself as confirmation of receipt. (Free programs like Adobe Acrobat or WinZip may need to be used to compress files if they are not plain text.)

• Because of the potential volume of e-mail, only one e-mail from the Head Delegate or Faculty Advisor containing all attached position papers will be accepted.

Please put committee, assignment and delegation name in the subject line (Example: Cuba_U_of_ABC). If you have any questions, please contact the Director-General at dirgen@nmun.org.

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for more information

COMMITTEE	EMAIL - SHERATON
General Assembly First Committee	ga1st.sheraton@nmun.org
General Assembly Second Committee	ga2nd.sheraton@nmun.org
General Assembly Third Committee	ga3rd.sheraton@nmun.org
Human Rights Council	hrc.sheraton@nmun.org
ECOSOC Plenary	ecosoc.sheraton@nmun.org
Commission on Crime Prevention and Criminal Justice	ccpcj.sheraton@nmun.org
Commission on the Status of Women	csw.sheraton@nmun.org
Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific	escap.sheraton@nmun.org
Economic and Social Commission for Western Asia	escwa.sheraton@nmun.org
United Nations Environment Programme	unep.sheraton@nmun.org
United Nations Population Fund	unfpa.sheraton@nmun.org
United Nations Children's Fund	unicef.sheraton@nmun.org
World Intellectual Property Organization	wipo.sheraton@nmun.org
African Development Bank	afdb.sheraton@nmun.org
Group of 20	g20.sheraton@nmun.org
Organization of American States	oas.sheraton@nmun.org
Organization for Security and Co-operation in Europe	osce.sheraton@nmun.org
Security Council	sc.sheraton@nmun.org
Security Council 2	sc2.sheraton@nmun.org
International Court of Justice	icj.sheraton@nmun.org
Non-Proliferation Treaty Review Conference	npt.sheraton@nmun.org

COMMITTEE	EMAIL - MARRIOTT
General Assembly First Committee	ga1st.marriott@nmun.org
General Assembly Second Committee	ga2nd.marriott@nmun.org
General Assembly Third Committee	ga3rd.marriott@nmun.org
Human Rights Council	hrc.marriott@nmun.org
ECOSOC Plenary	ecosoc.marriott@nmun.org
Commission on Crime Prevention and Criminal Justice	ccpcj.marriott@nmun.org
Commission on the Status of Women	csw.marriott@nmun.org
Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific	escap.marriott@nmun.org
Economic and Social Commission for Western Asia	escwa.marriott@nmun.org
United Nations Environment Programme	unep.marriott@nmun.org
United Nations Population Fund	unfpa.marriott@nmun.org
United Nations Children's Fund	unicef.marriott@nmun.org
World Intellectual Property Organization	wipo.marriott@nmun.org
African Development Bank	afdb.marriott@nmun.org
Group of 20	g20.marriott@nmun.org
Organization of American States	oas.marriott@nmun.org
Organization for Security and Co-operation in Europe	osce.marriott@nmun.org
Security Council	sc.marriott@nmun.org
Security Council 2	sc2.marriott@nmun.org
International Court of Justice	icj.marriott@nmun.org
Non-Proliferation Treaty Review Conference	npt.marriott@nmun.org

OTHER USEFUL CONTACTS

Entire Set of Delegation Position Papers	positionpapers.sheraton@nmun.org
(send only to e-mail for your assigned venue)	positionpapers.marriott@nmun.org
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Dear Delegates,

Welcome to the 2011 National Model United Nations (NMUN)! We are very pleased to be serving as your Directors and Assistant Directors for the Organization of American States (OAS) at the Sheraton and Marriott Venues this April.

We would like to introduce ourselves, as we will be your first contacts for any questions, concerns or suggestions, which we are more than pleased to receive. Sonia Patel, Director for the Sheraton Venue, received her B.A. in Political Science from Furman University in 2008, and is currently pursuing a J.D. from the Charlotte School of Law. Sonia plans to work towards a career in immigration and international business law. Her Assistant Director, Molly Deacon, is a 2nd year student of International Studies and Women's Studies at Wells College. This will be her first year serving as part of the NMUN staff. She is currently a freelance entertainer and entrepreneur. Dexter Ballard, Director for the Marriott Venue, is graduating in May with a double major in International Affairs and Political Science, and a Minor in Technology, Arts and Media at the University of Colorado at Boulder. Dexter intends to pursue a career in independent media and creative diplomacy. Cale Crammer, Assistant Director at the Marriott Conference, is a 4th year Ph.D. student in Political Science at the University of California, Riverside (UCR). His areas of focus are in political theory and international relations. He is currently a teaching assistant for the Women's Studies at UCR and teaches political philosophy at Irvine Valley College.

The topics under discussion for the OAS at the 2011 NMUN are:

1. Elimination of All Forms of Racial and Indigenous Discrimination, Immigration Intolerance and Xenophobia;
2. Reducing Illicit Crops and Drug Trafficking; and
3. Cultural Sensitivity in Reconstruction Efforts and International Aid Deployment.

The OAS plays a crucial regional role being the largest Intergovernmental Organization of the Americas. The broad variety of topics to be addressed reflect the all-encompassing OAS agenda as Member States are aware of the global nature of such matters, albeit the OAS is dedicated to finding regional solutions that will spread globally in an effort to attain regional and international peace and security. In order to prepare for Committee session, delegates are strongly encouraged to familiarize themselves with the work of the OAS, its role in the region and within the United Nations System as well as with events of current concern to the Committee. This background guide will serve as an introduction to the topics listed above. Delegates must be aware that this document is not intended to be an all-inclusive analysis of the matters at hand, but as the groundwork for your own in-depth research. As representatives of Member States of the OAS during this Conference, delegates have the responsibility to acquire profound knowledge on the Committee and the topics under discussion. In conducting your research, please consult scholarly material, including journals, international news, the OAS and the United Nations Web sites, among others. You will also need to familiarize yourself with the work and current operations of the Committee.

Every delegation is required to submit a position paper prior to attending the conference. NMUN will accept position papers via e-mail by March 1st, 2011. Please refer to the Director-General's letter explaining NMUN's position paper requirements and restrictions, as adherence to these guidelines is of utmost importance.

Your experience in the OAS will be challenging, but very enriching and certainly a valuable educational experience. The quality of our Committee and the NMUN Conference depends on the quality of your preparation. Please do not hesitate to direct any questions or concerns toward your Director. We wish you the best of luck in your pre-conference preparation and look forward to meeting you in New York.

Sincerely yours,

Sheraton Venue	*Marriott Venue*
Sonia Patel	Dexter Ballard
Director	Director
Molly Deacon	Cale Crammer
Assistant Director	Assistant Director
oas.sheraton@nmun.org	oas.marriott@nmun.org

Message from the Directors-General Regarding Position Papers for the
2011 NMUN Conference

At the 2011 NMUN New York Conference, each delegation submits one position paper for each committee it is assigned to. Delegates should be aware that their role in each committee impacts the way a position paper should be written. While most delegates will serve as representatives of Member States, some may also serve as observers, NGOs or judicial experts. To understand these fine differences, please refer to the Delegate Preparation Guide.

Position papers should provide a concise review of each delegation's policy regarding the topic areas under discussion and establish precise policies and recommendations in regard to the topics before the committee. International and regional conventions, treaties, declarations, resolutions, and programs of action of relevance to the policy of your State should be identified and addressed. Making recommendations for action by your committee should also be considered. Position papers also serve as a blueprint for individual delegates to remember their country's position throughout the course of the Conference. NGO position papers should be constructed in the same fashion as position papers of countries. Each topic should be addressed briefly in a succinct policy statement representing the relevant views of your assigned NGO. You should also include recommendations for action to be taken by your committee. It will be judged using the same criteria as all country position papers, and is held to the same standard of timeliness.

Please be forewarned, delegates must turn in material that is entirely original. ***The NMUN Conference will not tolerate the occurrence of plagiarism***. In this regard, the NMUN Secretariat would like to take this opportunity to remind delegates that although United Nations documentation is considered within the public domain, the Conference does not allow the verbatim re-creation of these documents. This plagiarism policy also extends to the written work of the Secretariat contained within the Committee Background Guides. Violation of this policy will be immediately reported to faculty advisors and may result in dismissal from Conference participation. Delegates should report any incident of plagiarism to the Secretariat as soon as possible.

Delegation's position papers can be awarded as recognition of outstanding pre-Conference preparation. In order to be considered for a Position Paper Award, however, delegations must have met the formal requirements listed below. Please refer to the sample paper on the following page for a visual example of what your work should look like at its completion. The following format specifications are **required** for all papers:

- All papers must be typed and formatted according to the example in the Background Guides

- Length must **not** exceed two single spaced pages (one double sided paper, if printed)

- Font **must** be Times New Roman sized between 10 pt. and 12 pt.

- Margins must be set at 1 inch for whole paper

- Country/NGO name, School name and committee name clearly labeled on the first page; the use of national symbols is highly discouraged

- Agenda topics clearly labeled in separate sections

To be considered timely for awards, please read and follow these directions:

1**. A file of the position paper** (.doc or .pdf) **for each assigned committee** should be sent to the committee email address listed in the Background Guide. These e-mail addresses will be active after November 15, 2010. Delegates should carbon copy (cc:) themselves as confirmation of receipt.

2. Each delegation should also send **one set of all position papers** to the e-mail designated for their venue: positionpapers.sheraton@nmun.org or positionpapers.marriott@nmun.org. This set will serve as a back-up copy in case individual committee directors cannot open attachments. These copies will also be made available in Home Government during the week of the NMUN Conference.

Each of the above listed tasks needs to be completed no later than **March 15, 2010 (GMT-5) for delegations attending the NMUN conference at either the Sheraton or the Marriott venue**.

PLEASE TITLE EACH E-MAIL/DOCUMENT WITH THE NAME OF THE COMMITTEE, ASSIGNMENT AND DELEGATION NAME (Example: AU_Namibia_University of Caprivi)

A matrix of received papers will be posted online for delegations to check prior to the Conference. If you need to make other arrangements for submission, please contact Holger Baer, Director-General, Sheraton venue, or Brianna Johnston-Hanks, Director-General, Marriott venue at dirgen@nmun.org. There is an option for delegations to submit physical copies via regular mail if needed.

Once the formal requirements outlined above are met, Conference staff use the following criteria to evaluate Position Papers:

- Overall quality of writing, proper style, grammar, etc.

- Citation of relevant resolutions/documents

- General consistency with bloc/geopolitical constraints

- Consistency with the constraints of the United Nations

- Analysis of issues, rather than reiteration of the Committee Background Guide

- Outline of (official) policy aims within the committee's mandate

Each delegation can submit a copy of their position paper to the permanent mission of the country being represented, along with an explanation of the Conference. Those delegations representing NGOs do not have to send their position paper to their NGO headquarters, although it is encouraged. This will assist them in preparation for the mission briefing in New York.

Finally, please consider that over 2,000 papers will be handled and read by the Secretariat for the Conference. Your patience and cooperation in strictly adhering to the above guidelines will make this process more efficient and is greatly appreciated. Should you have any questions please feel free to contact the Conference staff, though as we do not operate out of a central office or location your consideration for time zone differences is appreciated.

Sincerely yours,

Sheraton Venue	*Marriott Venue*
Holger Baer	Brianna Johnston-Hanks
Director-General	Director-General
holger@nmun.org	briannaj@nmun.org

Sample Position Paper

The following position paper is designed to be a sample of the standard format that an NMUN position paper should follow. While delegates are encouraged to use the front and back of a single page in order to fully address all topics before the committee, please remember that only a *maximum* of one double-sided page (or two pages total in an electronic file) will be accepted. Only the first double-sided page of any submissions (or two pages of an electronic file) will be considered for awards.

Delegation from   *Represented by*
Canada   **(Name of College)**

Position Paper for General Assembly Plenary

The topics before the General Assembly Plenary are: Breaking the link between Diamonds and Armed Conflict; the Promotion of Alternative Sources of Energy; and the Implementation of the 2001-2010 International Decade to Roll Back Malaria in Developing Countries, Particularly in Africa. Canada is dedicated to collaborative multilateral approaches to ensuring protection and promotion of human security and advancement of sustainable development.

I. Breaking the link between Diamonds and Armed Conflict

Canada endorses the Kimberly Process in promoting accountability, transparency, and effective governmental regulation of trade in rough diamonds. We believe the Kimberly Process Certification Scheme (KPCS) is an essential international regulatory mechanism and encourage all Member States to contribute to market accountability by seeking membership, participation, and compliance with its mandate. Canada urges Member States to follow the recommendations of the 2007 Kimberley Process Communiqué to strengthen government oversight of rough diamond trading and manufacturing by developing domestic legal frameworks similar to the Extractive Industries Transparency Initiative. We call upon participating States to act in accordance with the KPCS's comprehensive and credible systems of peer review to monitor the continued implementation of the Kimberley Process and ensure full transparency and self-examination of domestic diamond industries. We draw attention to our domestic programs for diamond regulation including Implementing the Export and Import of Rough Diamonds Act and urge Member States to consider these programs in developing the type of domestic regulatory frameworks called for in A/RES/55/56. Canada recognizes the crucial role of non-governmental organizations (NGOs) in the review of rough diamond control measures developed through the Kimberly Process and encourages States to include NGOs, such as Global Witness and Partnership Africa Canada, in the review processes called for in A/RES/58/290. We urge Member States to act in accordance with A/RES/60/182 to optimize the beneficial development impact of artisanal and alluvial diamond miners by establishing a coordinating mechanism for financial and technical assistance through the Working Group of the Kimberly Process of Artisanal Alluvial Producers. Canada calls upon States and NGOs to provide basic educational material regarding diamond valuation and market prices for artisanal diggers, as recommended by the Diamond Development Initiative. Canada will continue to adhere to the 2007 Brussels Declaration on Internal Controls of Participants and is dedicated to ensuring accountability, transparency, and effective regulation of the rough diamond trade through the utilization of voluntary peer review systems and the promotion of increased measures of internal control within all diamond producing States.

II. The Promotion of Alternative Sources of Energy

Canada is dedicated to integrating alternative energy sources into climate change frameworks by diversifying the energy market while improving competitiveness in a sustainable economy, as exemplified through our Turning Corners Report and Project Green climate strategies. We view the international commitment to the promotion of alternative sources of energy called for in the Kyoto Protocol and the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Control (UNFCCC) as a catalyst to sustainable development and emission reduction. Canada fulfills its obligations to Article 4 of the UNFCCC by continuing to provide development assistance through the Climate Change Development Fund and calls upon Member States to commit substantial financial and technical investment toward the transfer of sustainable energy technologies and clean energy mechanisms to developing States. We emphasize the need for Member States to follow the recommendations of the 2005 Beijing International Renewable Energy Conference to strengthen domestic policy frameworks to promote clean energy technologies. Canada views

dissemination of technology information called for in the 2007 Group of Eight Growth and Responsibility in the World Economy Declaration as a vital step in energy diversification from conventional energy generation. We call upon Member States to integrate clean electricity from renewable sources into their domestic energy sector by employing investment campaigns similar to our $1.48 billion initiative ecoENERGY for Renewable Power. Canada encourages States to develop domestic policies of energy efficiency, utilizing regulatory and financing frameworks to accelerate the deployment of clean low-emitting technologies. We call upon Member States to provide knowledge-based advisory services for expanding access to energy in order to fulfill their commitments to Goal 1 of the Millennium Development Goals (MDGs). Canada urges States to address the concerns of the 2007 Human Development Report by promoting tax incentives, similar to the Capital Cost Allowances and Canadian Renewable and Conservation Expenses, to encourage private sector development of energy conservation and renewable energy projects. As a member of the Renewable Energy and Energy Efficiency Partnership, Canada is committed to accelerating the development of renewable energy projects, information sharing mechanisms, and energy efficient systems through the voluntary carbon offset system. We are dedicated to leading international efforts toward the development and sharing of best practices on clean energy technologies and highlight our release of the Renewable Energy Technologies Screen software for public and private stakeholders developing projects in energy efficiency, cogeneration, and renewable energy. Canada believes the integration of clean energy into State specific strategies called for in A/62/419/Add.9 will strengthen energy diversification, promote the use of cogeneration, and achieve a synergy between promoting alternative energy while allowing for competitiveness in a sustainable economy.

III. Implementation of the 2001-2010 International Decade to Roll Back Malaria in Developing Countries, Particularly in Africa

Canada views the full implementation of the treatment and prevention targets of the 2001-2010 International Decade to Roll Back Malaria in Developing Countries, Especially in Africa, as essential to eradicating malaria and assisting African States to achieve Target 8 of Goal 6 of the MDGs by 2015. We recommend Member States cooperate with the World Health Organization to ensure transparency in the collection of statistical information for Indicators 21 and 22 of the MDGs. Canada reaffirms the targets of the Abuja Declaration Plan of Action stressing regional cooperation in the implementation, monitoring, and management of malaria prevention and treatment initiatives in Africa. To fully implement A/RES/61/228, Canada believes developed States must balance trade and intellectual property obligations with the humanitarian objective of the Doha Declaration on the TRIPS Agreement and Public Health. We continue to implement Paragraph 6 of the Doha Declaration on the TRIPS Agreement and Public Health into our compulsory licensing framework through the Jean Chrétien Pledge to Africa Act. We urge Member States to support compulsory licensing for essential generic medicines by including anti-malarial vaccines and initiating domestic provisions to permit export-only compulsory licenses to domestic pharmaceutical manufacturers, similar to Canada's Access to Medicines Regime. Canada calls upon Member States to establish advanced market commitments on the distribution of pneumococcal vaccines to developing States in cooperation with PATH and the Malaria Vaccine Initiative. We emphasize the need for greater membership in the Roll Back Malaria initiative to strengthen malaria control planning, funding, implementation, and evaluation by promoting increased investment in healthcare systems and greater incorporation of malaria control into all relevant multi-sector activities. Canada continues to implement the Canadian International Development Agency's (CIDA) New Agenda for Action on Health to reduce malaria infection rates among marginalized populations in Africa, increase routine immunizations rates, and reduce infection rates of other neglected infections. Canada will achieve the goal of doubling aid to Africa by 2008-2009 by providing assistance to the Global Fund to Fight Aids, Tuberculosis, and Malaria. We urge Member States to increase donations to intergovernmental organizations and NGOs that support malaria programming in Africa, exemplified by CIDA's contribution of $26 million to the Canadian Red Cross. We continue our efforts to provide accessible and affordable vector control methods to African States through the Red Cross' Malaria Bed Net Campaign and the African Medical Research Foundation Canada by supplying insecticide-treated mosquito nets and Participatory Malaria Prevention and Treatment tool kits.

Committee History

History

The Organization of American States (OAS) is the world's oldest existing regional organization, tracing its roots to the First International Conference of American States, held in Washington, D.C. between 1889 and 1890.[1] The first official meeting of the OAS was held in 1948 in Bogota, Colombia, where the organization adopted its original charter.[2]

The OAS was based upon The Monroe Doctrine, which embodied the principle that any form of attack of one ally was an attack on all.[3] Although war does not necessarily result from international tensions between OAS Member States and other countries, the Member States do have certain obligations to this organization, which are outlined in the Charter.[4]

The OAS Charter

The Charter adopted in 1948 by the OAS has been amended several times between 1967 and 1997 by its Member States and thus expanded.[5] However, its reasons for existence have not changed over time, and its goals, outlined in Part I of the Charter, remain generally intact. The purposes of the OAS described in Part I are meant to be of mutual interest to the American states. This part establishes that the OAS must strive to promote democracy, eliminate poverty, limit the proliferation of weapons, and build peace and security throughout the region, among other tasks.[6]

The subsequent parts of the OAS Charter specify which moral and legal principles are to govern the body, specific duties that the OAS must uphold, and the process for becoming a Member State of the organization. These rules regulate the operations of the OAS and ensure that actions may be carried out smoothly. The duties of OAS Member States are examined in Part IV of the Charter, which include upholding peaceful relations between American states, fostering respect for international legal documents and treaties, and commitment to the goals of the OAS, among others.[7] Much of the remainder of the Charter simply lays groundwork for the operation of, and states the purposes for, the separate organs that comprise the OAS.[8]

The OAS Body: Its Organs and Their Functions

The largest and main organ within the OAS is the General Assembly, in which each Member State may exercise its right to an equal vote on matters addressed by the organization. The General Assembly has, on occasion, established entities which are under the jurisdiction of the General Assembly but which generally operate on their own.[9] The Permanent Council is comparable to the United Nations Security Council in its duties, but it is different by the fact that all OAS permanent members are represented and none possess veto power.[10] This Council is responsible for overseeing and implementing the activities and decisions of the OAS, as well as ensuring that the standards outlined in the Charter are met. Other important, permanent organs include the Inter-American Court on Human Rights, the Juridical Committee, the Commission on Human Rights, and the Inter-American Council for Integral Development.[11] One additional organ of importance, the Meeting of Consultation of Ministers of Foreign Affairs, is a meeting designed for high-ranking representatives from Member States to deal with foreign affairs;

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[1] Organization of American States, Who We Are, 2010.
[2] Organization of American States, Who We Are, 2010.
[3] Britannica Online Encyclopedia, Organization of American States, 2010.
[4] Britannica Online Encyclopedia, Organization of American States, 2010.
[5] Organization of American States, Who We Are, 2010.
[6] Organization of American States, Secretariat for Legal Affairs, 2010.
[7] Mora, The Organization of American States, 1960. p. 514-521.
[8] Organization of American States, Secretariat for Legal Affairs, 2010.
[9] Sheinin, The Organization of American States, 1995. p. 64-66.
[10] Sheinin, The Organization of American States, 1995. p. 64-66.
[11] Organization of American States, Who We Are, 2010.

these meetings are less public in nature and are held less frequently than the meetings of the General Assembly.[12] Generally, this organ attempts to address issues of urgent nature upon which decisions must be made quickly.[13]

Membership of the OAS

Thirty-five sovereign states comprise the permanent membership of the OAS.[14] This number includes North, Central, and South American states as well as numerous island nations in the Western hemisphere, which are considered a part of the Americas.[15] Each member state has a vote in the General Assembly and are members of the Permanent Council.[16] Temporary Member States are also frequently recognized within the OAS; they are chosen depending upon the needs of the OAS and the specific topics it chooses to address.[17] Guidelines for permanent and temporary membership are found within the OAS Charter.[18]

Issues and Matters of Concern at the OAS

The issues that the OAS involves itself with are those which directly affect the Member States and which require attention most urgently. Common issues include human rights, small arms trade, illegal drug trafficking, racial discrimination, and youth issues, as well as more specific aspects within those subject areas.[19] While some of these issues may affect nations to different degrees, the OAS generally seems to recognize that what affects one Member State will inevitably affect the others in the region.[20]

One issue of concern to the OAS at this time include the reconstruction of Haiti, which involves stabilizing not only the infrastructure and economic wellbeing of the country, but the political and power structures there as well. The OAS recognizes Haiti's sovereignty during the process and ensures that its efforts are in line with the needs of the people in that country.   Additionally, the OAS is working to ensure that Haiti benefits in the long term from the process; this means building preparedness for other emergencies, transparency in government, and environmental sustainability, among other things.[21]

Haiti is an example of a topic demanding the immediate attention of the OAS; however, many issues have been the subjects of ongoing debate and discussion within the body. For instance, the trafficking of small arms and light weapons (SALWs) has been a major concern in the Americas, and it is a recurring topic within the General Assembly and Permanent Council of the OAS.[22] Through this continuing commitment to finding solutions to certain ongoing problems, legally-binding documents such as the Inter-American Convention, which attempts to establish systems for marking legally manufactured weapons, create an information-sharing network between states, and weaken illicit trade of SALWs through strengthening control at export points, come into being.[23] This Convention and documents like it represent large steps for the OAS toward fulfilling the purposes defined in its Charter.[24]

The OAS is also challenged by instability within the governments of its Member States at times. For instance, during July 2009, after Honduran President Manuel Zelaya was ousted from power and replaced by an interim government, Honduras was suspended as the OAS refused to recognize the new government, demonstrating Member States' commitment to rule of law within their borders.[25] This event reminded some observers of Cuba's suspension, which was enacted in 1962 due to the Marxist-Leninist beliefs of its leaders during that time. This

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[12] Organization of American States, Who We Are, 2010.
[13] Organization of American States, Who We Are, 2010.
[14] Organization of American States, Member States, 2010.
[15] Organization of American States, Member States, 2010.
[16] Organization of American States, Permanent Council of the OAS, 2010.
[17] Organization of American States, Secretariat for Legal Affairs, 2010.
[18] Organization of American States, Secretariat for Legal Affairs, 2010.
[19] Organization of American States, Topics, 2010.
[20] Sheinin, The Organization of American States, 1995. p. 64.
[21] Republic of Haiti: A Road Map for Recovery, Stabilization, and Development, 2010. p. 2-6.
[22] Cragin and Hoffman, Arms Trafficking and Colombia, 2003. p. 11.
[23] William Godnick, Tackling the Illicit Trade in Small Arms and Light Weapons, 2002. p. 3-6.
[24] William Godnick, Tackling the Illicit Trade in Small Arms and Light Weapons, 2002. p. 3-6.
[25] Thompson, Lacey, *OAS Votes to Suspend Honduras Over Coup*, 2009.

suspension was enacted in order to protect another ideal of the OAS – the promotion of democracy. Cuba's suspension was lifted in 2009, an action that Manuel Zelaya endorsed, stating that it had put an end to the Cold War still being waged in the Americas.[26] Cuba, however, has declined to open the dialogue on its own readmission to the organization.[27]

Cuba's example demonstrates how the OAS has addressed the challenge of balancing power that many international organizations face. While the United States led the way in having Cuba suspended in the first place, this country, which exerts control in international bodies such as the United Nations Security Council, was pushed to compromise in the decision to lift Cuba's suspension.[28] Many structural factors contribute to an atmosphere that fosters cooperation, such as the focus on the General Assembly as a primary decision-making body rather than a smaller body with more restricted membership, such as the Permanent Council.[29] The recent decision regarding Cuba may signify a cooling of Cold War tensions, which continue to be an obstacle to cooperation within the OAS today.[30]

Conclusion

The Organization of American States is a highly organized body designed to operate efficiently and respond to crises as they arise. It was founded to uphold principles of sovereignty and peace as it addresses each topic, and its Member States are challenged to work cooperatively to tackle a wide variety of topics of mutual concern, even when troubles, such as government instability, arise.

The OAS demonstrates the ability of a region that includes a rich variety of cultures, societies, resources, and political structures to unite in order to promote certain common ideals. Peace, respect for human dignity, and hope for a bright future guide the Member States of the OAS through their decision-making as they navigate the pressing topics that are presented before them.

I. Elimination of All Forms of Racial and Indigenous Discrimination, Immigration Intolerance, and Xenophobia

"Discrimination feeds mistrust, resentment, violence, crime and insecurity and makes no economic sense, since it reduces productivity. It has no beneficial aspects for society whatsoever. Yet we continue to practice it [...]."[31]

Introduction

More than six decades have passed since the proclamation of the *Universal Declaration of Human Rights (UDHR)* on December 10th, 1948.[32] It constitutes "a common standard of achievement for all peoples and all nations, […] to promote respect for these rights and freedoms and […] secure their universal and effective recognition and observance […]".[33] Yet, racial and indigenous discrimination, immigration intolerance and xenophobic practices prevail, the Americas not being the exception.

As proclaimed under Article 2 of the Charter of the *Organization of American States* (OAS), the organization was conceived on the purposes of strengthening the peace and security of the continent through the advancement of economic, social and cultural development; the eradication of extreme poverty; and the pacific settlement of disputes between Member States.[34] Under the principles set forth in Article 3 of the Charter, "[t]he American States

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[26] Brice, *OAS Lifts 47-Year-Old Suspension of Cuba*, 2009.
[27] Brice, *OAS Lifts 47-Year-Old Suspension of Cuba*, 2009.
[28] Brice, *OAS Lifts 47-Year-Old Suspension of Cuba*, 2009.
[29] Shaw, Limits to Hegemonic Influence in the Organization of American States, 2003, p. 59-64.
[30] Perry and Primorac, The Inter-American Security Agenda, 1994, p. 114.
[31] Pillay, Statement by the High Commissioner for Human Rights, 2009.
[32] United Nations, The Universal Declaration of Human Rights, 1948.
[33] United Nations, The Universal Declaration of Human Rights, 1948.
[34] OAS, Charter of the OAS, 1951.

proclaim the fundamental rights of the individual without distinction as to race, nationality, creed, or sex."[35] This provides a forefront for discussion of the matters at hand as they represent a breach to regional cooperation, peace, justice, stability and security. Racial and indigenous discrimination, xenophobia and related intolerance are still rampant, signifying a continuous obstacle for regional development hindering the universality of human rights.

Overview and brief historical background

Racism and related forms of discrimination conceal social barriers that prevent development from taking place, further dividing the peoples of the world.[36] The protection of human dignity constitutes a major concern for the Americas as it is a region with a historical baggage particularly shaped by long-lasting episodes of colonization and struggle against racial and indigenous discrimination. In this sense, the OAS was directed at achieving hemispheric independence, union and territorial integrity. It was envisaged as a tool to fight external intromission from states outside the continent and to prevent colonization from repeating itself. Nonetheless, the struggle remains as discrimination persists while new phenomena, such as xenophobia, have convoluted the situation.

Racism and racial discrimination
Racial discrimination is defined by the *International Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Racial Discrimination* as: "any distinction, exclusion, restriction or preference based on race, color, descent, or national or ethnic origin which has the purpose or effect of nullifying or impairing the recognition, enjoyment or exercise […] of human rights and fundamental freedoms […]".[37] Racism often involves distinctions based upon physical features, mainly skin tone or color, hair type and facial characteristics.[38]

Indigenous discrimination
In spite of the several improvements achieved by indigenous peoples throughout the world, especially in Latin America, such as the gain of a more active role of indigenous movements and organizations within the political, economic, cultural and social spheres over the past decades; indigenous discrimination remains a setback for development.   Major challenges still need to be tackled, namely: the reduction of high rates of poverty and inequality; the inefficiency of governments in implementing the rule of law in regards to the protection of indigenous land rights and natural resources; and the failure of governments in recognizing the autonomy of indigenous peoples and communities while providing them a more active role in decision-making processes.[39]

Immigration Intolerance
Persistent anti-migrant sentiments, legislations and practices are the main obstacles hindering migrants' integration to host societies.[40] Immigration intolerance rises as a response towards the constant and generalized criminalization of migrants who are often perceived as illegal, hindering the respect for human rights as they are seen as criminals. Discriminatory practices are often condoned as migrants are seen as a threat to national identity, peace and security. Nonetheless, the international community has acknowledged the respect and protection of the rights of smuggled illegal-migrants by the adoption of the *Protocol Against the Smuggling of Migrants by Land, Sea and Air*.[41]

Xenophobia: understanding migration prejudice
Xenophobia is regarded as a phenomenon usually denoted by rejection towards those non-nationals, migrants and foreigners in general. Xenophobia is perceived as a feeling of persistent sentiments of fear and aversion towards outsiders.[42] Sociologists tend to describe xenophobia as an "orientation of hostility against non-natives in [any] given population."[43] Although xenophobia constitutes a different trend from intolerance, it can be taken as a form of racism as it sometimes involves the rejection of certain groups of specific nationality or precedence. [44]

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[35] OAS, Charter of the OAS, 1951.
[36] UNESCO, Coalition of Latin American and Caribbean Cities Against Racism, Discrimination and Xenophobia, 2006.
[37] UNESCO, Coalition of Latin American and Caribbean Cities Against Racism, Discrimination and Xenophobia, 2006.
[38] ILO, International Migration, Racism, Discrimination and Xenophobia, 2001, p.2.
[39] Center for Latin American Studies, Conference on Indigenous Peoples in Latin America: The Challenge of Poverty Reduction, Land Rights and Natural Resource Control, 2004, p.2.
[40] United Nations, Discrimination Against Migrants, 2009.
[41] ILO, International Migration, Racism, Discrimination and Xenophobia, 2001, p.6.
[42] ILO, International Migration, Racism, Discrimination and Xenophobia, 2001, p.2.
[43] ILO, International Migration, Racism, Discrimination and Xenophobia, 2001, p.2.
[44] UN, Discrimination Against Migrants, 2009.

International approaches against discrimination, immigration intolerance, and xenophobia

Several international approaches have taken place as declarations, conferences and conventions in order to prevent the abuse of human rights. International humanitarian law and international human rights law are comprised by a set of International Treaties and Customary Law designed to shape the behavior and responsibilities of states as regards to the promotion and protection of human rights. "Human rights recognize that certain principles are true and valid for all peoples, in all societies, under all conditions […] Human rights are universal […]; indivisible – [...]; and inalienable […]."[45] Still, the universality and inalienability of such rights remain questionable.

Legal instruments and declarations

The UDHR is regarded as the main set of principles designed to prevent abuses of human rights after the atrocities that took place throughout World War I and World War II.[46] The fact that there are basic standards of respect and decency to safeguard human dignity are considered as the cornerstone of the UDHR.[47] One of the main features that assure the universality of human rights through the UDHR is the repeated use of the terms "all human beings", "everyone" and "no one", which emphasize the global and indiscriminate nature of the declaration[48]. Articles 1 and 2 constitute an additional reference of its universality by proclaiming that "[a]ll human beings are born free and equal in dignity and rights.[…]", and by distinctively expressing that "[e]veryone is entitled to all the rights and freedoms set forth […], without distinction of any kind[…]".[49] Articles 7, 23 and 25 establish the universal character of the access to employment and equal work conditions, a just standard of living.[50]

Constituting an internationally accepted and supported convention, the International Convention on All Forms of Racial Discrimination has 173 States parties -85 of them being signatories.[51] On October 4th of 1969 the Convention entered into forced and currently, out of the 35 permanent OAS Members, 21 have both signed and ratified the Convention and12 have ratified it - Dominica not having signed it nor ratified it, and Grenada having signed it without ratification.[52] The Committee on the Elimination of Racial Discrimination (CERD) is the independent body of the UN that monitors the implementation of this Convention.[53] It takes one step forward by outlining an internationally-accepted definition of racial discrimination as "any distinction, exclusion, restriction or preference based on race, color, descent, or national or ethnic origin which has the purpose or effect of nullifying or impairing the recognition, enjoyment or exercise […] of human rights and fundamental freedoms […]."[54] Moreover, under the core provisions signaled by the Convention, Articles 2 and 3 condemn racial discrimination, racial segregation and apartheid, calling all states, under Articles 5 and 6, to provide equality before the law and to grant legal remedies and protection in case of discrimination.[55]

The Declaration of the Rights of Indigenous Peoples marks a precedent in improving indigenous groups' situation by serving as a tool for the enhancement of awareness, promotion and fulfillment of indigenous' rights.[56] After more than two decades of its writing process, the Declaration was conceived as a measure to prevent and, ultimately, eradicate indigenous discrimination worldwide.[57] After facing numerous obstructions on behalf of some States, mainly given by some concerns as to indigenous rights to self-determination and control over natural resources in indigenous lands*;* and the negative vote of Canada, the United States, Australia and New Zealand, the Declaration was adopted as UN General Assembly

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[45] ILO, International Migration, Racism, Discrimination and Xenophobia, 2001, p.3.
[46] Glendon, The Rule of Law in the Universal Declaration of Human Rights, 2004
[47] Glendon, The Rule of Law in the Universal Declaration of Human Rights, 2004.
[48] United Nations, The Universal Declaration of Human Rights, 1948.
[49] United Nations, The Universal Declaration of Human Rights, 1948.
[50] United Nations, The Universal Declaration of Human Rights, 1948.
[51] Australian Human Rights Commission, The International Convention on All Forms of Racial Discrimination, 2002.
[52] UNTC, International Convention on All Forms of Racial Discrimination, Chapter IV, Human Rights, 2010.
[53] OHCHR, Committee on the Elimination of Racial Discrimination, 2007.
[54] OHCHR, Committee on the Elimination of Racial Discrimination, 1966, Part I, Article 1.
[55] OHCHR, Committee on the Elimination of Racial Discrimination, 1966, Part I, Articles 5 & 6.
[56] Cultural Survival, UN Adopts the Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous, 2007.
[57] Cultural Survival, UN Adopts the Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous, 2007.

Resolution (A/RES/61/295).[58] However, its success will be determined by the efforts and commitments of States regarding the protection and fulfillment of indigenous' human rights.[59]

Towards Action: World Conference Against Racism, Racial Discrimination, Xenophobia and Related Intolerance

The World Conference Against Racism, Racial Discrimination, Xenophobia and Related Intolerance, known as Durban I, held in South Africa on 2001, is divided into its Declaration and the Program of Action. The Declaration acknowledges efforts taken to address racism, discrimination, xenophobia and related intolerance; recognizes sources and causes, forms and contemporary manifestations of such behaviors; its main victims; and measures of protection and prevention.[60] It also establishes effective remedies and compensatory measures; strategies to achieve full and effective equality, and mechanisms to mitigate such phenomena.[61] The Program of Action calls on states to apply all necessary efforts to protect and fulfill indigenous peoples' exercise of their human rights and fundamental freedoms.[62] Further, it emphasizes the need to promote respect for indigenous culture and heritage.[63] It also requests States parties to "promote and protect fully and effectively the human rights and fundamental freedoms of all migrants, in conformity with the [UDHR] and their obligations under international human rights instruments […]".[64] It recognizes the responsibility of States to provide effective measures and policies to counter and eradicate acts related to discrimination, xenophobia and related intolerance.[65]

Coalition of Latin American and Caribbean Cities Against Racism, Discrimination and Xenophobia
In 2004, the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization (UNESCO) launched the initiative International Coalition of Cities Against Racism, Discrimination and Xenophobia as a means to establish a network of Latin American and Caribbean cities interested in sharing their experiences in the fight against discrimination.[66] Its main objective is to involve cities in a joint struggle through an international effort.[67] As a measure to achieve its goal, the Coalition formulated a 10- point Action Plan in order to set out strategies and policies to join cities in their fight against racism, discrimination and xenophobia.[68] An approximate of 60 municipalities have joined the initiative.[69] On the same spirit, the states adopted the Declaration of the Coalition of Latin American and Caribbean Cities Against Racism, Discrimination and Xenophobia in which the members of the Coalition ascertain their commitment towards adopting policies and measures in order to safeguard the human dignity of vulnerable groups[70].

Racial and indigenous discrimination, immigration intolerance and xenophobia within the OAS scope

The Inter-American Commission on Human Rights is the OAS' main organ dealing with human rights and its promotion, protection and defense.[71] "The main duty of the Commission […] is to hear and oversee petitions that have been made against a member state of the OAS claiming a human rights abuse."[72] In the case of human rights abuse, any individual, group of people or NGO holding legal recognition by at least one OAS Member State may be able to file a general or a collective petition.[73] If a solution to the petition is not reached after the disposal of the Commission, the case shall be submitted to the Inter-American Court of Human Rights.[74]

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[58] UNPFII, United Nations Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples, 2007.
[59] Cultural Survival, UN Adopts the Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous, 2007.
[60] World Conference Against Racism, Racial Discrimination, Xenophobia and Related Intolerance, Declaration, 2001.
[61] World Conference Against Racism, Racial Discrimination, Xenophobia and Related Intolerance, Declaration, 2001.
[62] World Conference Against Racism, Racial Discrimination, Xenophobia and Related Intolerance, Programme of Action, 2001.
[63] World Conference Against Racism, Racial Discrimination, Xenophobia and Related Intolerance, Programme of Action, 2001, p.24.
[64] World Conference Against Racism, Racial Discrimination, Xenophobia and Related Intolerance, Programme of Action, 2001, p.26.
[65] World Conference Against Racism, Racial Discrimination, Xenophobia and Related Intolerance, Programme of Action, 2001.
[66] UNESCO, Coalition of Latin American and Caribbean Cities Against Racism, Discrimination and Xenophobia, 2006.
[67] UNESCO, Coalition of Latin American and Caribbean Cities Against Racism, Discrimination and Xenophobia, 2006.
[68] UNESCO, Coalition of Latin American and Caribbean Cities Against Racism, Discrimination and Xenophobia, 2006.
[69] UNESCO, Coalition of Latin American and Caribbean Cities Against Racism, Discrimination and Xenophobia, 2006.
[70] UNESCO, Coalition of Latin American and Caribbean Cities Against Racism, Discrimination and Xenophobia, 2006.
[71] Human Rights Education Associates, Inter-American Human Rights System, 2007.
[72] Human Rights Education Associates, Inter-American Human Rights System, 2007.
[73] Human Rights Education Associates, Inter-American Human Rights System, 2007.
[74] Corte Inter-Americana de Derechos Humanos, Petitions and Consultations before the Inter-American System.

The Inter-American Court of Human Rights constitutes one of the three existing regional courts dedicated to the protection of Human Rights.[75] Established in 1978, the Court constitutes the judicial organ entitled to hear cases referred by the Inter-American Commission on Human Rights after its investigation on the petition, or by the state involved in the case.[76] It may only deliberate and hear cases involving states that have previously ratified the American Convention on Human Rights and recognized its jurisdiction.[77] In case the ruling of the Court stipulates the existence of human rights violation, it may order the rectification of the situation.[78] Every year the Court shall submit a report to the OAS General Assembly in which it shall indicate the cases reviewed by the Court; its ruling; and specify those cases in which states have failed to comply with the Court's decision.[79] Also, the Court can submit proposals and recommendations for the improvement of the Inter-American human rights system.[80]

Plan of Action Santiago
The Second Summit of the Americas succeeded in adopting the Santiago Plan of Action, on April 1998, as a regional effort to attain development for all countries of the Americas.[81] In reference to the matter of indigenous peoples, Member States agreed to enhance their participation mainly by: strengthening the education of indigenous communities in order to fortify their identity and the promotion of respect and coexistence; promoting capacity building by supporting productive projects in agriculture, handicrafts, small trade and industry; and examining, within the OAS scope, the "Proposed American Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples; among other efforts.[82] Regarding migrants, especially migrant workers, the Plan calls on Member States to guarantee migrant's human rights and that of their families; to provide equality in legal protections; to protect migrant workers and their respective families by means of law enforcement and information diffusion; to prevent the physical and psychological abuse of migrant workers; and the respect of cultural identity, among others. [83]

South American Conference on Migration (SACM)
Established in 1999 under the Lima Declaration, the SACM is a regional process focused on matters strictly related to migration and rights of migrants, regional movement statistics and information exchange, among others.[84] Each year, the Conference takes place in one of the twelve South American countries that comprise its membership, having totaled nine conferences.[85] During the Third Conference that took place in Quito, Ecuador, in 2002, an Action Plan was adopted.[86] The definition and coordination of migration strategies and regional programs, the consolidation and development of the South American Observatory of Migration, Harmonization and coordination of migration information systems, the Harmonization and coordination of migratory administrations and the Harmonization and coordination of South American migratory legislation constitute the objectives of this initiative.[87] Next Conference will take place in Bolivia, in 2010.[88]

Current Challenges: Migration control vs. Immigration intolerance: The Arizona Law

This century appears to be a new era for migration.   The intensifying levels of migration constitute a pressure that all countries will have to face.   Most countries are becoming multicultural, multi-ethnic and diverse.   Governments and society must accommodate to such challenges in promoting respect for diversity and human rights.[89]
The United States, OAS member, constitutes one of the main destinations for migration.[90] According to 2007 figures of the U.S. Census Bureau, of approximately 301.6 million U.S. residents, 38 millions are foreigners, of

[75] Corte Inter-Americana de Derechos Humanos, Petitions and Consultations before the Inter-American System.
[76] Human Rights Education Associates, The Inter-American Human Rights System, 2007.
[77] Human Rights Education Associates, The Inter-American Human Rights System, 2007.
[78] Human Rights Education Associates, The Inter-American Human Rights System, 2007.
[79] Inter-American Court of Human Rights, Statute of the Inter-American Court of Human Rights, 1979, Art. 30.
[80] Inter-American Court of Human Rights, Statute of the Inter-American Court of Human Rights, 1979, Art. 30.
[81] Second Summit of the Americas, Plan of Action, 1998.
[82] Second Summit of the Americas, Plan of Action, 1998.
[83] Second Summit of the Americas, Plan of Action, 1998.
[84] OIM, South American Conference on Migration, 1999.
[85] OIM CONOSUR, ¿Qué es la Conferencia Sudamericana sobre Migraciones?, 2004.
[86] OIM CONOSUR, ¿Qué es la Conferencia Sudamericana sobre Migraciones?, 2004.
[87] OIM CONOSUR, ¿Qué es la Conferencia Sudamericana sobre Migraciones?, 2004.
[88] OIM CONOSUR, ¿Qué es la Conferencia Sudamericana sobre Migraciones?, 2004.
[89] ILO, International Migration, Racism, Discrimination and Xenophobia, Preface, 2001, p. I.
[90] Segal, Immigration Worldwide: Policies, Practices, and Trends, 2010.

which 53% have Latin American origin[91] However, since the terrorist attacks of September 11th 2001, "suspicion of foreigners […] has developed exponentially, and xenophobia continuous to be evident."[92] In enhancing efforts to control migration flow and national security, the State of Arizona enacted the Arizona Migration Law, S.B.1070, in May 2010.[93] Its main objective is to protect the citizens of Arizona; yet, such piece of legislation has embarked the U.S. on a national debate over the legitimacy of the law. Many consider the law as discriminatory, a "disturbing pattern of legislative activity hostile to ethnic minorities and immigrants […] targeting individuals on the basis of their perceived ethnic origin […]"[94] As a consequence, Arizona has become the protagonist of a legal dispute which places the state in a fight to protect its sovereignty vis-à-vis the Federal Government and the International Community. The Arizona Law took effect on July 29, 2010; still its legality remains questioned.[95]

Case Study: Xenophobia, Haitians reality in the Dominican Republic

Up to one million Haitians are believed to have crossed to the Dominican Republic in search for better life conditions, yet there appears to be a generalized sentiment of discontent and rejection against Haitians and Dominicans of Haitian descent.[96] The systematic deportation of Haitians and Dominico-Haitians remains a practice highly accepted by the Dominican population as 75% of the nationals agree with the repatriation of Haitians according to a national poll.[97] The government of the Dominican Republic has accepted the competence of the Inter-American Court of Human Rights and has ratified the core international and regional covenants related to the protection of human rights.[98] In spite deportations and mass expulsions are ongoing as, according to figures of the Human Rights Clinic of Columbia University Law School, an approximate of 2,000 Haitians and Dominico-Haitians are deported on a monthly basis.[99] In 2002, the government of president Mejía took several steps in advancing Haitians equality before the law by agreeing to the establishment of a joint monitoring committee entitled to scrutinize the republic's compliance with the rulings of the Inter-American Court of Human Rights. [100]

Moving towards a tolerant continent: Promoting integration and tolerance

The promotion and protection of human dignity encompasses all human beings without any distinctions of race, ethnicity, nationality, color and further features. "A promotion of 'multiculturalism' and/or respect for diversity […] is […] one of the most effective approaches to changing attitudes and reducing expression of racist and xenophobic hostility against migrants […] and other non-nationals."[101] Understanding that globalization is increasing the multicultural and diverse characteristic of our world is imperative in order to achieve integration and tolerance among the different groups of the international community. Access to information regarding the universality of human rights needs to be enhanced in an effort to eradicate misinterpretation and discouragement of discriminatory happenings. Measures to be taken include opinion shaping initiatives by political leaders and public figures, public education campaigns, and media exposure.[102]

Attaining equality of rights and opportunities

In 2001, the *International Labor Office* (ILO), along with the *International Organization for Migration* (IOM), and the *Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights* (OHCHR), prepared a publication for the *World Conference Against Racism, Racial Discrimination, Xenophobia and Related Intolerance* (WCAR).[103] This publication sat the basic principles to effectively address the problem: the strengthening of the rule of law; the establishment of "national human rights/anti-discrimination monitoring bodies with power to monitor and enforce

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[91] Segal, Immigration Worldwide: Policies, Practices, and Trends, 2010, p.32.
[92] Segal, Immigration Worldwide: Policies, Practices, and Trends, 2010, p.29.
[93] Adams, The Truth Behind Arizona's Immigration Law, 2010.
[94] OHCHR, Arizona: UN experts warn against a "disturbing legal pattern hostile to ethnic minorities and migrants", 2010.
[95] Dwyer, Arizona Immigration Law Take Effect as Legal Battle Continues, 2010.
[96] Reuters, UN envoys found profound racism in Dominican Republic, 2007.
[97] Human Rights Watch, Illegal People, Vol. 14, No. 1, 2002, p.5.
[98] Human Rights Watch, Illegal People, Vol. 14, No. 1, 2002, p.11.
[99] Human Rights Watch, Illegal People, Vol. 14, No. 1, 2002, p.17.
[100] Human Rights Watch, Illegal People, Vol. 14, No. 1, 2002, p.4.
[101] ILO, International Migration, Racism, Discrimination and Xenophobia, 2001, p.12.
[102] ILO, International Migration, Racism, Discrimination and Xenophobia, 2001, p.27.
[103] ILO, International Migration, Racism, Discrimination and Xenophobia, 2001, p.27.

anti-discrimination legislation"; the promotion, enforcement and monitoring of anti-discriminatory standards; and the elaboration of administrative measures to ensure full implementation of legislation.[104] The establishment of legal frameworks and regimes can shape and influence social behavior of all individuals.[105]

Conclusion

"Racism, racial discrimination, xenophobia and […] related intolerance have not gone away. We recognize that they persist in the new century and that their persistence is rooted in fear: fear of what is different, fear of the other, fear of the loss of personal security."[106] The current financial crisis constitutes a challenge in the achievement of the universal human rights as many see the insufficiencies of job openings; the rise of criminality and unlawful practices; and the severe economic inequalities as a result of an increase in migration and the constantly changing world demography. Political will remains the fundamental fact in making a difference between the effective enforcement of human rights standards to combat racism, discrimination and xenophobia.[107] Racist, discriminatory and xenophobic practices are still ignored or denied in several parts of the world. As long as this denial persists, anti-discrimination and anti-racist legislation and measures will remain deprived of as well.[108]
Among the main questions to be addressed by the committee remains how did the current financial crisis affect the situation of migrants and non-nationals in host countries and how can this countries tackle its side effects? What have other Latin American and Caribbean countries done in efforts to combat indigenous and racial discrimination?

II. Reducing Illicit Crops and Drug Trafficking

"The world drug problem, including its political, economic, social and environmental costs, constitutes a complex, dynamic and multi-causal phenomenon that presents a challenge to States and their governments. Far from being a local or regional issue, this problem demands a comprehensive, balanced and multidisciplinary approach that requires common and shared responsibility among all States."[109]

Introduction

The production of illicit crops and their traffic within and across national borders is an issue that significantly impacts the global community. Today, the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime (UNODC) estimates that as many as 250 million people (5.7% of the world population aged 15-64) globally use illicit drugs in some capacity.[110] Even more concerning is that of those who use illicit drugs, some 16 to 38 million are dependent on them.[111] While these statistics suggest that the global drug problem is far-reaching and multifaceted, the Member States of the Organization of American States (OAS) have been particularly affected by the rising demand for illicit drugs. For instance, regional trends indicate that consumption levels of marijuana, cocaine, and heroine in the Western Hemisphere are more than double the global average.[112] Although wide variation exists among OAS states, the demand for illicit drugs has spread both geographically and demographically throughout the Americas.[113] Noticeably, demand appears to be rising amongst high school aged students in a growing number of South American countries.[114] In addition to demand-side pressures, there are a diverse array of complex issues surrounding the continued production of illicit crops, their refinement into increasingly potent drugs, and their distribution throughout the Americas.[115] Currently, the principal suppliers of cocaine for the world's two largest markets (North

[104] ILO, International Migration, Racism, Discrimination and Xenophobia, Core Principles for Action, 2001.
[105] ILO, International Migration, Racism, Discrimination and Xenophobia, 2001, p.26.
[106] Robinson & Mandela, The Vision Declaration: Tolerance and Diversity: A vision of the 21st Century, 2001.
[107] ILO, International Migration, Racism, Discrimination and Xenophobia, 2001, p.24
[108] ILO, International Migration, Racism, Discrimination and Xenophobia, 2001, p.9.
[109] Organization of American States, *Hemispheric Drug Strategy*, 2010
[110] United Nations. Office on Drugs and Crime, *World Drug Report 2010*, 2010, p.12
[111] United Nations. Office on Drugs and Crime, *World Drug Report 2010*, 2010, p.12
[112] Francisco Cumislle, "Status of Drug Use in the Western Hemisphere: Major Challenges," *Inter-American Drug Abuse Control Commission Web site*, 2009, p.2-5
[113] Francisco Cumislle, "Status of Drug Use in the Western Hemisphere: Major Challenges," *Inter-American Drug Abuse Control Commission Web site*, 2009, p.4-6
[114] United Nations. Office on Drugs and Crime, *World Drug Report 2007*, 2007, p.73
[115] United Nations. Office on Drugs and Crime, *World Drug Report 2010*, 2010

America and Europe) come from the Andean region, which cuts through parts of Colombia, Peru, and Bolivia.[116] The interwoven dimensions of the global drug problem indicate that effective collaborative strategies must be designed to address both supply and demand side aspects of this issue.

The problems posed by the cultivation of illicit crops and their subsequent traffic and trade go well beyond the international stigma attached to Latin American countries as a continued source of the global drug problem. Illicit crop production and drug trafficking also constitute legitimate threats to local, regional, and international stability.[117] In countries like Columbia and Peru, there is a strong correlation between the cultivation of illicit crops and the emergence of both conflict and violence.[118] This is due in part to the fact that the trafficking of illicit drugs is closely associated with organized crime, money laundering, and weapons trade.[119] In addition, evidence suggests that organized crime fuels insurgency and undermines the rule of law through the encouragement of corruption and violence.[120] Such activities not only pose a threat to individual and state security, but strain relationships between states. Since the traffic of illicit crops cuts across national borders, reduction strategies in one country may simply shift the costs associated with their production and trade to other, more susceptible, countries.[121] Finally, the continued cultivation of illicit crops undermines the foundation of sustainable development.[122] For example, the chemicals used to make coca leaf plants more potent deplete nutrient rich soils and accelerate erosion.[123] It also promotes deforestation and replaces legitimate agricultural economies with illicit ones.[124] Consequently, the production of illicit crops and their traffic and trade undermine many of the fundamental objectives of OAS and require further intergovernmental cooperation.

OAS Measures to Reduce Illicit Crops and Drug Trafficking

While the issue of illicit drug production and trade is by no means a new problem, it in many ways failed to gain the attention of OAS until the late 1970s and early 1980s, when cocaine use increased at alarming rates in the Western Hemisphere.[125] Since then, the OAS has played an increasingly active role in developing strategies to reduce illicit crop production and combat their traffic within and across national borders. In 1986, the OAS General Assembly held the first Inter-American Specialized Conference on Traffic in Narcotic Drugs.[126] The conference, which commenced in Rio de Janeiro, accomplished two primary objectives. First, the Conference ministers acknowledged the growing use of illicit drugs and their traffic and trade as a legitimate threat to the health and well-being of every country's citizens.[127] Second, they approved the Inter-American Program of Action of Rio de Janeiro Against the Illicit Use and Production of Narcotic Drugs and Psychotropic Substances and Traffic Therein, which among other things, set forth a recommendation for the establishment of the Inter-American Drug Abuse Control Commission (CICAD).[128] Formally adopted that same year, the CICAD was established to serve as the Western Hemisphere's policy platform for all aspects related to the drug problem.[129] In addition, the CICAD is tasked with the responsibility to encourage transparency between governments, conduct evaluations of national supply and demand reduction strategies, and provide research to help further assist national governments in eliminating illicit crop production and consumption.[130]

[116] United Nations. Office on Drugs and Crime, *World Drug Report 2010*, 2010, p.16-9

[117] United Nations. Office on Drugs and Crime, *World Drug Report 2010*, 2010, p.16-9

[118] Savante Cornell, "The Interaction of Narcotics and Conflict," *Journal of Peace Research* 42, no.6 (2005): 751-2

[119] United Nations. International Narcotics Control Board, *Report of the International Narcotics Control Board for 2009*, 2009

[120] United Nations. Office on Drugs and Crime, *Crime and Instability: Case Studies of Transnational Threats*, 2010, p.1-2

[121] United Nations. International Narcotics Control Board, *Report of the International Narcotics Control Board for 2009*, 2009

[122] United Nations. Office on Drugs and Crime, *Columbia: Coca Cultivation Survey*, 2005

[123] United Nations. Office on Drugs and Crime, *Jatun Sach`a: 10 Years Building a Forestry Culture in Bolivia*, 2005, p.7

[124] United Nations. Office on Drugs and Crime, *Alternative Development in the Andean Region: The UNODC Experience*, 2001, p.15

[125] Organization of American States, *Inter-American Drug Abuse Control Commission Web site*, 2010

[126] Organization of American States. *Inter-American Program of Action of Rio de Janeiro Against the Illicit Use and Production of Narcotic Drugs and Psychotropic Substances and Traffic Therein*, 1992

[127] Organization of American States. *Inter-American Program of Action of Rio de Janeiro Against the Illicit Use and Production of Narcotic Drugs and Psychotropic Substances and Traffic Therein*, 1992

[128] Organization of American States. *Inter-American Program of Action of Rio de Janeiro Against the Illicit Use and Production of Narcotic Drugs and Psychotropic Substances and Traffic Therein*, 1992

[129] Organization of American States, *Inter-American Program of Action of Rio de Janeiro Against the Illicit Use and Production of Narcotic Drugs and Psychotropic Substances and Traffic Therein*, 1992

[130] Organization of American States, *Inter-American Drug Abuse Control Commission Web site*, 2010

Today, the CICAD remains the principal appendage of the OAS that addresses illicit crop supply and demand reduction strategies. In 1990, the OAS General Assembly officially adopted the Declaration and Program of Action of Ixtapa, which urged Member States to ratify the United Nations Convention against Illicit Traffic in Narcotic Drugs and Psychotropic Substances and set a list of priorities for the CICAD.[131] The following year, the General Assembly also endorsed the Inter-American Program of Quito: Comprehensive Education to Prevent Drug Abuse, which commissioned four workshops to help develop demand reduction strategies centered on educating citizens about the dangers of illicit drug use.[132] While these initial steps were productive, they were to a large degree overshadowed by the continued expansion of global drug markets throughout the early nineties.[133] In response to this growing challenge, the OAS General Assembly adopted, in 1997, the Anti-Drug Strategy in the Hemisphere.[134] The Anti-Drug Strategy acknowledged the dynamic changes that had transpired in the decade following the adoption of the Program of Rio.[135] Noticeable changes included in the strategy were the increased production and use of synthetic drugs (e.g. methamphetamines and Ecstasy), and the growing use of the Internet to traffic illicit drugs.[136] Above all else, the Anti-Drug Strategy demonstrated a more coherent understanding on the part of OAS states that illicit drugs and their corollary crimes and violence are a multifaceted problem confronting all countries and to which there must be shared solutions and collective responsibility.[137]

Since its inception, the CICAD has evolved its approach to illicit drugs in four crucial areas: supply reduction, demand reduction, control measures, and international cooperation.[138] In 1998, the Second Summit of the Americas charged the CICAD with the task of developing a multilateral process for evaluating the steps that each Member State, and the Western Hemisphere as a whole, are taking in order to confront the various aspects of the drug problem.[139] The Multilateral Evaluation Mechanism (MEM), as it is formally called, requires that all CICAD Member States answer a list of standardized questions, in addition to statistics that they must provide, on indicators like arrests and convictions for drug crimes, level of drug use by different population demographics, and signature and ratification of international treaties related to drug control.[140] The move to improve illicit drug control measures has also been accompanied by encouragement and support from OAS and other regional and international organizations for alternative development programs. Alternative development plans are currently at work in several countries (Bolivia, Peru, Colombia, Ecuador and Jamaica) and represent one of the principal supply reduction strategies used in the Western Hemisphere.[141] Finally, recent developments in the OAS drug strategy can be seen in the New Hemispheric Drug Strategy, adopted in 2010. The New Drug Strategy stresses the need to respect human rights in the implementation of drug policy, highlights the essential role that scientific evidence should play in developing drug policy and affirms that drug dependence is a disease that should be treated as a public health issue.[142] These new points of emphasis should not be overlooked when creating new collaborative strategies and approaches to reduce the production and traffic of illicit crops in the future.

Case study: Alternative development in Bolivia

Bolivia is currently the global community's third largest producer of coca leaf crops, behind Colombia and Peru.[143] While cultivation levels are known to fluctuate from year to year, Bolivia demonstrated a consistent pattern of reduction towards the end of the nineties from the peak of its production in the late eighties after implementing various alternative development programs.[144] However, recent surveys suggest that coca production is once again on the rise and that its distribution throughout Bolivia is largely concentrated in the areas of Apolo, Yungas of La

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[131] Organization of American States, *Declaration and Program of Action of Ixtapa*, 1990
[132] Organization of American States, *Inter-American Program of Quito: Comprehensive Education to Prevent Drug Abuse*, 1991
[133] Organization of American States, *Inter-American Drug Abuse Control Commission Web site*, 2010
[134] Organization of American States, *Anti-Drug Strategy in the Hemisphere*, 1997
[135] Organization of American States, *Anti-Drug Strategy in the Hemisphere*, 1997
[136] Organization of American States, *Anti-Drug Strategy in the Hemisphere*, 1997
[137] Organization of American States, *Anti-Drug Strategy in the Hemisphere*, 1997
[138] Organization of American States, *Inter-American Drug Abuse Control Commission Web site*, 2010
[139] Organization of American States, *Plan of Action of the Second Summit of the Americas*, 1998
[140] \Organization of American States. *Plan of Action of the Second Summit of the Americas*, 1998
[141] Organization of American States. *Hemispheric Drug Strategy*, 2010
[142] Organization of American States. *Hemispheric Drug Strategy*, 2010
[143] United Nations. Office of Drugs and Crime, *Plurinational State of Bolivia: Coca Cultivation Survey*, 2009, p.7
[144] United Nations. Office of Drugs and Crime, *Plurinational State of Bolivia: Coca Cultivation Survey*, 2009, p.10

Paz, and Cochabamba.[145] The Bolivian government continues to defend the rights of its citizens to cultivate coca leaf crops citing their intimate connection to its rich cultural tradition.[146] In fact, a set amount of consumption and cultivation is regarded as lawful by the government as it relates to production of mate and is used in certain ethnic rituals.[147] Bolivia also maintains that issues surrounding the overproduction of coca did not occur until the global cocaine market made it economically viable for local framers to produce more coca than is necessary for local practices.[148] Prior to the rise in demand, coca leaf crops were only cultivated in small portions in certain highland regions.[149] Thus, demand from outside the country is seen as the impetus behind Bolivia's consistent supply of coca and the government maintains that without proper subsidies to encourage viable alternatives, that local framers will continue to supply coca leafs for the production of cocaine.[150]

In response to the dramatic rise in demand for coca leaf crops during the 1980s and its subsequent overproduction in Bolivia, the OAS and the UN, in partnership with Bolivia, have set out to address the issue of illicit coca production by establishing alternative development plans.[151] The UN defines alternative development as:

A process to prevent and eliminate the illicit cultivation of plants containing narcotics and psychotropic substances through specifically designed rural development measures in the context of sustained national growth and sustainable development efforts in countries taking action against drugs, recognizing the particular socio-economic characteristics of the target communities and groups, within the framework of a comprehensive and permanent solution to the problem of illicit drugs.[152]

The emphasis in alternative development is placed on the replacement of illicit economies with legally viable and sustainable ones.[153] These programs are generally implemented in conjunction with eradication measures in poor rural areas where low government capacity makes it challenging to effectively monitor illicit crop production and trafficking.[154] It is believed that by providing farmers with a stable and sustainable source of agricultural income that they will move away from the more volatile coca market.[155] While alternative development plans are established at the national level, they often require significant donor aid and assistance to reach the stage of implementation.[156] For instance, Bolivia's alternative development programs have been dependent on support from the UNODC, FAO, and donor states.[157] In particular, the Jatun Sach`a project received its financial backing from the governments of Austria, Germany, Great Britain, Ireland, Italy and the United States.[158] The necessity of donor funding is due in part to the economic disparity between producer and consumer states and raises concerns about the long-term viability of these supply reduction plans.[159]

The Jatun Sach`a project represents a specific example of alternative development. The project's aim was to diversify the farming industry in the Cochabamba Tropics and later expand its mission to the Yungas of La Paz, so that coca dependent farms could make a smooth transition to economically viable and sustainable alternatives.[160] This was accomplished through a multidimensional approach focused on developing a sustainable agro-forestry industry, prioritizing new crops (coffee, achiote, camu camu, and cocao) and creating a forestry management program.[161] New infrastructures were built so that alternative resources could reach their intended markets and local farmers acquired education in agro-forestry development and management techniques. The total cost for the project

[145] United Nations. Office of Drugs and Crime, *Plurinational State of Bolivia: Coca Cultivation Survey*, 2009, p.8-11
[146] Organization of American States, *Inter-American Drug Abuse Control Commission Web site*, 2010
[147] Organization of American States, *Inter-American Drug Abuse Control Commission Web site*, 2010
[148] United Nations. Office on Drugs and Crime, *Jatun Sach`a: 10 Years Building a Forestry Culture in Bolivia*, 2005, p.4-5
[149] United Nations. Office on Drugs and Crime, *Jatun Sach`a: 10 Years Building a Forestry Culture in Bolivia*, 2005, p.4
[150] United Nations. Office on Drugs and Crime, *Jatun Sach`a: 10 Years Building a Forestry Culture in Bolivia*, 2005, p.5
[151] United Nations. Office on Drugs and Crime, *Jatun Sach`a: 10 Years Building a Forestry Culture in Bolivia*, 2005, p.7
[152] United Nations. *Office of Drugs and Crime Web site*, 2010
[153] \United Nations. *Office of Drugs and Crime Web site*, 2010
[154] Emily Phan-Gruber, The Role of Alternative Development in the "War on Drugs": The Case of Bolivia," *The Journal of CivilSociety and Social Transformation* 1, no. 1, 2010, p.5
[155] United Nations. *Office of Drugs and Crime Web site*, 2010
[156] United Nations. Office of Drugs and Crime, *Jatun Sach`a: 10 Years Building a Forestry Culture in Bolivia*, 2005, p.7
[157] United Nations. Office of Drugs and Crime, *Jatun Sach`a: 10 Years Building a Forestry Culture in Bolivia*, 2005, p.7
[158] United Nations. Office of Drugs and Crime, *Jatun Sach`a: 10 Years Building a Forestry Culture in Bolivia*, 2005, p.7
[159] United Nations. Office on Drugs and Crime, *World Drug Report 2010*, 2010, p.4
[160] United Nations. Office of Drugs and Crime, *Jatun Sach`a: 10 Years Building a Forestry Culture in Bolivia*, 2005, p.15
[161] United Nations. Office of Drugs and Crime, *Jatun Sach`a: 10 Years Building a Forestry Culture in Bolivia*, 2005, p.15-29

was $480 million, the bulk of which went to building roads and health and educational infrastructures.[162]   In all, the project directly benefited 8,767 families in the Cochabamba Tropics and 1,275 in the Yungas of La Paz.[163]   While the programs' immediate impact on coca production is unknown, it generated 4,048 hectares of new crops that might otherwise have been used to farm coca leaf crops.[164]   At the national level, although it must be acknowledged that other alternative development programs were in effect at the same time, the CICAD evaluation of Bolivia's alternative development programs from 1998 to 2002 found a 90% reduction in the cultivation of illicit coca crops.[165]

While the Jatun Sach`a project has produced many local and regional benefits, a variety of lessons may be taken from the project. First, while the project helped replace coca leaf crops with viable alternatives, many of the farmers still committed to coca farming spread to more remote locations where surveillance is less effective.[166] This development suggests that alternative development plans must anticipate illicit crop expansion into increasingly remote areas, especially near state borders.[167] Second, the project focused on educating farmers to develop and manage sustainable agro-forestry industries, but found that language barriers posed a significant obstacle in this process.[168] Thus, alternative development plans may need to employ and train local intermediaries that can help bridge the divide and build trust in local communities. However, this also increases the likelihood that aid will fall into the hands of those associated with the production and trade of illicit crops. Finally, critics of alternative development suggest that Bolivia's attempt to curb the production of illicit crops has merely shifted production from Bolivia to other regions.[169] Indeed, while coca production dropped in Bolivia between 1995 and 2000, the UNODC estimates that total cocaine production rose in Columbia from 22% to almost 80%.[170] Although this correlation does not necessarily imply a direct causal connection, it is clear that, without disrupting sustained demand from drug cartels and drug traffickers, that the supply of coca leaf crops in the Andean region will continue.

Illicit drug trafficking, security and democracy

While there is evidence to suggest that alternative development programs help reduce the supply of illicit crops, they do little to eliminate the preexisting networks that sustain demand for illicit crops and traffic drugs within and across the Western Hemisphere. These networks are dependent on the supply of illicit crops, but as it is unlikely that alternative development plans will completely eliminate their supply, as trafficking networks are kept intact by shifting production from site to site.[171] What is even more concerning about the dynamic nature of illicit drug trafficking is that recent trends show that their networks are spreading into many vulnerable Central American countries.[172] This is partly the consequence of changes in the effectiveness of drug mentoring and eradication strategies in countries like Colombia.[173] Where Colombia used to be the primary producer and transporter of cocaine into North America and Europe, the rise of Mexican drug cartels over the last 10-15 years has shifted trafficking networks through Central America.[174] Today, estimates suggest that up to 90% of all cocaine trafficked into the United States runs through Mexico.[175] The interrelation of illicit crop supply and the drug trafficking networks that maintain demand indicate that effective collaborative strategies must be designed to strike at both dimensions.

A major concern with the proliferation of drug trafficking is the added level of violence and regional instability that

[162] United Nations. Office of Drugs and Crime, *Jatun Sach`a: 10 Years Building a Forestry Culture in Bolivia*, 2005, p.41
[163] United Nations. Office of Drugs and Crime, *Jatun Sach`a: 10 Years Building a Forestry Culture in Bolivia*, 2005, p.41
[164] United Nations. Office of Drugs and Crime, *Jatun Sach`a: 10 Years Building a Forestry Culture in Bolivia*, 2005, p.41
[165] Organization of American States, *Inter-American Drug Abuse Control Commission Web site*, 2010
[166] United Nations. Office of Drugs and Crime, *Jatun Sach`a: 10 Years Building a Forestry Culture in Bolivia*, 2005, p.42
[167] United Nations. Office of Drugs and Crime, *Jatun Sach`a: 10 Years Building a Forestry Culture in Bolivia*, 2005, p.43
[168] United Nations. Office of Drugs and Crime, *Jatun Sach`a: 10 Years Building a Forestry Culture in Bolivia*, 2005, p.44-5
[169] David Mansfield, Alternative Development: The Modern Thrust of Supply-side Policy, *Bulletin on Narcotics*, 1, no. 1, 1999, p.34-6
[170] United Nations. Office of Drugs and Crime, *World Drug Report 2010*, 2010
[171] United Nations. Office on Drugs and Crime, *Crime and Development in Central America: Caught in the Crossfire*, 2007, p.9.
[172] United Nations. Office on Drugs and Crime, *Crime and Development in Central America: Caught in the Crossfire*, 2007, p.9.
[173] United Nations. Office on Drugs and Crime, *Crime and Development in Central America: Caught in the Crossfire*, 2007, p.9.
[174] United Nations. Office on Drugs and Crime, *World Drug Report 2010*, 2010, p.16
[175] Shannon O'Neil, "The Real War in Mexico," *Foreign Affairs* 88, no.4, 2009

accompanies its expansion.[176] For instance, since 2006 Mexico has experienced over 10,000 drug-related killings, with 6,000 of those taking place in 2008 alone.[177] Even more alarming is that Mexican drug cartels have increasingly used guerilla-style tactics to target police stations, government officials and journalists.[178] These dynamics threaten stated OAS objectives to promote security and democracy throughout the Western Hemisphere.[179] The increased violence brought about by drug cartels undermines both inter and intrastate security while placing additional stress on democratic institutions.[180] In fact, research suggests that democratizing countries are more likely to experience violence and instability than established democracies or authoritarian regimes.[181] The continued presence of illicit drug cartels works to exacerbate these conditions.[182] Since democratization is already a process marked by increased violence and instability, these cartels pose a legitimate threat to the long-term viability of democratic institutions in the region.[183] For OAS Member States to remain committed to ensuring lasting democratic institutions in the Western Hemisphere, the increased violence and instability that accompanies illicit drug trafficking must be further addressed.

Conclusion

Although gradual advances have been made over the past twenty-five years, the continued production and spread of illicit drugs remains a pressing issue requiring cooperation at local, regional and international levels. The diverse array of impacts of illicit crop production and trade on the various peoples and countries involved poses complex challenges for the future health and well-being of OAS Member States. Indeed, rising consumption levels in many parts of the Americas paired with the cultivation of more potent drugs and their connection to organized crime, and violence are major obstacles that the must be confronted in order to reinforce OAS goals of promoting both security and democracy, defending human rights, and fostering intergovernmental cooperation. While alternative development measures remain a dominant and promising strategy, these programs need refinement by incorporating other measures, such as eradication and law enforcement. Demand reduction and rehabilitation measures need improvement as well, in order to eliminate the burden placed on OAS countries by illicit drugs and their trade.

Delegates are encouraged to consider the ways in which their respective country is involved in the spread of illicit drugs and in what ways their country is affected by drug consumption. The Western Hemisphere is faced with a diverse range of illicit drugs and while coca production requires much attention, there are equally pressing problems with the production and consumption of cannabis, heroine, methamphetamines and other illicit drugs. With this in mind, delegates should consider what measures their country is taking in order to counter these developments. Are certain drugs criminalized or decriminalized in your country and what impact do such policies have on your country's approach to the drug problem? Are there any lessons that can be shared with the international community, or recent developments that require regional attention? Has your country had any experience with alternative development measures and if so, are there specific lessons that can be learned from your country's experience? Finally, delegates are encouraged to think about the ways in which human rights can be promoted through regional anti-drug strategies. To this end, delegates should consult the New Hemispheric Drug Strategy and device resolutions to address and advance its objectives.

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[176] Shannon O'Neil, "The Real War in Mexico," *Foreign Affairs* 88, no.4, 2009
[177] Shannon O'Neil, "The Real War in Mexico," *Foreign Affairs* 88, no.4, 2009, p36
[178] Shannon O'Neil, "The Real War in Mexico," *Foreign Affairs* 88, no.4, 2009, p.36.
[179] Organization of American States, *Inter-American Drug Abuse Control Commission Web site*, 2010.
[180] Shannon O'Neil, "The Real War in Mexico," *Foreign Affairs* 88, no.4, 2009, p.36
[181] Edward Mansfield and Jack Snyder, "Democratization and the Danger of War," International Security 20, no. 1, 1995
[182] Shannon O'Neil, "The Real War in Mexico," *Foreign Affairs* 88, no.4, 2009, p.36.
[183] Shannon O'Neil, "The Real War in Mexico," *Foreign Affairs* 88, no.4, 2009, p.38

III. Cultural Sensitivity in Reconstruction Efforts and International Aid Deployment

Introduction

Reconstruction efforts and international aid deployment can encompass a wide variety of economic, social, and cultural stimulus. Whether in the form of structural adjustment in economic development models, humanitarian relief in times of natural disaster, or fostering security for local populations as governments enter transition, reconstruction and aid endeavors are vital components for multilateralism in the 21st century.[184] The United Nations Charter contains provisions for international cooperation, diplomacy, relief-assistance, and collective action; however, the working mechanics of reconstruction efforts and international aid deployment continue to evolve as we move further into the 21st century.[185] It is vital that as international relations become more intricate, the multi-faceted bodies within the UN framework revamp their mandates, operations, and projects to adhere to the most culturally sensitive practices possible.[186] The Organization of American States (OAS) bears tremendous relevance for exploring and implementing culturally sensitive reconstruction and aid options that protect recipients from economic, social, and cultural exploitation.[187] Further, measuring the success of the OAS in its effort to reconstruct and deploy aid in the most beneficial way remains an on-going process. Currently, the five functional pillars of the OAS—promoting democracy, defending human rights, ensuring multi-dimensional approaches to security, fostering integral development and prosperity, and supporting inter-American legal cooperation—all work together to evoke development, prosperity, and interconnectedness in the Americas and amongst their allies.[188]

Throughout these five policy categories the OAS has strengthened a transnational understanding of local, indigenous, and cultural imperatives of the developing world. Advancing and applying this understanding to reconstruction efforts and aid deployment will draw on expanding disaster preparation mechanisms, supporting the development of local non-governmental organizations (NGOs) and non-profit efforts to diversify community-based representation, education to support knowledge-based societies, and equitable legal reforms to enhance the rule-of-law in order to protect the rights of citizens in developing nations.[189] These sectors in particular are becoming increasingly vital as climatic instability, food and water shortages, and economic downturn are simultaneously affecting the ability of developed and developing nations to respond to natural and political crises.[190] The OAS has become involved with each of these policy arenas in some capacity; moreover, the recent natural disasters in Haiti and Chile and longstanding neglect of oil pollution in Ecuador have yielded many lessons regarding the social, cultural, and political imperatives the OAS must uphold when assisting the progress and protection of vulnerable societies.[191] Applying these imperatives will require a working collaboration among the OAS and its specialized divisions, its diplomatic counterparts, and local leaders in the developing world who are capable of defining—and defending—the cultural identities of people in crises.[192] Further, applying cultural sensitivity to reconstruction and aid will require an analysis of the social responsibilities of the private sector (such as the examination of the Chevron-Texaco pollution case in Ecuador) in addition to the cultural responsibilities of the public sector, so that efficiency in reconstruction and aid may be objectively defined.

OAS Efforts for Culture, Economics, and Development: Aid and Reconstruction Pre-cursors

At the turn of the 21st century, the OAS initiated a long-term project known as *Culture in Development: An Inter-American Information Network* in hopes of redefining the procedural protocol for using social and cultural programs

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[184] Organization of American States, Inter-American Commission on Human Rights, *Inter-American Declaration of the Rights and Duties of Man,* 1948

[185] United Nations International Strategy for Disaster Reduction Secretariat, *Global assessment report on disaster risk reduction: summary and recommendations*, 2009

[186] United Nations, *Charter*, 1945

[187] Organization of American States, Inter-American Committee on Culture. *Culture, economics, and development.*

[188] Organization of American States, *What we do*, 2010

[189] Organization of American States, Department of International Law. *Convention for the promotion of inter-American cultural relations,* 1954

[190] United Nations, General Assembly 3rd Committee, *International cooperation on humanitarian assistance in the field of natural disasters, from relief to development.* A/64/216, 2010

[191] Organization of American States, Inter-American Commission on Human Rights, *Guidelines for preparation of progress indicators in the area of economic, social, and cultural rights,* 2008

[192] Organization of American States, *Protocol to the convention on duties and rights of states in the event of civil strife,* 1957

as development instruments. According to the Inter-American Council for Integral Development (CIDI) within the OAS, there is a consensus among OAS Member States that social and cultural identities are critical to achieving development.[193] However, the role of culture in development is not recognized by all realms of society or government agencies.[194] According to the report, emphasizing the importance of culture's contribution to growth, social inclusion and sustainable development is critical to OAS.[195] The report detailed that this could be done through sound initiatives and activities aimed at fostering the development of effective public policies and strategies, and strengthening human and institutional capacities in the field of culture within OAS Member States.[196] At the Inter-American Meeting of Ministers of Culture in 2006, representatives from across the OAS system similarly noted the need for enhanced information exchange and experiences on cultural policy would allow OAS Member States to share, improve and enrich cultural policies and programs and support capacity building and institutional strengthening in their respective countries.[197] Member States have also expressed their interest in addressing information sharing through the Inter-American Committee on Culture (CIC) at each of the four OAS Ministerial Meetings of Culture, which began in 2002 and was most recently held in 2008.[198]

As a result of the proposed Inter-American Information Network, the CIC, with support from the Executive Secretariat for Integral Development (SEDI) and the Department of Education and Culture (DEC), organized a major international workshop known as *Culture as an Engine of Economic Growth and Social Inclusion in the Americas*, with additional support from the Inter-American Development Bank (IDB) and the Global Foundation for Democracy and Development.[199] The participants echoed the need for further dissemination of these development philosophies.[200] The solution to undermining culture in development proposed by the OAS' Inter-American Committee on Culture was a consolidated information database, known as the Inter-American Information Network, which consisted of three primary policy pillars.[201] These pillars included a communications campaign for arts and culture; a multilingual website for local leaders, policy-makers, and civil society representatives to use for organizational exchange; and a conjoining network of legislators and private sector representatives to develop culture-based programs for economic growth and social development missions.[202]

While the OAS has expanded its vision for Inter-American information sharing, it has yet to implement an international standard by which OAS Member States could utilize a centralized information network, which would assist cultural sensitivity, through understanding local identities and needs, in the processes of reconstruction and aid deployment.[203] While a centralized network has yet to be established within this context, the OAS has undertaken several new measures within its various departments to expand the infrastructures of disaster preparation and recovery, knowledge-based societies, identity and civil registry programs, and technical cooperation funds.[204] Among the more recent noteworthy reconstruction and aid resolutions is Resolution 2009/3 published by the United Nations Economic and Social Council (ECOSOC), *Strengthening of the coordination of emergency humanitarian*

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[193] Organization of American States, Inter-American Council for Integral Development (CIDI), *Culture in Development: An Inter-American Information Network, 2008.*

[194] Organization of American States, Inter-American Council for Integral Development (CIDI), *Culture in Development: An Inter-American Information Network, 2008*

[195] Organization of American States, Inter-American Council for Integral Development (CIDI), *Culture in Development: An Inter-American Information Network, 2008*

[196] Organization of American States, Inter-American Council for Integral Development (CIDI), *Culture in Development: An Inter-American Information Network, 2008*

[197] Organization of American States, Inter-American Committee on Culture, *Culture in Development: An Inter-American Information Network*, 2006.

[198] Organization of American States, Inter-American Committee on Culture, *Preservation and protection of cultural heritage*, 1976.

[199] Organization of American States, Inter-American Council for Integral Development (CIDI), *Culture in Development: An Inter-American Information Network, 2008.*

[200] Organization of American States, Inter-American Committee on Culture, *Culture in Development: An Inter-American Information Network*, 2006.

[201] Organization of American States, Inter-American Committee on Culture, *Culture in Development: An Inter-American Information Network*, 2006.

[202] Organization of American States, Inter-American Committee on Culture, *Culture in Development: An Inter-American Information Network*, 2006.

[203] Organization of American States, Inter-American Committee on Culture. *Cultural information systems.*

[204] United Nations Economic and Social Council, *Strengthening of the coordination of emergency humanitarian assistance of the United Nations,* 2009.

assistance, which outlined the characteristics that international organizations should possess when dealing with national and local governments in the relief-allocation process.[205] The characteristics emphasized were modern improvements from the 1991 OAS Convention called the *Inter-American Convention to facilitate disaster assistance*, which merely called for aid-recipient countries to establish a national authority in the process of allocating relief funds.[206]

Additionally, the OAS has pursued specialized programs in each of those realms: Technological cooperation through the FEMCIDI fund (Special multilateral fund of the inter-American council for integral development), knowledge-based society programs through the NPA (New programming approaches), and identity and civil registry programs such as PUICA (Civil identity program of the Americas).[207] FEMCIDI programs typically encourage technological access and outreach in key realms of society—from restoring job creation, enhancing educational infrastructures, stabilizing markets, and developing scientific institutions for environmental sustainability and preservation.[208] Complimenting this emphasis on technological development is a primary OAS campaign for improving reconstruction and aid deployment through the NPA—a program for knowledge-based societies. Within the NPA and knowledge-based societies' research, the OAS claims that access to information and digital literacy is among the foremost priorities for protecting vulnerable societies in reconstruction or recovery.[209] Alongside technological development, the OAS has supported organizational measures for developing countries to adopt in order to keep better track of the citizens that comprise of their population. The OAS civil registry and identification system known as PUICA (Civil identity program of the Americas) was designed to help ensure equitable governance and social inclusion via clear, articulate, and traceable recognition of individual identities, civil opportunities, and economic, social, and political rights.[210] Further, data registry helps governments map poverty relief, structural and property damage, and inclusion in social programs for rehabilitation.[211]

Underlying each of these contributions is the philosophy that local leadership and cooperation is the key to deploying culturally sensitive reconstruction and aid assistance. These contributions encourage an organized and accurate representation of local populations in recipient countries.[212] According to SEDI, the most pragmatic stance that the OAS and partner organizations can have towards aid and reconstruction is one based on strengthening the ability of recipient states to manage and allocate resources for their own populations—a philosophy that is sometimes undermined by the agenda of private interests in reconstruction and aid.[213] According to the Secretariat on Political Affairs, reconstruction and aid deployment are primary outlets for which the international community can defend human rights, foster integral development, and promote cross-cultural communication within the Americas.[214] While the private sector has had contestable experiences in upholding this paradigm for reconstruction and aid, such as the behaviors outlined in the Ecuadorian case study, it remains a central imperative for modern social, cultural, and political guidelines for international assistance.[215] The OAS has also voiced its staunch commitment to cultural conventions as a pre-requisite for efficient aid and reconstruction efforts.[216] Least of the Less Developed Countries (LLDC's) are most vulnerable when disasters occur. Due to the undeveloped infrastructure, extreme poverty, and illiteracy that plagues most LLDC countries, reacting to disasters can be a difficult or even impossible task without the help of international humanitarian campaigns.[217] Due to this reality, OAS and broader UN efforts have been extended towards developing a Humanitarian early warning system (HEWS)

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[205] United Nations Economic and Social Council, *Strengthening of the coordination of emergency humanitarian assistance of the United Nations,* 2009.

[206] Organization of American States, *Inter-American Convention to facilitate disaster assistance,* 1991

[207] Organization of American States, SEDI. *About,* n.d.

[208] Organization of American States, *Technical Cooperation Fund (FEMCIDI), About.* 2009

[209] Organization of American States, *NPA Program, About.* 2009

[210] Organization of American States, *Civil Registry Program (PUICA), About,* 2009

[211] Organization of American States, *Civil Registry Program (PUICA), About,* 2009

[212] Organization of American States, Inter-American Committee on Culture. *Cultural information systems,* 2006

[213] United Nations General Assembly Third Committee, *Report of the Special Representative of the Secretary-General on the issue of human rights and transnational corporations and other business enterprises,* A/64/216, 2009

[214] Organization of American States, Secretariat on Political Affairs, *Democratic Sustainability and Special Missions,* 2010

[215] Organization of American States, Inter-American Commission on Human Rights, 1948, *Inter-American Declaration of the Rights and Duties of Man.*

[216] Organization of American States, Department of International Law, 1954, *Convention for the promotion of inter-American cultural relations.*

[217] United Nations, General Assembly 3rd Committee, *International cooperation on humanitarian assistance in the field of natural disasters, from relief to development.* A/64/216, 2010.

and a formal UN international strategy for disaster reduction.[218] HEWS was developed through the World Food Program (WFP) as an Inter-agency standing committee; moreover, it specializes in preparedness and contingency planning for natural disasters and epidemic or pandemic outbreaks.[219]

Further, the United Nations system has indoctrinated the vitality of disaster preparedness by forming the UN International Strategy for Disaster Reduction (ISDR). The United Nations International Strategy for Disaster Reduction (UNISDR) is the secretariat of the ISDR system. The ISDR system comprises numerous organizations, technical bodies, intergovernmental and non-governmental organizations, States, financial institutions, and civil society divisions, which work together and share information to reduce disaster risk.[220] Ranging from evacuation protocols, guides to survival and preparation, and responses, the ISDR has become one of the most focal disaster preparedness organizations within the UN system.

Case Study: Haitian Earthquake Reconstruction and Aid Deployment

On January 12, 2010, a seismic rupture sent the nation of Haiti into chaotic distress. Paralyzed by the loss of life, buildings, roads, and stability—Haiti went from being critically deprived of resources and healthy market activity to completely shattered by the massive earthquake. Directly affecting 1.5 million people, killing over 300,000, and displacing another 1.8 million people into refugee conditions, this natural disaster essentially crippled the entire nation.[221] Following the disaster, the International Red Cross Association spearheaded an international campaign for small-scale donations to support Haitian relief efforts—earning global recognition for its ability to initiate a grass-roots response effort.[222] While only the beginning of the reconstruction effort, it upheld the OAS and UN doctrines that bound the rights and duties of man to a culturally sensitive aid response. Within days following the disaster, the OAS permanent council addressed the Haitian situation expressing their unyielding commitment to collaborate and coordinate efforts and initiatives with its partner inter-American organizations, the UN system (especially MINUSTAH, the UN stabilization mission in Haiti), and other regional and financial organizations in full respect to the sovereignty of Haiti.[223] Guided by aid effectiveness objectives, humanitarian principles, and lessons learned in the past, the OAS accepted its political duty to mobilize resources in support of the recovery and reconstruction of Haiti.[224] The earthquake caused an estimated $8 billion in infrastructural damages. Due to an excessively dense population, a lack of adequate building standards, the disastrous state of the environment, disorganized land use, and an unbalanced division of economic activity, the reconstruction plan was split into short and long-term focuses.[225] According to the IHRC, the short-term action plan highlighted three central immediate responses: territorial reconstruction, including urban zoning and road reconstruction; economic reconstruction, including restoring financial circuits, markets, and access to electricity; and institutional rebuilding— including democratic institutions, public administration, and rule of law.[226]

As the reconstruction and aid process unfolded, the Interim Haiti Recovery Commission was formed in order to locally oversee the allocation of aid money, supplies, personnel, and inter-agency support on the process.[227] In order to begin reconstruction properly, the OAS and partnering organizations created a multi-layered coordination and

[218] Organization of American States, Permanent Council, 2006, *Draft Declaration of Santo Domingo: Good Governance and Development in the Knowledge-based Society.*
[219] Humanitarian Early Warning Service, *About*, 2007.
[220] United Nations International Strategy for Disaster Reduction Secretariat. (2009). *Global assessment report on disaster risk reduction: summary and recommendations.*
[221] Interim Haiti Recovery Commission (IHRC), *Action Plan for National Recovery and Development of Haiti: Immediate key initiatives for the future,* 2010
[222] United Nations Educational, Scientific, and Cultural Organization (UNESCO), *Rebuilding the social, cultural, and intellectual fabric of Haiti: concept note,* 2010
[223] Organization of American States Permanent Council, *Support for the people and governemnt of Haiti in the aftermath of the January 12 massive earthquake,* 2010
[224] Organization of American States Permanent Council, *Support for the people and governemnt of Haiti in the aftermath of the January 12 massive earthquake,* 2010
[225] Interim Haiti Recovery Commission (IHRC), *Action Plan for National Recovery and Development of Haiti: Immediate key initiatives for the future,* 2010.
[226] Interim Haiti Recovery Commission (IHRC), *Action Plan for National Recovery and Development of Haiti: Immediate key initiatives for the future,* 2010
[227] Interim Haiti Recovery Commission (IHRC), *Action Plan for National Recovery and Development of Haiti: Immediate key initiatives for the future,* 2010

consultation mechanism that was aligned with international donor consortium agreement at the Ministerial Conference on Haiti on January 25, 2010.[228] At this Ministerial conference, the short-term response obstacles were primarily dominated by food, water, and shelter distribution; damage assessment by the World Bank, UN, and IDB in collaboration with the Haitian government, and OAS support through the Inter-American Committee on Disaster Reduction (IACNDR); supporting security and national police, MINUSTAH and other peacekeepers; analyzing the seismic strength of the event in order to prepare the future infrastructure; safeguarding refugee centers; implementing a daily communication infrastructure (between government and populous); reestablishing government functions; and reinforcing rural communities so as to avoid further urban migration.[229]

Recently, the Secretary General of the OAS José Miguel Insulza, met with the President of Haiti, René Préval, in Port-au-Prince to discuss in detail the progress made and the challenges faced in the country's reconstruction effort within the IHRC reconstruction framework. The problems they outlined included the complexities within the electoral process and the improvement of Civil Registry.[230] Both leaders also discussed the status of the Civil Registry Program (PUICA), an OAS project in Haiti to improve a digital civil registry system to normalize the situation aggravated by the catastrophe that affected the country earlier in the year, which led to the collapse of public offices and the loss of citizens' identity cards.[231] In addition to the meeting between OAS and Haitian officials, the Assistant Secretary-General went on record during the same month arguing in favor of changing the paradigm for natural disaster experiences. In his address, Albert Ramdin suggested that nations and activists move beyond the reactive paradigm exuded by the Haitian experience, and begin to embrace a *proactive* philosophy to preparedness and disaster training; further, he encouraged others to recognize that in a globalized world, "disasters transcend municipal, state, and international borders, making them problems that belong to the entire hemisphere."[232]

Currently, the lessons learned from the Haitian earthquake disaster recovery mission are embedded in preparation, readiness, and information access and organization. Without standards for infrastructure or civil registry, the Haitian government was severely inefficient in being able to account for, and interact with Haitians once disaster struck.[233] Without this critical organizational instrument in place, there was essentially no way of tracking who possessed what property, where citizens could be located, or how to get in touch with them. This severely complicated the obstacles of food and water shortages, critical sanitation concerns, and refugee stabilization as disaster responders had little *official* information to use regarding the existence and condition of each Haitian negatively affected.[234] In summary, the OAS has only begun to recognize the challenges and lessons learned from reconstruction in Haiti; moreover, the process will unfold for the next decade, during which the OAS can be expected to maintain culturally sensitive aid provisions that protect the integrity of local Haitian identities.

Case Study: Chevron-Texaco Oil Disaster in Ecuador

The private sector encompasses a vast plethora of exceptions and challenges for cultural sensitivity in reconstruction and aid deployment. Perhaps the most notable example lies in Ecuador, where Chevron-Texaco has dumped billions of gallons of toxic wastewater and oil pollution into the rainforest from 1962 to1995.[235] Today, this waste threatens indigenous civilizations with extinction and has created what many believe to be the worst environmental disaster since Chernobyl's nuclear accident. Chevron intentionally discharged into Ecuador's rainforest more than 30 times

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[228] Organization of American States, Ministerial Conference on Haiti, *Opportunity amidst crisis: a roadmap for recovery, stabilization, and development*, 2010

[229] Organization of American States, Ministerial Conference on Haiti, *Opportunity amidst crisis: a roadmap for recovery, stabilization, and development*, 2010

[230] OAS Press Release, *OAS Secretary General and Haiti's President discuss developments and challenges in the country's reconstruction process,* 2010

[231] OAS Press Release, *OAS Secretary General and Haiti's President discuss developments and challenges in the country's reconstruction process,* 2010

[232] OAS Press Release, *OAS Assistant Secretary-General makes a call to "change the paradigm of natural disasters,"* 2010

[233] United Nations Educational, Scientific, and Cultural Organization (UNESCO), *Rebuilding the social, cultural, and intellectual fabric of Haiti: concept note,* 2010

[234] United Nations Educational, Scientific, and Cultural Organization (UNESCO), *Rebuilding the social, cultural, and intellectual fabric of Haiti: concept note,* 2010

[235] Amnesty International, *Chevron in the Amazon—oil rights or human rights? Texaco's legacy, Chevron's responsibility*.

the amount of oil spilled in the Exxon Valdez disaster.[236] 30,000 indigenous persons filed a class-action lawsuit in Ecuador against the company in 2003. The lawsuit has potential to set a legal standard that could protect millions of vulnerable people around the globe, through a heightened wave of corporate social responsibility backed by human rights declarations, environmental conventions, and pollution regulations. This case, *Aguinda v. ChevronTexaco,* is the first in history where indigenous tribes have succeeded in acquiring jurisdiction in their own courts over a large multi-national oil corporation. Indigenous Ecuadorians assert that Chevron was has resulted in numerous deaths from cancer and an untold number of spontaneous miscarriages and genetic malformations have plagued the surrounding areas for several decades.[237]

This exchange disregards the environmental mandates supported by the UN and the OAS in the Summits of the Americas Pollution Declarations, which fuse multinational corporations to responsibility and accountability for the impacts their operations may have on hosting ecosystems.[238] Further, the International Maritime Organization authored the *International Convention on Oil Pollution Preparedness, Response and Cooperation* in 1990, which bound parties to establishing measures for dealing with pollution incidents, whether they are in their home nation or in conjunction with other countries.[239] It has been difficult for Chevron-Texaco to avoid its moral and political duty to address its pollution in Ecuador in the public eye; however, it has remained free from any legally binding measures that demand action for over three decades of environmental terrorism.[240]

While there have been numerous instances of voluntary NGO participation with Ecuadorian environmental reconstruction, there has not been a centralized effort launched on behalf of the destruction's culprit.[241] This case study exemplifies the delineation between cultural sensitivity—as it can be upheld by formal institutions such as the OAS, and ignored by private-sector actors such as Chevron-Texaco.

Conclusion

It is apparent that the OAS can play a vital role in strengthening information and communication technologies for better preparation for natural disasters, making stronger networks of local cultural representation through NGO and civil society programs, in addition to expanding a knowledge-based society approaches in the fields of health, environmental sustainability, education, and legal development. Scientists around the world are sharing concerns for the implications that could stem from climatic instability, resource shortages, an ever-growing wealth-gap, lacking access to healthcare, and severe cultural and ideological disparities in the international community. It is vital that as we move further into the 21st century, citizens *especially* in the OAS framework recognize the natural tensions we face and react with bold, decisive, and culturally sensitive mandates. As noted by Albert Ramdin, the Assistant Secretary-General of the OAS, at one point or another—*every* society will encounter a natural disaster or need some form of aid. This is also mentioned by the OAS charter—that there is an obligation to assist and protect the diverse cultures that span throughout the Americas, and into our broader international partnerships. By shifting the paradigm of disaster response from reactive to proactive—and emphasizing the role of information architecture—we can expect a paradigm shift in the way we uphold cultural sensitivity amidst reconstruction and aid deployment. In preparing for the topic, delegates should consider the following questions. What types of authority (political, legal or otherwise) could hold multinational corporations accountable for reconstruction and aid that they owe to suffering communities? What types of actors should oversee the development of technological infrastructures in developing countries? Should disaster preparedness be regulated and enforced at the supra-national level or be left up to states' jurisdiction? What can the OAS do to standardize information development throughout the Americas?

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[236] Amnesty International, *Chevron in the Amazon—oil rights or human rights? Texaco's legacy, Chevron's responsibility*
[237] Abady, *Chevron should pay for its oil pollution in Ecuador,* 2010
[238] Organization of American States, Summits of the Americas Information Network, *Environment and Pollution: follow-up implementation mandates*, 2010
[239] International Maritime Organization, *International convention on oil pollution preparedness, response, and cooperation*, 1990
[240] Abady, *Chevron should pay for its oil pollution in Ecuador,* 2010
[241] Abady, *Chevron should pay for its oil pollution in Ecuador,* 2010

Annotated Bibliography

Committee history for the Organization of American States

Brice, Arthur. (2009). *OAS Lifts 47-Year-Old Suspension of Cuba.* Retrieved on October 15,2010 from:
http://articles.cnn.com/2009-06-03/world/cuba.oas_1_oas-organization-of-american-states-purposes-and-principles?_s=PM:WORLD
> Brice reports on the recent OAS decision to lift Cuba's suspension from the organization. He also examines the political implications of the reversal of the decision to ban Cuba from the organization, expressing that tensions between Cuba and the OAS still exist. The question of Cuba's membership will be important for delegates to consider, as it is crucial to recognize that not all American states are represented in the OAS. This particular issue is also something that delegates may want to examine further, as it also raises questions regarding the process of joining or re-joining the OAS.

Britannica Online Encyclopedia. *Organization of American States*. Retrieved on October 10,2010 from:
http://www.britannica.com/EBchecked/topic/20243/Organization-of-American-States
> This page provides a brief history of the OAS and is mainly helpful as an overview or as a starting point for research. Although the page is relatively sparse, it contains links to other articles which may be useful, and it is straightforward, simple, and easily accessible. This article does not go into great detail about any aspect of the OAS but does provide some useful facts and very basic information on the history of the organization.

Clinton, Hillary. (2010). *Address to the Organization of American States General Assembly.* From U.S. Department of State: http://www.state.gov/secretary/rm/2010/06/142804.htm
> Honduras has been a major point of concern for the OAS recently. Political unrest has been growing there for some time, and the recent coup has alarmed members of the international community, especially the states neighboring Honduras. The United States especially has been very vocal in the dialogue regarding Honduras. This speech is an example of this country's unpopular policy regarding the question of whether or not and when Honduras should regain membership, in which the United States' Secretary of State urges OAS Member States to forget the coup, leave the events leading up to it in the past, and establish a fresh start for Honduras within the OAS.

Cragin, Kim & Bruce Hoffman. (2003). *Arms Trafficking and Colombia.* RAND Institute.
> Small arms and light weapons trafficking is one topic that the OAS is addressing currently. This paper provides a snapshot of one instance in which this problem occurs. The authors demonstrate that although an issue such as this may appear isolated at first, occurring within the borders of one state, it may spread very quickly through the borders of neighbors. Readers come to understand the ripple effect that tends to occur in such situations, and this will lead readers to understand the importance of cooperation among Member States of organizations such as the OAS.

Dominguez, Jorge I. (1999). *U.S.-Latin American Relations During the Cold War and its Aftermath.* Institute of Latin American Studies.
> Dominguez examines the impact of Cold War politics on the Western Hemisphere, specifically between the states located in Latin America and the United States, a major agitator of the Cold War. This paper demonstrates how the strife between capitalist and communist states helped to shape the policy of some members of the OAS. Additionally, it explains the origins of many conflicts that still frequently arise between OAS Member States today. Issues of imperialism, colonialism, and intolerance are addressed in this essay, explaining some of the tensions that have continued in the Western hemisphere even after the fall of the Soviet Union and the perceived end of the Cold War.

Godnick, William. (2002). *Tackling the Illicit Trade in Small Arms and Light Weapons*. Retrieved from:
http://www.international-alert.org/pdf/OAS-ENG.PDF

Godnick's paper is an excellent guide to the work that has been done by the UN and the OAS with regard to the illicit small arms and light weapons trade. It quickly summarizes some of the documents that the OAS has issued relating to this topic and provides a snapshot of what actions have been taken to combat this trade. This paper is helpful in understanding the types of topics that the OAS deals with.

Mora, Jose A. *The Organization of American States*. Retrieved from International Organization.
This resource contains a rich analysis of the OAS Charter and how the document impacted the early operations of the OAS. Although this journal is somewhat dated, it captures the most basic goals, intents, and purposes of the OAS. From this document, one can discern the ways in which the OAS has changed since its conception, how Member States have interpreted the Charter in the past, and how those interpretations have changed.

Organization of American States. (2010). Retrieved July 29, 2010 from: http://www.oas.org
This is the official Web site of the Organization of American States. The "Members" page from the OAS website lists the permanent Member States of the organization and explains that they have each ratified the OAS Charter. It also provides a brief explanation on Cuba's status as an OAS Member State since 1962. The web page for the Permanent Council of the OAS discusses the structure and purpose of the Permanent Council of the Organization of American States. It gives information with regard to the rules of procedure and the structure of the Permanent Council, as well as explaining the process by which chairs and vice chairs are appointed. Another page from the OAS website, "Topics" provides a general list of issues that are of importance to the OAS. This page is useful as it is updated as more topics arise, making it an excellent jumping-off point for those wanting to research more in-depth. The "Who We Are" page discusses the structure of the OAS, presenting its main organs and their functions throughout. The information included on this page provides a snapshot of the OAS as an organization and an overview of each part as it relates to the body as a whole. The Secretariat for Legal Affairs is where one finds the Charter of the Organization of American States, the founding document of the organization. This version includes recent amendments to this basic document, and it is useful for understanding why the OAS exists, how it came to be, what needs it addresses, who may join, and what rules it must follow. In general, this web site is extremely helpful in understanding the basic functions of the OAS and its separate parts.

Organization of American States. (2010). *OAS Assistant Secretary General Addresses Students on Women in Politics*. Retrieved October 10, 2010 from Summit of the Americas Virtual Community: http://svc.summit-americas.org/news/oas-assistant-secretary-general-addresses-students-women-politics
A current major topic for discussion within the OAS is outreach to youth, and this article provides an example in which the organization directly addresses youth and challenges them improve their futures through gender equity. The article also mentions the Model OAS, another program by the OAS intended to reach youth and encourage them toward contributing to international dialogue.

Perry, William & Max Primorac. (1994). The Inter-American Security Agenda. *Journal of Interamerican Studies and World Affairs*.
This article is a concise outline of security goals for the Western hemisphere. The authors explain the issues and why they might jeopardize inter-American security in only a few short paragraphs. Although this reading is not thorough, it is useful for understanding what the OAS must address in the future and what currently threatens Member States' sovereignty and security.

Republic of Haiti. (2010, January 25). A Road Map for Recovery, Stabilization, and Development of the Republic of Haiti and Reference Documents for the Ministerial Meeting Held in Montreal, Canada.
The first several pages of this guide, which is from a meeting held in order to discuss the reconstruction of Haiti after its earthquake, relate to the OAS response to a call for relief for Haiti. This is an example of a situation in which the OAS must quickly plan and execute a response and is helpful in understanding how its plans for aid, relief, and development are structured. The document also demonstrates the importance of cultural and national sovereignty to the OAS as a priority in decision-making.

Shaw, Carolyn M. (2003). *Limits to Hegemonic Influence in the Organization of American States*. Latin American Politics and Society.

> *Shaw's study is a very interesting theoretical examination of the structure of the OAS and how it balances the power of larger, more developed states with that of smaller, less developed ones. The study specifically demonstrates how Latin American states are able to position themselves as decision-makers without allowing the largest, wealthiest, and most industrialized Member States to dominate negotiations. Page 65 contains a very useful table which captures the way the power structure of the Organization of American States may be examined from several different perspectives. This source may be useful for delegates wanting to grasp the dynamics between Member States in the OAS.*

Sheinin, David. (1995). *The Organization of American States*. International Organizations Series, Volume 11. Dallas: Clio.

> *David Sheinin examines the history and significance of the OAS over the course of its existence as well as its accomplishments and importance as a regional organization. The author provides basic information about the functions of the various parts that comprise the OAS and then goes on to explain some of the many issues that are dealt with by the organization. Sheinin demonstrates the successes and shortcomings experienced by the OAS since it came into being and analyzes its actions through a critical lens.*

Thompson, Ginger & Mark Lacey. (2009). *OAS Votes to Suspend Honduras Over Coup*. Retrieved on October 10 from: http://www.nytimes.com/2009/07/05/world/americas/05honduras.html

> *This article is a thorough yet brief explanation of how the OAS handled the recent military coup in Honduras in which President Manuel Zalaya was ousted from power. Sources such as this are important as snapshots of current events and recent issues for the OAS. In this way, the entire New York Times web site may be useful to delegates for research on recent developments with the OAS. Outside news sources used in conjunction with the OAS web site will provide a different and possibly more critical perspective on OAS action in response to events in the Americas.*

Yundt, Keith W. (1989). *The Organization of American States and Legal Protection to Political Refugees in Latin America*. International Migration Review.

> *This article is a criticism of OAS inaction regarding Latin American political refugees. While human rights is an issue that the OAS pledges to address in its Charter, some were not pleased with the organization's inability to deal with this particular refugee situation. This article is important so that delegates may understand that the jurisdiction of the OAS is not always sufficient to address every issue with which it is confronted to the satisfaction of all Member States or people.*

I. Elimination of all forms of racial and indigenous discrimination, immigration intolerance and xenophobia

Adams, K. (2010, May 28). *The Truth Behind Arizona's Immigration Law*. Retrieved on August 15, 2010, from The Washington Post http://www.washingtonpost.com/wp-dyn/content/article/2010/05/27/AR2010052702527.html

> *Kirk Adams analyzes, in contraposition to the general opinion of the United States Federal Government and public opinion, how the recently enacted Arizona Migration Law does not lie far beyond the federal legislation. It also makes the reader aware of the high national approval of the Law throughout the country by assuring that an approximate of 18 U.S. states are considering to adopt similar pieces of legislation. This article contains a rather strong support to the Arizona Law while criticizing the lack of support and information by federal representatives and Western states.*

Australian Human Rights Commission. (2002). *The International Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Racial Discrimination*. Retrieved on August 14, 2010, from http://www.hreoc.gov.au/racial_discrimination/guide_law/icerd.html

Through its Web site, the Australian Human Rights Commission provides delegates with a brief review of racial discrimination as envisaged in the international community. Most importantly, This site offers a brief overview at the stipulation set under the International Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Racial Discrimination and the basic principles under which all state parties have to undertake.

Bahá'í Intenational Community. (2008, February 6). *60th Anniversary of the Universal Declaration on Human Rights.* Retrieved on August 20, 2010, from: http://www.bic.org/statements-and-reports/bic-statements/08-0206.htm

The Bahá'í International Community (BIC) is an international Non-Governmental Organization (NGO) which seeks to promote principles derived from the Bahá'í Faith, aiming to halt current challenges while boosting development among all. At the moment, the BIC works in promoting universal respect and compliance with human rights. For that reason, during the 60th Anniversary of the UDHR, in 2008, the BIC addressed humanity by reminding the International Community of all efforts, commitments and responsibilities encompassed under the UN umbrella, specially the respect for human rights without any discrimination, in order to halt economic disparities, insecurity and underdevelopment. This source will offer delegates information about the BIC, its main objectives and standpoint on the matters at hand.

Bangura, Yusuf. (2001, September). *Multilateral North South Reports: Racism, Xenophobia and Public Policy.* Retrieved August 1, 2010, from United Nations Research Institute for Social Development: http://www.unrisd.org/unrisd/website/newsview.nsf/(httpNews)/EA3D6CB8222EB332C1256BEB00303CD1?OpenDocument

Yusuf Bangura provides a viewpoint about the multilateral North-South efforts and actions taken racism and xenophobia and the impact of public policy in race relations worldwide. Mr. Bangura gives a brief idea of the effects of racism and xenophobia within different types of societies and the role of policies in promoting social justice and equality. Furthermore, he provides a viewpoint on the effects of racism within citizenship and social relations among individuals and social structures among the different societies.

Center for Latin American Studies. (2004). *Conference on Indigenous Peoples in Latin America: The Challenge of Poverty Reduction, Land Rights and Natural Resource Control.* Retrieved on August 10, 2010, from Georgetown University: http://www.landcoalition.org/pdf/08_georgetownuniversity_conference_indigpeople_latin_america.pdf

This document, presented by the Walsh School of Foreign Service at Georgetown University, analyzes the improvements of indigenous peoples of the Americas in the respect of their human rights and the attainment of a more active role within their societies in the past three decades. Delegates will find a brief study of the space gained by indigenous communities after the 1970's, decade of the empowerment of democratic regimes in the Hemisphere. In addition, it points out a number of predominant challenges remaining. This document represents a concise summary of the comments and opinions given by the panelists of the Conference on Indigenous Peoples in Latin America.

Committee on the Elimination of Racial Discrimination. (2007). *Monitoring Racial Equality and non-discrimination.* Retrieved on August 13, 2010, from the Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights http://www2.ohchr.org/english/bodies/cerd/

The Committee on the Elimination of Racial Discrimination is an independent body, within the scope of the UN, which follows the implementation of the UN's Convention on the Elimination of all Forms of Racial Discrimination. This source gives delegates the opportunity to explore the work of the Committee and the OHCHR, and specially information about the provisions underlined under the Convention. It offers general comments on thematic issues and concluding observations made to Member States on specific matters.

Corte Inter-Americana de Derechos Humanos. *Petitions and Consultations before the Inter-American System.* Retrieved on August 28, 2010, from: http://www.corteidh.or.cr/denuncias_consultas.cfm'

A brief but inclusive depiction of the Inter-American System is provided by the above link. Delegates will be able to find information on the members of the OAS, and a rather general

background on the formation of the Inter-American System. In addition, delegates will be able to find genuine information on the Inter-American Commission on Human Rights and the Inter-American Court of Human Rights, two of the main OAS organs in the discussion of the topics under discussion during this Conference. Explanation on how to file complaints before the Inter-American System, Information on petitions and consultations, and a concise account of the work of the Court in case of human rights violations is offered.

Cultural Survival. (2007, Fall). *UN Adopts the Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous People*. Retrieved August 24, 2010, from http://www.culturalsurvival.org/publications/cultural-survival-quarterly/none/un-adopts-declaration-rights-indigenous-peoples

> *The UN adoption of the Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples marks a precedent in universal efforts to promote equality and adhere to human rights standards. Tauli-Corpuz offers delegates a rather encompassing account of the fight for the rights of indigenous peoples, the drafting process of the Declaration, and the importance of the adoption of the Declaration. It also gives delegates a brief description on the number of votes in favor, those against, and number of abstentions.*

Dwyer, D. (2010, July 29). *Arizona Immigration Law Take Effect as Legal Battle Continues*. Retrieved on August 15, 2010, from http://abcnews.go.com/Politics/arizona-immigration-law-takes-effect-key-sb-1070/story?id=11274472

> *The new Migration Law enacted by the state of Arizona has left behind a heated debated concerning it legality vis-à-vis the Universal Declaration of Human Rights and other international covenants on the protection of human rights without any discrimination. This document offers delegates a view of the main concerns and allegations against the Law. It addresses the blockage of the bill's most controversial contents by U.S. District Judge, Susan Bolton, alleging that the law overpasses its state powers by attempting to impose actions that can only be taken by the federal government.*

Glendon, M. (2004). *The Rule of Law in the Universal Declaration of Human Rights*. Northwestern University *Journal of International Human Rights*. Retrieved on August 15, 2010, from: http://www.law.northwestern.edu/journals/jihr/v2/5/

> *In her analysis of the importance of Rule of Law, Glendon stresses the importance of legal and political frameworks as the best measures in tackling discrimination related practices. In Addition Glendon provides a brief analysis of the nature of the four groups of rights that form the Universal Declaration of Human Rights, hence, she provides readers on how better to implement such rights by taking into consideration their particular nature.*

Human Rights Education Associates. (2007). *The Inter-American Human Rights System*. Retrieved on August 23, 2010, from: http://www.hrea.org/index.php?doc_id=413

> *As delegates attending the present committee are simulating the OAS, it is of utmost importance for them, taking into account that the matters are hand deal human rights issues, to be aware of the Inter-American Human Rights System. In this regard, this source is absolutely necessary in comprehending and reviewing the legal tools, mechanisms and principles that guide the OAS´ efforts in adhering to international human rights standards.*

Human Rights Watch. (2002, April). *Illegal People: Haitians and Dominico-Haitians in the Dominical Republic*. Retrieved September 12, 2010 from http://www.hrw.org/reports/2002/domrep/

> *The report presented by Human Rights Watch on April 2002 deals mainly with the existing discrimination towards Haitians, Dominicans with Haitian descend and black-race people in the Dominican Republic. It comprises and exhaustive investigation on the deportation and mass expulsion conducted by the Dominican Republic government and touches upon several discriminatory practices affronted by Haitians and Dominico-Haitians in terms of access to education, citizenship and governing rules that legitimize such actions.*

International Labour Organization, International Organization for Migration, and Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights. (2001, August). *International Migration, Racism, Discrimination and*

Xenophobia. Geneva: World Conference Against Racism, Racial Discrimination, Xenophobia and Related Intolerance.

> *The document presented in conjunction by the ILO, the IOM and the UNHCHR provides information on the World Conference against Racism, Racial Discrimination, Xenophobia and Related Intolerance. It gives the principles by which the Conference aims to tackle discrimination, xenophobia and related intolerance suffered by migrants and refugees. It also provides a solid basis of information about current issues at hand in reference to the topics of discussion.*

Inter-American Court of Human Rights. (1979, October). *Statute of the Inter-American Court of Human Rights*. Retrieved on August 2, 2010, from: http://www.cidh.org/basicos/english/Basic19.Statute%20of%20the%20IA%20Court.htm

> *As representatives of Member States of the Organization of American States, delegates are required to review and examine the legal basis ruling the Inter-American Court of Human Rights. The Statute of the Inter-American Court of Human Rights gives delegates a specific account of the nature of the organ, its rights, duties and responsibilities, and how does the Court work and function.*

IOM. (1999). *South American Conference on Migration*. Retrieved on September 2, 2010, from: http://www.iom.int/jahia/Jahia/policy-research/regional-consultative-processes/rcps-by-region/sacm

> *The link provided above will lead delegates to short and general facts bout the South American Conference in Migration. Delegates can use this website mainly to obtain the most basic information about the SACM such as its members, its year of establishment, its main topics of focus and it's those states which hold the status of observers/partners.*

Montopoli. (2010, Julio 28). *Arizona Immigration Decision: Early Reaction to SB1070*. Retrieved August 13, 2010, from CBS News: http://www.cbsnews.com/8301-503544_162-20011965-503544.html

> *As one of the case studies underlined before, the Arizona Law can be portrayed as an effort to combat illegal migration in the State of Arizona. Nonetheless, as it is also taken as a discriminatory piece of legislation, it has to be analyzed carefully in order to come to a decision of whether it interferes with Federal Law or not. This CBS article provides delegates a brief overview of the main allegations in favor and against the approval and legality of the law. It also offers an idea of local feelings towards this legislation.*

OAS. (1951). *Charter of the Organization of American States*. Retrieved on August 14, 2010, from: http://www.oas.org/dil/treaties_A-41_Charter_of_the_Organization_of_American_States.htm

> *The Charter of the Organization of American States provides delegates with the legal document under which the OAS was conceived and all related to its functioning, the rules of procedure, its membership, the duties and responsibilities of state parties, the principles and objectives under which it was conceived and the main organs that compose it. The source also provides a list of the four amendments made under the forms of Protocols and their exact dates of signature and entrance into force.*

OHCHR. (2010, May 10). *Arizona: UN experts warn against a "disturbing legal pattern hostile to ethnic minorities and migrants"*. Retrieved on August 1, 2010, from: http://www.ohchr.org/EN/NewsEvents/Pages/DisplayNews.aspx?NewsID=10035&LangID=E

> *A group of UN independent human rights experts that reviewed the recently approved Arizona Law expressed in May, 2010, their serious concern as, according to their opinion, such piece of legislation affects minorities, indigenous peoples, and immigrants as it may subject them to discriminatory and hostile practices. The article published by the UN Office of the High Commissioner for Human Rights offers a critical observation of the Arizona Law as it provides a negative judgment of the legislation made on behalf of UN human rights experts.*

OIM CONOSUR (2004). *¿Qué es la Conferencia Sudamericana sobre Migraciones?*. Retrieved on September 2, 2010, from: http://www.oimconosur.org/varios/index.php?url=conferencia_0

The International Organization for Migration (OIM in Spanish) is an international organization that has the objective of advancing the understanding of migration issues in order to achieve development through migration and the well-being of migrants through cooperation among governments and civil society. The link provided here will lead delegates to a document written in Spanish, and which depicts briefly the historical background of the South American Conference on Migration. It offers a rather concise review of each of the nine Conferences that have taken place so far, and the main improvements obtained after these Conferences).

Reuters. (2007, October 31). *UN envoys found profound racism in Dominican Republic*. Retrieved on August 17, 2010, from: http://www.stuff.co.nz/world/54605
Two UN experts expressed their concern in finding profound discriminatory practices against Haitians and Dominico Haitians in the Dominican Republic. This news provides delegates with a rather brief and general view of the reality faced by Haitian migrants in the Dominican Republic regarding employment, birth certificates and widespread intolerance against Haiti nationals and their descendants.

Robinson, Mary & Mandela, Nelson. (2001). *The Vision Declaration: Tolerance and Diversity: A vision of the 21*[st] *Century*. Retrieved on August 14, 2010, from World Conference Against Racism, Racial Discrimination, Xenophobia and Related Intolerance: http://www.un.org/WCAR/e-kit/vision.htm
In occasion of the World Conference Against Racism, Racial Discrimination, Xenophobia and Related Intolerance, the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights at the time, Mary Robinson, along with former South African President, Nelson Mandela, called upon the International Community to adopt a declaration and a plan of action that will boost efforts to combat discrimination and related intolerance.

Second Summit of the Americas. (1998). *Plan of Action.* Retrieved on September 1, 2010, from http://www.summit-americas.org/chileplan.htm
The Santiago Plan of Action, adopted during the Second Summit of the Americas in 1998, is a regional initiative aimed at achieving development and well-being among all nations of the Hemisphere. Delegates are encouraged to read and further analyze the proposals made under the Plan of Action in order to take existing efforts and strengthen them as new efforts to counter discrimination, xenophobia and related intolerance. This document gives an idea of what has been and its being practiced in order to avoid overlapping of measures.

Segal, Elliot & Mayadas. (2010). *Immigration Worldwide: Policies, Practices, and Trends*. Oxford University Press.
Segal, Elliot and Mayadas provide an extensive analysis and informative review on immigration worldwide. It focuses on what immigration entails; the processes, practices and events undertaken by migrants throughout the course of migration; and possible dangers and exposures undergone by migrants. It also provides an extensive account of migration in the countries with larger, increasing and low migration population while offering facts and figures on the matter.

United Nations. (1948, December 10). *The Universal Declaration of Human Rights (A/RES/217/III[A])*. Retrieved August 2, 2010, from: http://www.un.org/en/documents/udhr/
The Universal Declaration of Human Rights is the major source of international law regarding the basic freedoms, liberties and necessities a human being is entitled in order to fulfill his needs and human capacities. Furthermore, it constitutes the basis to assure a person's human dignity and equality among all without any distinction of color, race, ethnicity and nationality. The Declaration emphasizes the fact that all human beings are entitled to all rights set forth without any discrimination, recognizing that all human beings are equal before International Law.

United Nations. (2007, September 13). *United Nations Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples*. Retrieved August 1, 2010, from United Nations General Assembly: http://www.un.org/esa/socdev/unpfii/en/drip.html.
The United Nations Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples is a Resolution adopted in 2007 by the UN General Assembly and provides precise, in-depth view of the rights entitled to the

> *Indigenous Peoples worldwide in recognition of their human rights without any discrimination and further affirming their equality to all other people. This Declaration is also a source of International Public Law, hence it is one of the legal instruments that recognizes and acknowledges the rights of Indigenous Peoples without any distinction in order to achieve equality and universal access of human rights and the elimination of all forms of discrimination towards them.*

United Nations. (2009). *Human Rights Day 2009. Message from Navi Pillay, UN High Commissioner for Human Rights*. Retrieved on August 14, 2010, from: http://www.un.org/en/events/humanrightsday/2009/hc_statement.shtml

> *The Statement from the UN High Commissioner for Human Rights portrays a clear international call of the imperative need to fight discrimination in order to attain universal human rights and development for the peoples in the world. It also portrays the existing and increasing diversity as a source of richness and human wealth that should be exploited in order to enrich ourselves and our world. However, she determines the prevalence of discrimination and the necessity to act by embracing diversity and erasing discrimination.*

United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization. (2008). *Coalition of Latin American and Caribbean Cities Against Racism, Discrimination and Xenophobia*. Publication no. SHS/2008/PI/H/3. SHS/UNESCO.

> *The document on the Coalition of Latin-American and Caribbean Cities against Racism, Discrimination and Xenophobia provides definitions of the three phenomena. Furthermore it provides information on the initiative of the Coalition, its Ten-Point Action Plan, the Declaration adopted by the cities participating on the Coalition and examples of actions and efforts taken in order to attain the objectives set in the Declaration.*

UNPFII. (2007, September 13). *United Nations Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples*. Retrieved on August 15, 2010, from: http://www.un.org/esa/socdev/unpfii/en/declaration.html

> *On September 2007 the Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples was adopted by the UN General Assembly. The website of the United Nations Permanent Forum on Indigenous Issues not only provides readers a general summary on the voting of the Declaration, states that have adopted the Declaration after 2007, and speeches from representatives from the majority of Member States. The UNPFII also offers delegates information of the history of the UNPFII, its works, sessions and publications, information entirely useful for the debate during the Conference.*

United Nations Treaty Collection. (2010). *International Convention on All Forms of Racial Discrimination*. Retrieved on August 14, 2010, from: http://treaties.un.org/Pages/ViewDetails.aspx?src=TREATY&mtdsg_no=IV-2&chapter=4&lang=en

> *The Web site referenced above provides a list of those countries that have signed and ratified the Convention with every specific date. Furthermore it gives an account of some of the declarations and/or reservations made upon the ratification of the Convention by numerous states that ratified and/or signed the Convention on All Forms of Racial Discrimination of 1966.*

World Conference Against Racism, Racial Discrimination, Xenophobia and Related Intolerance. (2001 September 8). Declaration & Programme of Action. Retrieved October 14, 2010 from http://www.un.org/WCAR/durban.pdf

> *This Declaration reached the 8 of September of 2001 in Durban, South Africa makes several acknowledgements regarding discriminatory practices based on racism, xenophobia and related intolerance. The Declaration proclaims the universality of human rights, hence condemning all acts of discrimination based on race, color, nationality, origin, physical features and differences alike. Furthermore it enumerates the main sources, causes, forms and current manifestations of racism and racial discrimination and the principal victims of such practices. Most importantly its Programme of Action signals several measures and efforts to be taken to eradicate the incidence of discrimination and related intolerance.*

II. Reducing illicit crops and drug trafficking

N.A. (1988). *Convention Against Illicit Traffic in Narcotic Drugs and Psychotropic Substances*. Retrieved August 29, 2010 from http://www.unodc.org/pdf/convention_1988_en.pdf
> *The United Nations Convention Against Illicit Traffic in Narcotic Drugs and Psychotropic Substances is one of the three principle treaties that are currently in force. The Convention adds additional legal mechanisms for enforcing the Single Convention on Narcotic Drugs and the Convention on Psychotropic Substances. The legal mechanisms relate to extraditions, as well as the tracing, freezing and confiscation of assets derived from illicit drugs.*

Cornell, S. (2005). The Interaction of Narcotics and Conflict. *Journal of Peace Research*, *42*(6), 751-60.
> *This article provides an updated literature review on the connection between illicit drugs and the emergence of conflict. While some recent studies have shed doubt on the causal connection between the two, Cornell suggests that illicit drugs not only increase the likelihood of conflict, but also extend the duration of conflict by changing the incentive structure of insurgents.*

Cumislle, F. (2009). *Status of Drug Use in the Western Hemisphere Major Challenges*. Retrieved August 29, 2010, from http://www.cicad.oas.org/apps/Document.aspx?Id=919
> *This article assesses recent statistical findings in the Western Hemisphere. It provides comparative evidence that demonstrates the scope of the drug problem in the Hemisphere and notes some concerning trends in drug consumption. While the article reveals recent trends in illicit drug consumption, the statistics are limited to marijuana, cocaine, and heroine. In each of these categories illicit drug use in the Hemisphere is substantially higher than global averages.*

Dowell, M. and Gelabert, P. (2008). *Inhalant Abuse Looms as a Major Threat for South American Youth*. Retrieved August 29, 2010 from http://www.cicad.oas.org/oid/NEW/Information/Observer/08_01/inhalants.asp
> *This article evaluates recent statistical evidence regarding inhalant usage in various South American countries. It attempts to correct the common misunderstanding that inhalant drugs are used in large part by marginalized street children. The comparative statistics show that inhalant usage is consistent across age groups and gender.*

Garcés, L. (2005). Colombia: The Link between Drugs and Terror. *Journal of Drug Issues*, *35*(1), 83-105.
> *The article examines the history and nature of the relationship between insurgent groups and illicit drug manufacturing in Colombia. It shows how the two came together and what long-term effects this union has had on Colombia. Two phases are identified: prior to 1990, when drugs were used by criminals as an instrument to achieve certain goals, and post 1990 characterized by the growth the illicit drug industry and an auto-reproduction of violence.*

Holmes, J., Gutierrez, S., and Curtin, K. (2006). Drugs, Violence, and Development in Colombia: A Department-Level Analysis. *Latin American Politics and Society*, *48*(3), 157-184.
> *This article examines the relationship between guerilla violence and coca production. The article shows that contrary to conventional wisdom, coca production is not the causal force behind Columbian guerilla violence. despite the conventional knowledge, they find that economic factors and coca eradication are important explanatory variables.*

Mansfield, D. (1999). Alternative Development: The Modern Thrust of Supply-side Policy. *Bulletin on Narcotics*, *1*(1), 19-43.
> *This article provides a critical evaluation of alternative development claiming that prior research has tended to treat household drug crop producers as a homogeneous group with the same incentive structures. Against the conventional understanding, Mansfield suggests that the neglect of the diverse factors influencing household decision-making has impactions for future drug reduction policy.*

Mansfield, M. and Synder, J. (1995). Democratization and the Danger of War. *International Security*, *20*(1), 5-38.
> *The article evaluates democratizing countries and their propensity to engage in violent interstate conflict. Previously, scholars and experts looked solely at democracies and authoritarian regimes without distinguishing countries in transition. Mansfield and Synder find that democratizing countries are more likely to engage in war due in part to weak political institutions. As a result,*

democratizing countries are also susceptible to instability brought about by insurgency or regional conflict.

O'Neil, S. (2009). The Real War in Mexico. *Foreign Affairs*, *88*(4), 63-80.
   This article evaluates the role of Mexican drug cartels in increasing violence in Mexico, which has subsequently strained the country's unstable democratic institutions. O'Neil argues that the added violence brought about by drug trafficking undermines the viability of Mexico's democracy in the short-term. However, O'Neil also contends that democracy is the best long-term solution for addressing the drug problem, and suggests that the U.S. must play a more active role in supporting Mexico's democracy.

Organization of American States. Inter-American Drug Abuse Control Commission (CICAD). (2010). *Hemispheric Drug Strateg*y. Retrieved on August 16, 2010 from
http://www.cicad.oas.org/EN/basicdocuments/1798%20Strategia_Final_20100602-eng.pdf
   The Hemispheric Drug Strategy marks a noticeable change in the OAS drug strategy. It stresses the need to respect human rights in the implementation of drug policy. It also highlights the essential role that scientific evidence should play in developing drug policy and affirms that drug dependence is a disease that should be treated as a public health issue.

Organization of American States. Inter-American Drug Abuse Control Commission. (1996). *Anti-Drug Strategy in the Hemisphere.* Retrieved on August 16, 2010 from http://www.cicad.oas.org/EN/basicdocuments/Strategy.asp
   The Anti-Drug Strategy in the Hemisphere notes the dynamic changes that occurred in the decade following the adoption of the Program of Rio. Changes noted in the strategy included the increased production and use of synthetic drugs (e.g. methamphetamines and Ecstasy), and the growing use of the Internet to traffic illicit drugs. The strategy also stresses the international dynamics of the global drug problem and the need for collective responsibility.

Organization of American States. Inter-American Drug Abuse Control Commission. (1987). *Inter-American Program of Action of Rio de Janeiro Against the Illicit Use and Production of Narcotic Drugs and Psychotropic Substances and Traffic Therein.* Retrieved on August 16, 2010 from
http://www.cicad.oas.org/EN/basicdocuments/Rio.asp
   The Program of Rio represents the first mandate adopted by OAS countries on the subject of the global drug problem. Prior to the Program of Rio, OAS countries dealt with illicit drug production and use at a strictly domestic level. Thus, the Program of Rio marks a shift in the Western Hemisphere's drug policy towards more collaborative efforts.

Organization of American States. Inter-American Drug Abuse Control Commission. (1990). *Declaration and Program of Action of Ixtapa.* Retrieved on August 16, 2010 from
http://www.cicad.oas.org/EN/basicdocuments/Ixtapa.asp
   The Declaration and Program of Action of Ixtapa urges OAS Member States to ratify the United Nations Convention against Illicit Traffic in Narcotic Drugs and Psychotropic Substances and sets a list of priorities for the CICAD for the 1990s. Some priorities outlined in the mandate call up the CICAD to promote greater collaboration between governments, allocate resources to specialists for the collection of reliable evidence, and to aid Member States in applying the Convention Against Illicit Traffic in Narcotic Drugs and Psychotropic Substances in their countries.

Organization of American States. Inter-American Drug Abuse Control Commission. (1990). *Inter-American Program of Quito: Comprehensive Education to Prevent Drug Abuse.* Retrieved on August 16, 2010 from
http://www.cicad.oas.org/EN/basicdocuments/Quito.asp
   The Program of Quito put forward a recommendation for the OAS to commission four workshops to help develop demand reduction strategies. This document represents one of the first collaborative attempts to formulate a hemispheric demand reduction strategy. The focus of the Program of Quito is on educating citizens about the dangers of illicit drug use.

Organization of American States. (1998). *Plan of Action of the Second Summit of the Americas.* Retrieved on

August 16 2010 from http://www.cumbre-americas.org/ii_summit/ii_summit_poa_en.pdf
> *The Plan of Action of the Second Summit of the Americas outlines the CICAD's formal mandate to embark on a multilateral process for assessing the measure OAS Member States are taking to address the drug problem. This document is the basis for the Multilateral Evaluation Mechanism (MEM). The MEM, now in its fifth round of evaluations, gathers national level statistical data from each Member State and puts forward recommendations from the findings.*

Phan-Gruber, E. (2010). The Role of Alternative Development in the "War on Drugs": The Case of Bolivia," *The Journal of Civil Society and Social Transformation*, *1*(1), 5-13.
> *This article assesses alternative development programs in Bolivia from the mid-1980s to the present. The author argues that alterative development programs can offer longer-term solutions that should be paired with eradication measures to reduce illicit crops. In addition, the author recommends that alternative development programs include more participation, have less stringent conditions and improve upfront planning.*

Transnational Institute. (2006). Coca yes, Cocaine, no? Legal Options for the Coca Leaf. Retrieved on August 29, 2010 from http://www.tni.org/reports/drugs/debate13.pdf
> *This research paper argues that the inclusion of the coca leafs in the Single Convention on Narcotic Drugs was a historical error and thus picks the debate initiated by the Bolivian government at the session of the Commission on Narcotic Drugs in 2006 to undo this decision. It further presents scientific research on coca consumption, as well as various current policy positions on the matter.*

United Nations. General Assembly. 20th Special Session on the World Drug Problem. (1998). *Political Declaration of the Special Session of the General Assembly on International Drug Control* (A/RES/S-20/2). Retrieved on August 16, 2010 from http://www.un.org/ga/20special/poldecla.htm
> *The Political Declaration of the special session of the General Assembly on International Drug Control is the main document that was passed by the General Assembly Plenary 20th Special Session on the World Drug Problem. Aiming at substantial progress in reducing both supply and demand, the declaration provides policy recommendations and underlines the global dimension of this problem, and the subsequent need for international cooperation on this topic. The declaration has set 2008 as its year of reference to compare future efforts to achieve "significant reductions with a view to the elimination" of illicit drugs.*

United Nations. General Assembly. 20th Special Session on the World Drug Problem. (1998). *Illegal Crop Eradication and Alternative Development*. Retrieved on August 16, 2010 from http://www.un.org/ga/20special/featur/crop.htm
> *This document outlines the integral role of alternative development plays in reducing illicit drug supplies, and stresses the need to couple such plans with other drug reduction strategies. The need for better law enforcement and international cooperation are emphasized. This document also highlights countries and regions where these strategies are needed most.*

United Nations. Office on Drugs and Crime (UNODC). (2010). *Annual Report 2010*. Retrieved on August 16, 2010 from http://www.unodc.org/unodc/en/about-unodc/annual-report.html?ref=menutop
> *The UNODC Annual Report 2010 provides an overview on the global drug situation. The Report also identifies positive and negative developments and contains a comprehensive statistical database. Its general message is an argument for containment of the market for illicit drugs with considerable variation.*

United Nations. Office on Drugs and Crime. (2007). World Drug Report 2007. Retrieved on August 16, 2010 from http://www.unodc.org/unodc/en/world_drug_report.html
> *The World Drug Report 2007 provides an overview of the global drug situation. The Report identifies positive and negative developments and contains a comprehensive statistical database.*

United Nations. Office on Drugs and Crime. (2005). *Alternative Development: A Global Thematic Evaluation*. Retrieved on August 16, 2010 from http://www.unodc.org/pdf/Alternative_Development_Evaluation_Dec-05.pdf

This report provides an evaluation of alternative development projects conducted in the Andean region of South America (Bolivia, Colombia, and Peru) and South-East Asia (Lao People's Democratic Republic, Myanmar, Thailand, and Viet Nam). It provides statistical data on each project, summarizes the basic lessons learned, and puts forth policy recommendations for improving the quality of alternative development programs in the future.

United Nations. Office on Drugs and Crime. (2005). *Junta Sancha: 10 Years Building a Forestry Culture in Bolivia*. Retrieved on August 16, 2010 from
http://www.unodc.org/pdf/Alternative%20Development/Jatun_ForestryBolivia_summary.pdf
This report provides an in-depth analysis of the Junta Sanch`a alternative development program in Bolivia. While providing an overview of the projects goals and aims, this document discusses the quantitative and qualitative results of the project. Finally, the report provides lessons learned and suggestions for future alternative development plans.

United Nations. Office on Drugs and Crime. (2001). *Alternative Development in the Andean Region – The UNDCP Experience*. Retrieved on August 16, 2010 from http://www.unodc.org/pdf/publications/alt-development_andean.pdf
This report evaluates various alternative development programs in the countries of Colombia, Peru, and Bolivia. Data is taken from 15 years of UNDCP run alternative development programs in the region and in-depth analysis is provided on important experiences from these programs. The report also highlights strengths and weaknesses of the various programs, and provides suggestions for future plans.

United Nations. Office on Drugs and Crime. (2010). *Crime and Instability: Case Studies of Transnational Threats*. Retrieved on August 29, 2010 from http://www.unodc.org/documents/data-and analysis/Studies/Crime_and_instability_2010_final_26march.pdf
This report examines the relationship between transnational organized crime and instability by assessing the ways in which organized crime is both a consequence and a cause of instability in certain regions of the world. While organized crime is a phenomenon that goes beyond the trafficking of illicit drugs, this report devotes considerable attention to cocaine and heroin flows from vulnerable regions of the world to more affluent markets.

United Nations. Office on Drugs and Crime. (2009). *Plurinational State of Bolivia: Coca Cultivation Survey*. Retrieved on August 16, 2010 from http://www.unodc.org/documents/crop-monitoring/Bolivia/Bolivia_Coca_Survey_for2008_En.pdf.pdf
This report provides the findings from the UNODC's Illicit Crop Monitoring Programme. The findings suggest that coca bush cultivation increased in 2008, but still remains below the levels of Peru and Colombia. According to the report, cultivation rates increased in the areas of Apolo, Yungas of La Paz, and Cochabamba.

United Nations. Office on Drugs and Crime. (1998). *Economic and Social Consequences of Drug Abuse and Illicit Trafficking*. Retrieved on August 29, 2010 from http://www.unodc.org/pdf/technical_series_1998-01-01_1.pdf
This report focuses on the economic and social repercussions of illicit drug abuse and trafficking. The focus on social effects highlights the ways that drug abuse affects one's family and community, health and education. The economic consequences discussed in the report are related to the increase in money laundering, the expansion of unviable short-term economies, and increased crime and corruption.

United Nations. Office on Drugs and Crime. (2006). *Columbia: Coca Cultivation Survey*. Retrieved on August 16, 2010 from http://www.unodc.org/pdf/andean/Colombia_coca_survey_2005_eng.pdf
This report provides the findings from the UNODC's Illicit Crop Monitoring Programme. The findings suggest that coca bush cultivation in Colombia increased by 8% in 2005. However, the report cautions against viewing the recent spike in production too negatively. As a whole, coca production is down 50% since 2000. In addition, part of the spike is attributed to a drop in effectiveness of eradication methods because of increased aggression from insurgency.

United Nations. Office on Drugs and Crime. (2007). *Crime and Development in Central America: Caught in the*

Crossfire. Retrieved on August 29, 2010 from
http://www.unodc.org/pdf/research/Central_America_Study_2007.pdf
> *This report identifies the conditions that make Central America countries vulnerable to illicit drug trade. The report suggests that governments in Central America should implement holistic crime prevention strategies that build multi-lateral partnerships with donors. The report also suggests that long term socio-economic development coupled with the rule of law are the most effective means towards reducing illicit drug crime in Central American countries.*

Vargas, R. (2005). Strategies for Controlling the Drug Supply: Policy Recommendations to Deal with Illicit Crops and Alternative Development Programs. *Journal of Drug Issues*, *35*(1), 131-150.
> *The article describes the experiences in reducing illicit crop cultivation in Colombia and Bolivia. It underlines that eradicating coca on the ground is the most cost-effective mean, but needs to be accompanied by alternative development measures, especially by strengthening the rule of law. Although being less effective, manual eradication is recommended over aerial fumigation which is criticized for intensive chemical use and detrimental environmental and health effects.*

United Nations. Office on Drugs and Crime. (2007). *Crime, Violence, and Development: Trends, Costs, and Policy Options in the Caribbean.* Retrieved on August 29, 2010 from
http://www.unodc.org/pdf/research/Cr_and_Vio_Car_E.pdf
> *This report addresses the issues of crime and violence in the Caribbean that complicate social and economic development in the region. The report identifies and examines the costs associated with drug trade and trafficking of weapons in the region.*

United Nations. Office on Drugs and Crime. (2010). *Sustainable Livelihoods a Broader Vision: Social Support and Integration to Prevent Illicit Drug Use, HIV/AIDS and Crime*. Retrieved on August 29, 2010 from
http://www.unodc.org/documents/alternative-development/SL%20Paper/FINAL_VERSION_JUNE_8_2010.pdf
> *This article suggests that drug, HIV/AIDS and crime related interventions are more effective when they are accompanied by sustainable livelihoods interventions. It is believed that to enable specific groups to benefit fully from these services, they need to first have a stable source of income. In other words, the article maintains that economic conditions must be dealt with before investing resources in intervention strategies.*

III. Cultural sensitivity in reconstruction efforts and international aid deployment

Abady, Jonathon S., The Wall Street Journal. *Chevron should pay for its oil pollution in Ecuador.* (2010). Retrieved on October 1, 2010 from http://chevrontoxico.com/news-and-multimedia/2010/1001-chevron-should-pay-for-its-pollution-in-ecuador.html
> *This Wall Street Journal article outlines the destruction and devastation caused by the Chevron-Texaco pollution in Ecuador. Further, it urges CVXX to halt the legal "corral" it is doing to avoid accountability for their devastation. It also outlines the court case logistics for Aguinda v. Chevron*

Amazon Defense Coalition. *Summary and analysis of damages to Ecuador's Amazon Basin: Aguinda v. ChevronTexaco*. (2010). Retrieved on October 5, 2010 from
http://chevrontoxico.com/assets/docs/20100917-damages-summary.pdf
> *This report was prepared by the Prepared by lawyers for the Amazon communities based on court submissions. Harms detailed here included environmental degradation, soil fertility losses, health concerns, and cancer deaths. These harms were detailed both in human costs as well as economic costs for the chevron-texaco oil pollution scandal in Ecuador.*

Amnesty International, United States. *Chevron (CVX) in the Amazon – Oil Rights or Human Rights? Texaco's legacy, Chevron's responsibility.* Retrieved on October 1, 2010 from
http://www.amnestyusa.org/business-and-human-rights/chevron-corp/chevron-in-ecuador/page.do?id=1101670

Amnesty international published long article on the behaviors of Chevron-Texaco that led up to the Aquinda v. CVXX lawsuit. AI detailed the UN conventions that the oil company broke, both in the realms of human rights law and environmental law. Further, this report explained the interactions between CVXX and the Aguinda representation prior, during, and after the lawsuit.

Humanitarian Early Warning Service, Inter-Agency Standing Committee (2007). *About.* Retrieved on October 1, 2010 from http://www.hewsweb.org/home_page/aboutus.asp
According to the HEWS website, this program was developed by the World Food Program (WFP) and is co-chaired by UNICEF. The objectives and logistical framework is detailed in the about page and from there, site visitors can access program details, experiences, lessons learned, and goals of the program.

Interim Haiti Recovery Commission (IHRC). (2010). *Action Plan for National Recovery and Development of Haiti: Immediate key initiatives for the future.* Retrieved on October 1, 2010 from http://www.cirh.ht/resources/Haiti_Action_Plan.pdf
This is one of the 2 action-plan reports offered by the IHRC. Before offering a short and long term assessment for reconstruction and recovery operations, the IHRC explains the obstacles and harms that the Haitian disaster experienced. The report also detailed the longstanding challenges that the country faces as it reassembles its national infrastructure.

Interim Haiti Recovery Commission (IHRC), Private Sector Economic Forum (PSEF). *Vision and Roadmap for Haiti: Haiti private sector plan of action* (2010). Retrieved on October 1, 2010 from http://www.cirh.ht/resources/Private_Sector_Plan.pdf
This was the second of 2 action plan reports published by the IHRC. While it emulated the format of the first report (listed above) this was more tailored specifically for the role that the private sector plays during the reconstruction process. Published by the Private Sector Economic Forum (PSEF), it summarizes and assesses the roles of corporations and private investment in the Haitian reconstruction effort.

International Maritime Organization. *International convention on oil pollution preparedness, response and cooperation.* (1990). Retrieved on October 1, 2010 from http://www.imo.org/Conventions/contents.asp?topic_id=258&doc_id=682
The international maritime organization was the agent that authored the Convention on Oil pollution preparedness, response and cooperation. This 1990 convention is the piece of international law that Chevron-Texaco violated when it dumped oil and other contaminants in the Amazon Basin in Ecuador. The convention detailed measures that corporations and states must take uphold when distributing and transporting harmful products throughout the international community.

Organization of American States. *OAS Charter.* (1967) retrieved on August 1, 2010 from http://www.oas.org/dil/treaties_A-41_Charter_of_the_Organization_of_American_States.htm
The OAS Charter outlines the duties, responsibilities, and objectives of the OAS as defined in 1967. The language of the charter is very similar to that of the United Nations; however, this document explains how and why the OAS is committed to the spread of democracy, ensuring multidimensional security approaches, protecting human rights, and the other political pillars of the OAS' operating divisions.

Organization of American States, Inter-American Commission on Human Rights. (1948). *Inter-American Declaration of the Rights and Duties of Man.* Ninth International Conference of American States. Retrieved on August 1, 2010 from http://www.cidh.oas.org/Basicos/English/Basic2.American%20Declaration.htm
Adopted by the inter-American Commission on Human Rights in 1948, this declaration depicts the "outlook" or perspective international citizens and officials should embrace when determining aid response and eligibility. Said to be a guide to American law, education, cultural exploration, and protection of identity are core clauses in this declaration.

Organization of American States, Inter-American Commission on Human Rights. (2010). *The Human Rights Situation of the indigenous people in the Americas.* Retrieved on August 1, 2010 from http://www.cidh.oas.org/Indigenas/TOC.htm

> *Published by the Inter-American Commission on Human Rights, articulating the rights and protections guaranteed to indigenous persons is the main objective of this report. Towards the end of the transcript, this link offers access to all of the supporting documents and annexes that supported the ICHR definitions and advancements for indigenous persons' rights.*

Organization of American States, Inter-American Commission on Human Rights. (2008). *Guidelines for preparation of progress indicators in the area of economic, social, and cultural rights.* Retrieved on August 1, 2010 from http://www.cidh.oas.org/pdf%20files/Guidelines%20final.pdf

> *This document contains guidelines developed by the Commission for the evaluation and monitoring of economic, social, and cultural rights provided in the Protocol of San Salvador. The aim is to provide states parties, other agencies of the Inter-American system, and civil society organizations with a tool that serves not only as a basis for the presentation of reports under the Protocol, but also for the design of a permanent internal evaluation mechanism for each state.*

Organization of American States, Inter-American Commission on Human Rights. (Sep. 2007). *Access to justice as a guarantee of economic, social, and cultural rights. A review of the standards adopted by the inter-American system of human rights.* Retrieved on August 1, 2010 from http://www.cidh.oas.org/pdf%20files/ACCESS%20TO%20JUSTICE%20DESC.pdf

> *This report details the role of states in aiding citizens to improve their access to justice, and improve institutional apparatuses to strengthen cultural and social rights in the development community. According to the Inter-American Commission, the four core areas of concern for this report were: 1) the obligation to remove economic obstacles to ensure access to the courts; 2) the components of due process of law in administrative proceedings concerning social rights; 3) the components of due process of law in judicial proceedings concerning social rights; and, 4) the components of effective judicial protection of individual and collective social rights.*

Organization of American States. *Secretariat for Multidimensional Security.* Retrieved on August 1, 2010 from: http://www.oas.org/en/sms/default.asp

> *The Secretariat was created by Executive Order on December 15, 2005, with the mission to coordinate the cooperation among the member States to fight threats to national and citizen security. Its mission responds to the objectives and principles adopted in the ¨Declaration on Security in the Americas¨ based among others, in the new multidimensional concept of security, and in that bases and purpose of security is the protection of human beings.*

Organization of American States. (1991). *Inter-American Convention to facilitate disaster assistance.* Retrieved on August 1, 2010 from http://www.oas.org/juridico/english/treaties/a-54.html

> *Drafted by the OAS, the Inter-American convention to facilitate disaster assistance highlighted several main functional areas for disaster response. Among them, applicability, requests and acceptance of aid protocols, national coordination authority, direction and control assistance, supply transportation, protection of personnel, and costs are the main points of focus here.*

Organization of American States, Inter-American Committee on Culture. *Preservation and protection of cultural heritage.* Retrieved on August 1, 2010 from http://portal.oas.org/Default.aspx?tabid=308&language=en-US

> *According to the OAS committee on culture, the contribution of culture to the economy is not always well understood or appreciated. In order to build a stronger argument on how culture promotes social and economic development, the committee argues that good data must be collected, analyzed and then disseminated and discussed with different stakeholders such as policy makers; financing authorities and the general public. Overall, this site directs visitors to publications on cultural imperatives, and ways to emphasize their role in economic development campaigns.*

Organization of American States, Department of Education and Culture. *Mission, strategy and priority topics.* Retrieved on August 1, 2010 from http://portal.oas.org/Default.aspx?tabid=239

> *The Office of Education and Culture supports the efforts of Member States to improve the quality and equity of education and to enhance and highlight the contribution of their diverse cultures to economic, social, and human development. From this link location, you can access their priority topics, which include: Education for democratic values and practices, education indicators, preservation of cultural identities, culture, economics, and development, and cultural information systems.*

Organization of American States, Inter-American Committee on Culture. *Culture, economics, and development.* Retrieved on August 1, 2010 from:
http://portal.oas.org/Portal/Topic/SEDI/Educaci%C3%B3nyCultura/Cultura/TemasPrioritarios/CulturayDesarrollo/tabid/309/Default.aspx

> *According to the OAS, OAS Member States have acknowledged the fundamental role of culture in the economic, social and human development of the region. Nevertheless, the role of culture in development processes is not understood in all sectors of society, or within many governmental institutions. This is why raising awareness on the importance of culture's contribution to growth, social inclusion and sustainable development is necessary to further strengthen its contribution through concrete initiatives and activities oriented at fostering the development of sound public policies and strategies, and strengthening human and institutional capacities in the field of culture within the Americas. Culture economics and development dissects this philosophy and offers pragmatic anecdotes for proliferating this understanding.*

Organization of American States, Inter-American Committee on Culture. *Cultural information systems.* Retrieved on August 1, 2010 from
http://portal.oas.org/Portal/Topic/Educaci%C3%B3nyCultura/Cultura/TemasPrioritarios/SistemasdeInformaci%C3%B3nCultural/tabid/311/language/en-US/Default.aspx

> *According to the SEDI webpage on cultural information systems, the availability of good data is critical in policy design, implementation, and evaluation. Policy makers need to know who and where their target population is, and how a given policy performs. Thus, supporting Member States in their efforts to build capacity to measure the social and economic impact of cultural activity, and, to gather, analyze and disseminate information on culture is a very important objective. From this link, visitors can access priority topics for cultural information sharing, as well as reports from Ministerial meetings on culture.*

Organization of American States, Inter-American Council for Integral Development (CIDI), *Culture in Development: An Inter-American Information Network (Executive Summary) Nov (2010).* Retrieved on September 9, 2010 from http://portal.oas.org/LinkClick.aspx?fileticket=ujQfvirdUuk%3d&tabid=1782

> *According to the CIDI project summary, OAS Member States have acknowledged the fundamental role of culture in the economic, social and human development of the region. Nevertheless, the role of culture in development processes is not understood in all sectors of society, or within many governmental institutions. This is why raising awareness on the importance of culture's contribution to growth, social inclusion and sustainable development is necessary to further strengthen its contribution through concrete initiatives and activities oriented at fostering the development of sound public policies and strategies, and strengthening human and institutional capacities in the field of culture within OAS Member States.*

Organization of American States, Executive Secretariat for Integral Development (SEDI). (1997). *Special Multilateral Fund of the Inter-American Council for Integral Development (FEMCIDI), OAS technical cooperation fund.* Retrieved on August 1, 2010 from
http://portal.oas.org/Portal/Sector/Secretar%C3%ADaGeneral/SEDI/OESEDI/Proyectos/FEMCIDI/SobreFEMCIDI/tabid/623/Default.aspx

> *The OAS technical outreach division is headquartered in this program, FEMCIDI. From this link you be taken to the priority issues for the technical cooperation fund, which include: social development, economic diversification and integrating access to markets, sustainable development*

and the environment, and culture. Within each of these focus areas FEMCIDI explains the role of technical access in order to build on each pillar.

Organization of American States, Executive Secretariat for Integral Development (SEDI). *NPA Program, about* (2009). Retrieved on October 1, 2010 from: http://www.oas.org/sap/sedi_npa/default_e.asp
> *The NPA Program, or New Programming Approaches, is one of the information accessibility instruments supported by the OAS. From this link, visitors will be able to find information regarding everything that a knowledge-based society does: information on OAS projects, the courses they develop and provide, and their challenges. In addition, this site places at visitors' disposal publications and documents, articles and events, and a calendar that will allow you to stay aware of what the OAS is doing for a knowledge-based society.*

Organization of American States, Executive Secretariat for Integral Development (SEDI). *Civil registry program (PUICA) about.* (2009). Retrieved on October 1, 2010 from http://portal.oas.org/Portal/Sector/Secretar%C3%ADaGeneral/SEDI/OESEDI/Proyectos/PUICA/SobrePUICA/tabid/608/Default.aspx
> *Within the SEDI Website, PUICA (the civil identity registry program for the America's) is depicted as a critical on-going mission. Attributed to social inclusion, democratic participation, and protection under the rule of law, civil registry through PUICA is said to be a primary link for governments' ability to protect and include citizens in national legal infrastructures. This link will direct you to the PUICA homepage—from here, visitors can look at priority topics, report findings, and supportive evidence for PUICA solvency.*

Organization of American States, Summits of the Americas Information Network. (2010). *Social development declarations.* Retrieved on August 1, 2010 from http://www.summit-americas.org/sisca/sd.html
> *Published by the Summits of the Americas Information Network, this link takes visitors to a list of mandates and declarations that the OAS has made cordial in efforts of protecting local cultural identities. Poverty is emphasized as the most central obstacle to achieving social development, which is what most of the OAS mandates deal with.*

Organization of American States, Permanent Council. (2006). *Draft Declaration of Santo Domingo: Good Governance and Development in the Knowledge-based Society.* Retrieved on August 1, 2010 from http://www.oas.org/en/topics/knowledge_society.asp
> *According to the Draft Declaration of Santo Domingo, the OAS is committed to realizing knowledge-based societies throughout the Americas. The Declaration of Santo Domingo adopted by the region's foreign ministers in 2006 at the OAS General Assembly states that "the development and equitable and universal access to the knowledge-based society constitutes a challenge and an opportunity that helps us to address the common social, economic, and political goals of the countries of the Americas." From this link, visitors will be taken to the knowledge based societies homepage, with the option to click on the Declaration itself.*

Organization of American States, Permanent Council. *Support for the people and government of Haiti in the aftermath of the January 12 massive earthquake* (2010). CP/DEC. 44 (1740/10). Retrieved on October 1, 2010 from http://www.oas.org/consejo/resolutions/dec44.asp
> *This Permanent Council report was the formal response statement issued by the OAS in the weeks following the Haitian earthquake in January 2010. It confirms the OAS commitment to aid and reconstruction, and promises to only interact with recovery with the approval of the Haitian government.*

Organization of American States, Press Release. *OAS Secretary General and Haiti's President discuss developments and challenges in the country's reconstruction process* (2010). Retrieved October 1, 2010 from http://www.oas.org/OASpage/press_releases/press_release.asp?sCodigo=E-305/10
> *In this OAS press release, the meeting between the OAS Secretary-General and Haitian President is elaborated on. During the meeting, the President expressed his concerns for a weak civil*

registry system, infrastructural concerns, and worries about the stabilization of democracy and legal institutions as a result of the disaster.

Organization of American States, Press Release. *OAS Assistant Secretary General Makes a Call to "Change the Paradigm of Natural Disasters."* (2010). Retrieved October 1, 2010 from http://www.oas.org/OASpage/press_releases/press_release.asp?sCodigo=E-379/10
This OAS press release explains how and why the Assistant Secretary-General of the OAS urges the development community to change the paradigm of natural disasters from "reactive" to "proactive." This link will direct visitors directly to the press release, which explains in greater detail the basis of his advice.

Organization of American States, Department of International Law. (1954). *Convention for the promotion of inter-American cultural relations.* Retrieved on August 1, 2010 from: http://www.oas.org/juridico/english/treaties/a 48.html
This Convention lays the foundation for which we now rest Inter-American cultural exchange and preservation. Also serving as a foundation for more modern human rights conventions, the promotion of inter-American cultural relations is the basis by which the OAS encourages cultural sensitivity amidst reconstruction and aid deployment.

Organization of American States, Haitian Diaspora Forum. *Haitian Diaspora Forum: Contributing to a strategic plan for reconstruction and development in Haiti.* (2010). Retrieved on October 1, 2010 from http://www.civil-society.oas.org/documents/Draft%20Program%20Haitian%20Diaspora%20Forum%20-%20March%2011%202010%20-%20English%20-%20V%20%20EXT.doc
The purpose of the Haitian Diaspora Forum is for the Haitian Diaspora to come together to develop recommendations on a plan for short-term recovery and long-term reconstruction and development efforts in Haiti. At this Forum, the Diaspora designed a collaborative strategy that addresses key issues for an integral and sustainable development in post-earthquake Haiti. Further, the structure of the forum was divided into specific workshops on how to handle conflicts such as food shortages, civil strife, refugee camp management, and other vital areas for disaster recovery.

Organization of American States, Republic of Haiti. *Haiti: Opportunity amidst crisis: A roadmap for recovery, stabilization, and development.* Ministerial Conference on Haiti. (2010). Retrieved on October 1, 2010 from http://www.scm.oas.org/pdfs/2010/MISC/OAS%20-%20%20Montreal%20Conference%20on%20Haiti-FINAL.pdf
This OAS report details the logistical damages done to Haitian infrastructure following the quake. Aside from offering these important statistics, they define reconstruction uniquely. Instead of 'rebuilding', opportunity amidst crisis details reconstruction as a 'transformation' era—one where Haitians can begin to work together to build what they could have in a best-case scenario society.

Organization of American States, Summits of the Americas Information Network. *Environment and Pollution: follow-up implementation mandates* (2010). Retrieved on October 1, 2010 from http://www.summit-americas.org/sisca/env_pollution.html
This mandate section details environmental regulations regarding pollution, and outlines the OAS commitment (or the lack-there-of) to clean up and prevention cases. While most of these mandates are very vague, it is among the little that the OAS has published on regulation pollution and environmental degradation.

United Nations Economic and Social Council. (2009). *Strengthening of the coordination of emergency humanitarian assistance of the United Nations.* 2009/3. Retrieved on August 1, 2010 from http://www.un.org/en/ecosoc/docs/2009/resolution%202009-3.pdf
This ECOSOC Report details the inter-agency organization and collaboration for disaster response. It details the roles and accomplishments of each major working partner, and explains the lessons learned from their trails in the reconstruction and aid deployment fields. It provides

case studies for projects that have been tried, and postulates a proactive future for disaster preparedness.

United Nations Economic and Social Council. (2009). *Science and technology for development.* 2009/8. Retrieved on August 1, 2010 from http://www.un.org/en/ecosoc/docs/2009/resolution%202009-8.pdf
> *This ECOSOC Resolution echoes the concerns of the World Summit of Information Societies. It supports the notions presented in this brief that refer to an enhancement of technological capacities in developing countries. Further, it specifies how and why UN organizations should contribute to these information strategies.*

United Nations Educational, Scientific, and Cultural Organization (UNESCO). *Rebuilding the social, cultural, and intellectual fabric of Haiti: concept note.* (2010). Retrieved on October 10, 2010 from http://www.preventionweb.net/files/13098_187182e1.pdf
> *This UNESCO report mentions the grave social, cultural, and political obstacles that lay in front of Haitian society for years to come. While they determine that the situation is not completely desperate and hopeless, they do say that an era of unity is needed for Haiti to fully rebound from the disaster. The report details the roles of women in reconstruction, role of the private sector and civil society, and outlines the proper roles of states as this process unfolds.*

United Nations International Strategy for Disaster Reduction Secretariat (UNISDR). *Global assessment report on disaster risk reduction: summary and recommendations*. (2009). Retrieved on October 1, 2010 from http://www.preventionweb.net/files/9414_GARsummary.pdf
> *The global assessment report on disaster risk reduction focuses attention on the challenges that impede risk preparation. It identifies disaster risk, analyses its causes, and shows that these causes can be addressed and recommends that it be done promptly. The over-riding message of the Report is that reducing disaster risk can also help in reducing poverty, safeguarding development and adapting to climate change, with beneficial effects on broader global security, stability and sustainability.*

United Nations General Assembly Third Committee. (2009). *Report of the Special Representative of the Secretary-General on the issue of human rights and transnational corporations and other business enterprises.* A/64/216. Retrieved on August 1, 2010 from http://www.un.org/Docs/journal/asp/ws.asp?m=a/64/216
> *This report provides an overview of the main developments related to the Special Representative's work in implementing his mandate since the presentation of his latest report to the Human Rights Council in June 2009 (A/HRC/11/13). It also notes that the reification of the categories of voluntary and mandatory approaches to business and human rights is an impediment to innovative thinking and action. Finally, it contains an update of key meetings and outreach activities undertaken by the Special Representative since the submission of his latest report to the Human Rights Council.*

United Nations General Assembly Third Committee. (2010). *International cooperation on humanitarian assistance in the field of natural disasters, from relief to development.* A/64/216. Retrieved on August 1, 2010 from http://www.un.org/Docs/journal/asp/ws.asp?m=a/res/64/251
> *This General-Assembly Resolution calls the Secretary-General to continue to improve the international response to natural disasters and to report to the General Assembly on this issue. The GA Third requested recommendations on how to improve actions for identifying and addressing the gaps from relief to development—within the United Nations system and at the national level. Further, the resolution included the area of durable and sustainable solutions, particularly in rehabilitation and reconstruction from natural and political disasters.*

Rules of Procedure
Organization of American States

Introduction
1. These rules shall be the only rules which apply to the Organization of American States' General Assembly (hereinafter referred to as "the Assembly") and shall be considered adopted by the Assembly prior to its first meeting.
2. For purposes of these rules, the Plenary Director, the Assistant Director(s), the Under-Secretaries-General, and the Assistant Secretaries-General, are designates and agents of the Secretary-General and Director-General, and are collectively referred to as the "Secretariat."
3. Interpretation of the rules shall be reserved exclusively to the Director-General or her or his designate. Such interpretation shall be in accordance with the philosophy and principles of the National Model United Nations and in furtherance of the educational mission of that organization.
4. For the purposes of these rules, "President" shall refer to the chairperson or acting chairperson of the Assembly.

I. SESSIONS

Rule 1 - *Dates of convening and adjournment*
The Assembly shall meet every year in regular session, commencing and closing on the dates designated by the Secretary-General.

Rule 2 - *Place of sessions*
The Assembly shall meet at a location designated by the Secretary-General.

II. AGENDA

Rule 3 - *Provisional agenda*
The provisional agenda shall be drawn up by the Secretary-General and communicated to the Members of the Assembly at least sixty days before the opening of the session.

Rule 4 - *Adoption of the agenda*
The agenda provided by the Secretary-General shall be considered adopted as of the beginning of the session. The order of the agenda items shall be determined by a majority vote of those present and voting. Items on the agenda may be amended or deleted by the Assembly by a two-thirds majority of the members present and voting.

The vote described in this rule is a procedural vote and, as such, observers are permitted to cast a vote. For purposes of this rule, ―those present and voting‖ means those delegates, including observers, in attendance at the meeting during which this motion comes to a vote.

Rule 5 - *Revision of the agenda*
During a session, the Assembly may revise the agenda by adding, deleting, deferring or amending items. Only important and urgent items shall be added to the agenda during a session. Permission to speak on a motion to revise the agenda shall be accorded only to three representatives in favor of, and three opposed to, the revision. Additional items of an important and urgent character, proposed for inclusion in the agenda less than thirty days before the opening of a session, may be placed on the agenda if the Assembly so decides by a two-thirds majority of the members present and voting. No additional item may, unless the Assembly decides otherwise by a two-thirds majority of the members present and voting, be considered until a committee has reported on the question concerned.

For purposes of this rule, the determination of an item of an ―important and urgent character‖ is subject to the discretion of the Secretariat, and any such determination is final. If an item is determined to be of such a character, then it requires a two-thirds vote of the Assembly to be placed on the agenda. It will, however, not be considered by the Assembly until a committee has reported on the question. The votes described in this rule are substantive vote, and, as such, observers are not permitted to cast a vote. For purposes of this rule, ―the members present and

voting ─ means members (not including observers) in attendance at the session during which this motion comes to vote.

Rule 6 - Explanatory memorandum
Any item proposed for inclusion in the agenda shall be accompanied by an explanatory memorandum and, if possible, by basic documents.

III. SECRETARIAT

Rule 7 - Duties of the Secretary-General

1. The Secretary-General or her/his designate shall act in this capacity in all meetings of the Assembly.

2. The Secretary-General shall provide and direct the staff required by the Assembly and be responsible for all the arrangements that may be necessary for its meetings.

Rule 8 - Duties of the Secretariat
The Secretariat shall receive, print, and distribute documents, reports, and resolutions of the Assembly, and shall distribute documents of the Assembly to the Members, and generally perform all other work which the Assembly may require.

Rule 9 - Statements by the Secretariat
The Secretary-General, or her/his representative, may make oral as well as written statements to the Assembly concerning any question under consideration.

Rule 10 - Selection of the President
The Secretary-General or her/his designate shall appoint, from applications received by the Secretariat, a President who shall hold office and, *inter alia*, chair the Assembly for the duration of the session, unless otherwise decided by the Secretary-General.

Rule 11 - Replacement of the President
If the President is unable to perform her/his functions, a new President shall be appointed for the unexpired term at the discretion of the Secretary-General.

IV. LANGUAGE

Rule 12 - Official and working language
English shall be the official and working language of the Assembly.

Rule 13 - Interpretation (oral) or translation (written)
 Any representative wishing to address any body or submit a document in a language other than English shall provide interpretation or translation into English.

This rule does not affect the total speaking time allotted to those representatives wishing to address the body in a language other than English. As such, both the speech and the interpretation must be within the set time limit.

V. CONDUCT OF BUSINESS

Rule 14 – Quorum
The President may declare a meeting open and permit debate to proceed when representatives of at least one third of the members of the Assembly are present. The presence of representatives of a majority of the members of the Assembly shall be required for any decision to be taken.

For purposes of this rule, ─members of the Assembly means the total number of members (not including observers) in attendance at the first night's meeting.

Rule 15 - General powers of the President
In addition to exercising the powers conferred upon him or her elsewhere by these rules, the President shall declare

the opening and closing of each meeting of the Assembly, direct the discussions, ensure observance of these rules, accord the right to speak, put questions to the vote and announce decisions. The President, subject to these rules, shall have complete control of the proceedings of the Assembly and over the maintenance of order at its meetings. He or she shall rule on points of order. He or she may propose to the Assembly the closure of the list of speakers, a limitation on the time to be allowed to speakers and on the number of times the representative of each member may speak on an item, the adjournment or closure of the debate, and the suspension or adjournment of a meeting.

Included in these enumerated powers is the President's power to assign speaking times for all speeches incidental to motions and amendment. Further, the President is to use her/his discretion, upon the advice and at the consent of the Secretariat, to determine whether to entertain a particular motion based on the philosophy and principles of the NMUN. Such discretion should be used on a limited basis and only under circumstances where it is necessary to advance the educational mission of the Conference. For purposes of this rule, the President's power to ―propose to the Assembly entails her/his power to ―entertain‖ motions, and not to move the body on his or her own motion.

Rule 16
The President, in the exercise of her or his functions, remains under the authority of the Assembly.

Rule 17 - Points of order
During the discussion of any matter, a representative may rise to a point of order, which shall be decided immediately by the President. Any appeal of the decision of the President shall be immediately put to a vote, and the ruling of the President shall stand unless overruled by a majority of the members present and voting.

Such points of order should not under any circumstances interrupt the speech of a fellow representative. Any questions on order arising during a speech made by a representative should be raised at the conclusion of the speech, or can be addressed by the President, sua sponte, during the speech. For purposes of this rule, ―the members present and voting‖ mean those members (not including observers) in attendance at the meeting during which this motion comes to vote.

Rule 18
A representative may not, in rising to a point of order, speak on the substance of the matter under discussion.

Rule 19 - Speeches

1. No one may address the Assembly without having previously obtained the permission of the President. The President shall call upon speakers in the order in which they signify their desire to speak.
2. Debate shall be confined to the question before the Assembly, and the President may call a speaker to order if her/his remarks are not relevant to the subject under discussion.
3. The Assembly may limit the time allowed to speakers and all representatives may speak on any question. Permission to speak on a motion to set such limits shall be accorded only to two representatives favoring and two opposing such limits, after which the motion shall be put to the vote immediately. When debate is limited and a speaker exceeds the allotted time, the President shall call her or him to order without delay.

In line with the philosophy and principles of the NMUN, in furtherance of its educational mission, and for the purpose of facilitating debate, if the President determines that the Assembly in large part does not want to deviate from the limits to the speaker's time as it is then set, and that any additional motions will not be well received by the body, the President, in her/his discretion, and on the advice and consent of the Secretariat, may rule as dilatory any additional motions to change the limits of the speaker's time.

Rule 20 - Closing of list of speakers
Members may only be on the list of speakers once but may be added again after having spoken. During the course of a debate the President may announce the list of speakers and, with the consent of the Assembly, declare the list closed. When there are no more speakers, the President shall declare the debate closed. Such closure shall have the same effect as closure by decision of the Assembly.

The decision to announce the list of speakers is within the discretion of the President and should not be the subject

of a motion by the Assembly. A motion to close the speakers list is within the purview of the Assembly and the President should not act on her/his own motion.

Rule 21 - Right of reply

If a remark impugns the integrity of a representative's State, the President may permit that representative to exercise her/his right of reply following the conclusion of the controversial speech, and shall determine an appropriate time limit for the reply. No ruling on this question shall be subject to appeal.

For purposes of this rule, a remark that —impugns the integrity of a representative's State‖ is one directed at the governing authority of that State and/or one that puts into question that State's sovereignty or a portion thereof. All interventions in the exercise of the right of reply shall be addressed in writing to the Secretariat and shall not be raised as a point of order or motion. The reply shall be read to the Assembly by the representative only upon approval of the Secretariat, and in no case after voting has concluded on all matters relating to the agenda topic, during the discussion of which, the right arose.

Rule 22 - Suspension of the meeting

During the discussion of any matter, a representative may move the suspension of the meeting, specifying a time for reconvening. Such motions shall not be debated but shall be put to a vote immediately, requiring the support of a majority of the members present and voting to pass.

Rule 23 - Adjournment of the meeting

During the discussion of any matter, a representative may move the adjournment of the meeting. Such motions shall not be debated but shall be put to the vote immediately, requiring the support of a majority of the members present and voting to pass. After adjournment, the Assembly shall reconvene at its next regularly scheduled meeting time.

As this motion, if successful, would end the meeting until the Assembly's next regularly scheduled session the following year, and in accordance with the philosophy and principles of the NMUN and in furtherance of its educational mission, the President will not entertain such a motion until the end of the last meeting of the Assembly.

Rule 24 - Adjournment of debate

A representative may at any time move the adjournment of debate on the topic under discussion. Permission to speak on the motion shall be accorded to two representatives favoring and two opposing adjournment, after which the motion shall be put to a vote immediately, requiring the support of a majority of the members present and voting to pass. If a motion for adjournment passes, the topic is considered dismissed and no action will be taken on it.

Rule 25 - Closure of debate

A representative may at any time move the closure of debate on the item under discussion, whether or not any other representative has signified her/his wish to speak. Permission to speak on the motion shall be accorded only to two representatives opposing the closure, after which the motion shall be put to the vote immediately. Closure of debate shall require a two-thirds majority of the members present and voting. If the Assembly favors the closure of debate, the Assembly shall immediately move to vote on all proposals introduced under that agenda item.

Rule 26 - Order of motions
Subject to rule 23, the motions indicated below shall have precedence in the following order over all proposals or other motions before the meeting:
> a) To suspend the meeting;
> b) To adjourn the meeting;
> c) To adjourn the debate on the item under discussion;
> d) To close the debate on the item under discussion.

Rule 27 - Proposals and amendments

Proposals and substantive amendments shall normally be submitted in writing to the Secretariat, with the names of twenty percent of the members of the Assembly would like the Assembly to consider the proposal or amendment. The Secretariat may, at its discretion, approve the proposal or amendment for circulation among the delegations. As a general rule, no proposal shall be put to the vote at any meeting of the Assembly unless copies of it have been circulated to all delegations. The President may, however, permit the discussion and consideration of amendments or of motions as to procedure, even though such amendments and motions have not been circulated. If the sponsors

agree to the adoption of a proposed amendment, the proposal shall be modified accordingly and no vote shall be taken on the proposed amendment. A document modified in this manner shall be considered as the proposal pending before the Assembly for all purposes, including subsequent amendments.

For purposes of this rule, all —proposals shall be in the form of working papers prior to their approval by the Secretariat. Working papers will not be copied, or in any other way distributed, to the Assembly by the Secretariat. The distribution of such working papers is solely the responsibility of the sponsors of the working papers. Along these lines, and in furtherance of the philosophy and principles of the NMUN and for the purpose of advancing its educational mission, representatives should not directly refer to the substance of a working paper that has not yet been accepted as a draft resolution. After approval of a working paper, the proposal becomes a draft resolution and will be copied by the Secretariat for distribution to the Assembly. These draft resolutions are the collective property of the Assembly and, as such, the names of the original sponsors will be removed. The copying and distribution of amendments is at the discretion of the Secretariat, but the substance of all such amendments will be made available to all representatives in some form.

Rule 28 - Withdrawal of motions
A proposal or a motion may be withdrawn by its sponsor at any time before voting has commenced, provided that it has not been amended. A motion thus withdrawn may be reintroduced by any representative.

Rule 29 - Reconsideration of a topic
 When a topic has been adjourned, it may not be reconsidered at the same session unless the Assembly, by a two-thirds majority of those present and voting, so decides. Reconsideration can only be moved by a representative who voted on the prevailing side of the original motion to adjourn. Permission to speak on a motion to reconsider shall be accorded only to two speakers opposing the motion, after which it shall be put to the vote immediately.

For purposes of this rule, —those present and voting‖ means those representatives, including observers, in attendance at the meeting during which this motion is voted upon by the body.

VI. VOTING

Rule 30 - Voting rights
Each member of the Assembly shall have one vote.

This rule applies to substantive voting on amendments, draft resolutions, and portions of draft resolutions divided out by motion. As such, all references to —member(s) do not include observers, who are not permitted to cast votes on substantive matters.

Rule 31 - Request for a vote
A proposal or motion before the Assembly for decision shall be voted upon if any member so requests. Where no member requests a vote, the Assembly may adopt proposals or motions without a vote.

For purposes of this rule, —proposal means any draft resolution, an amendment thereto, or a portion of a draft resolution divided out by motion. Just prior to a vote on a particular proposal or motion, the President may ask if there are any objections to passing the proposal or motion by acclamation, or a member may move to accept the proposal or motion by acclamation. If there are no objections to the proposal or motion, then it is adopted without a vote.

Rule 32 - Majority required
1. Unless specified otherwise in these rules, decisions of the Assembly shall be made by a majority of the members present and voting.
2. For the purpose of tabulation, the phrase "members present and voting" means members casting an affirmative or negative vote. Members which abstain from voting are considered as not voting.

All members declaring their representative States as "present and voting" during the attendance role call for the meeting during which the substantive voting occurs, must cast an affirmative or negative vote, and cannot abstain.

Rule 33 - Method of voting

1. The Assembly shall normally vote by a show of placards, except that a representative may request a roll call, which shall be taken in the English alphabetical order of the names of the members, beginning with the member whose name is randomly selected by the President. The name of each present member shall be called in any roll call, and one of its representatives shall reply "yes," "no," "abstention," or "pass."

   Only those members who designate themselves as ―present or ―present and voting‖ during the attendance roll call, or in some other manner communicate their attendance to the President and/or Secretariat, are permitted to vote and, as such, no others will be called during a roll-call vote. Any representatives replying ―pass, must, on the second time through, respond with either ―yes‖ or ―no. A ―pass cannot be followed by a second ―pass‖ for the same proposal or amendment, nor can it be followed by an abstention on that same proposal or amendment.

2. When the Assembly votes by mechanical means, a non-recorded vote shall replace a vote by show of placards and a recorded vote shall replace a roll-call vote. A representative may request a recorded vote. In the case of a recorded vote, the Assembly shall dispense with the procedure of calling out the names of the members.

3. The vote of each member participating in a roll call or a recorded vote shall be inserted in the record.

Rule 34 - Explanations of vote

Representatives may make brief statements consisting solely of explanation of their votes after the voting has been completed. The representatives of a member sponsoring a proposal or motion shall not speak in explanation of vote thereon, except if it has been amended, and the member has voted against the proposal or motion.

All explanations of vote must be submitted to the President in writing before debate on the topic is closed, except where the representative is of a member sponsoring the proposal, as described in the second clause, in which case the explanation of vote must be submitted to the President in writing immediately after voting on the topic ends.

Rule 35 - Conduct during voting

After the President has announced the commencement of voting, no representatives shall interrupt the voting except on a point of order in connection with the actual process of voting.

Rule 36 - Division of proposals and amendments

Immediately before a proposal or amendment comes to a vote, a representative may move that parts of a proposal or of an amendment should be voted on separately. If there are calls for multiple divisions, those shall be voted upon in an order to be set by the President where the most radical division will be voted upon first. If objection is made to the motion for division, the request for division shall be voted upon, requiring the support of a majority of those present and voting to pass. Permission to speak on the motion for division shall be given only to two speakers in favor and two speakers against. If the motion for division is carried, those parts of the proposal or of the amendment which are involved shall then be put to a vote. If all operative parts of the proposal or of the amendment have been rejected, the proposal or the amendment shall be considered to have been rejected as a whole.

For purposes of this rule, ―most radical division‖ means the division that will remove the greatest substance from the draft resolution, but not necessarily the one that will remove the most words or clauses. The determination of which division is ―most radical‖ is subject to the discretion of the Secretariat, and any such determination is final.

Rule 37 - Amendments

An amendment is a proposal that does no more than add to, delete from, or revise part of another proposal.

An amendment can add, amend, or delete operative clauses, but cannot in any manner add, amend, delete, or otherwise affect perambulatory clauses.

Rule 38 - Order of voting on amendments

When an amendment is moved to a proposal, the amendment shall be voted on first. When two or more amendments are moved to a proposal, the amendment furthest removed in substance from the original proposal shall be voted on

first and then the amendment next furthest removed there from, and so on until all the amendments have been put to the vote. Where, however, the adoption of one amendment necessarily implies the rejection of another amendment, the latter shall not be put to the vote. If one or more amendments are adopted, the amended proposal shall then be voted on.

For purposes of this rule, ―furthest removed in substance means the amendment that will have the most significant impact on the draft resolution. The determination of which amendment is ―furthest removed in substance is subject to the discretion of the Secretariat, and any such determination is final.

Rule 39 - Order of voting on proposals
If two or more proposals, other than amendments, relate to the same question, they shall, unless the Assembly decides otherwise, be voted on in the order in which they were submitted.

Rule 40 - The President shall not vote
The President shall not vote but may designate another member of her/his delegation to vote in her/his place.

VII. CREDENTIALS

Rule 41 - Credentials
The credentials of representatives and the names of members of a delegation shall be submitted to the Secretary-General prior to the opening of a session.

Rule 42
The Assembly shall be bound by the actions of the General Assembly in all credentials matters and shall take no action regarding the credentials of any member.

VII. PARTICIPATION OF NON-MEMBERS OF THE ASSEMBLY

Rule 43 - Participation of non-Member States
1. The Assembly shall invite any Member of the United Nations that is not a member of the Assembly and any other State, to participate in its deliberations on any matter of particular concern to that State.
2. A committee or sessional body of the Assembly shall invite any State that is not one of its own members to participate in its deliberations on any matter of particular concern to that State.
3. A State thus invited shall not have the right to vote, but may submit proposals which may be put to the vote on request of any member of the body concerned.

If the Assembly considers that the presence of a Member invited according to this rule is no longer necessary, it may withdraw the invitation again. Delegates invited to the Assembly according to this rule should also keep in mind their role and obligations in the committee that they were originally assigned to. For educational purposes of the NMUN Conference, the Secretariat may thus ask a delegate to return to his or her committee when his or her presence in the Assembly is no longer required.

Rule 45 - Participation of national liberation movements
The Assembly may invite any national liberation movement recognized by the General Assembly to participate, without the right to vote, in its deliberations on any matter of particular concern to that movement.

Rule 46 - Participation of and consultation with specialized agencies
In accordance with the agreements concluded between the United Nations and the specialized agencies, the specialized agencies shall be entitled: a) To be represented at meetings of the Assembly and its subsidiary organs; b) To participate, without the right to vote, through their representatives, in deliberations with respect to items of concern to them and to submit proposals regarding such items, which may be put to the vote at the request of any member of the Assembly or of the subsidiary organ concerned.

Rule 47 - Participation of non-governmental organization and intergovernmental organizations
Representatives of non-governmental organizations/intergovernmental organizations accorded consultative observer status by the General Assembly and other non-governmental organizations/intergovernmental organizations designated on an ad hoc or a continuing basis by the Assembly on the recommendation of the Bureau, may

participate, with the procedural right to vote, but not the substantive right to vote, in the deliberations of the Assembly on questions within the scope of the activities of the organizations.