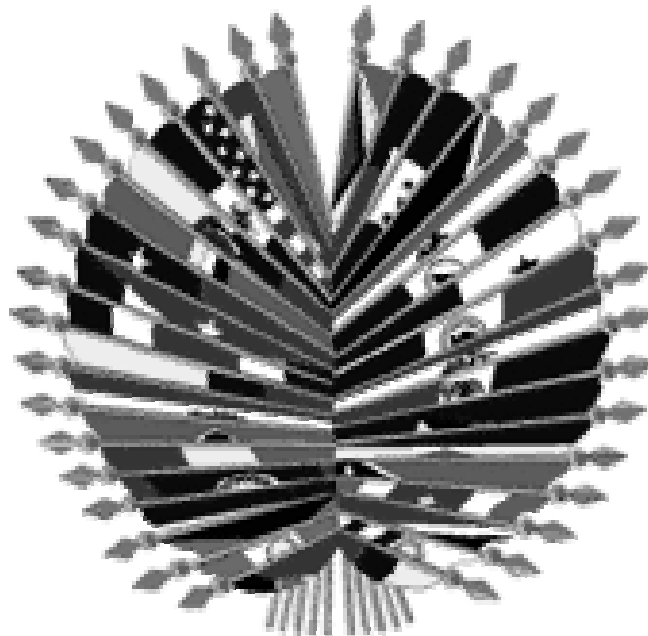


**2008 Washington Model  
Organization of American States General Assembly**

# **Joint Declarations**

**General Committee  
First Committee  
Second Committee  
Third Committee  
Fourth Committee**



DECLARATION OF WASHINGTON:

STRATEGIES TO LINK REPRESENTATIVE DEMOCRACY  
WITH SOCIO-ECONOMIC EQUITY

THE HEADS OF DELEGATION OF THE MEMBER STATES OF THE ORGANIZATION OF AMERICAN STATES (OAS), meeting in Washington DC, United States of America, on the occasion of the thirty-seventh regular session of the Model General Assembly,

CONSIDERING the Charter of the Organization states in article 3 (d) that: “The solidarity of the American States and the high aims which are sought through it require the political organization of those States on the basis of the effective exercise of representative democracy”;

RECOGNIZING the Inter-American democratic charter states in article 2 that: “The effective exercise of representative democracy is the basis for the rule of law and of the constitutional regimes of the member states of the Organization of American States. Representative democracy is strengthened and deepened by permanent, ethical, and responsible participation of the citizenry within a legal framework conforming to the respective constitutional order”;

BEARING IN MIND that article 6 of the Inter-American Charter states that: “It is the right and responsibility of all citizens to participate in decisions relating to their own development. This is also a necessary condition for the full and effective exercise of democracy. Promoting and fostering diverse forms of participation strengthens democracy”;

NOTING the 2004 Latinobarometro and United Nations Development Program study “Democracy in Latin American” findings of widespread popular dissatisfaction with democracy throughout the hemisphere. According to these studies almost %55 of Latin Americas would support an authoritarian government, as opposed to a democracy, if it alleviated their economic woes. A related conclusion of these reports is that those least supportive of democracy were of less educated groups of lesser economic means with low expectations of social mobility;

RECALLING that the Inter-American Democratic Charter states that democracy and social and economic development are interdependent and mutually reinforcing, and these are the fundamental principles of the OAS;

SUPPORTING the Declaration of Nuevo León agrees that: “Thought citizen participation, civil society organizations should contribute to the design, implementation, and evaluation of public policies adopted by different orders or levels of government. We recognize the role of civil society and its contribution to sound public administration and we reaffirm the importance of continuing to forge new partnership that will enable constructive ties to be built between governments, nongovernmental organizations, international organizations, and the diverse sectors of civil society to work in favor of development and democracy.”;

EMPHASIZING that Article 16 of the Inter-American Democratic Charter states that “Education is key to strengthening democratic institutions [and] promoting human potential”; and

RECOGNIZING that education helps to propagate democracy and the direct link between education and involvement in the political process illustrates the crucial relationship between education and Representative Democracy.

DECLARE:

1. Their resolve that according to the mandate of Resolution AG/RES. 2278 (XXXVII-O/07) “Social Charter of the Americas: Renewal of the Hemispheric Commitment to Fight Poverty in the Region” which supported the work of “drafting the Social Charter of the Americas carried out by the Joint Working Group of the Permanent Council... which includes the principles of social development and establishes specific goals and targets that reinforce the existing instruments of the Organization of the American States (OAS) on democracy, integral development, and the fight against poverty,” member states approve the initiative as it is imperative to create more equitable representative democracy through socioeconomic solutions.
2. Their recognition that the proposed Social Charter of the Americas seeks to:
  - a. Establish the importance of recognizing all as “legally and socially of equal importance” (76).
  - b. Urges member states to “undertake to design comprehensive public policies that ensure universal, integral, equitable, and financially sustainable social security for all citizens” (34).
  - c. Recognizes that “all citizens have the right to equitable participation in the social benefits ensuing from... financial transparency in the government” which is only possible through representative democracy.
3. Their emphasis that proper education is indispensable to cultivate and evolve democracy in a positive direction which is essential to social and economic development.
4. Their remark that education is a tool which provides the means for an equal and valuable voice that fosters and develops Representative Democracy.
5. The importance of increasing the role of civil society so that public policy making has a greater impact upon the social and economic development.
6. Their recognition that “permanent, ethical and responsible participation of the citizenry” will result in responsive public policy.
7. Their commitment to formalize and institutionalize the dialogue between civil society and the governmental sector, contemplating them not as counterparts but complements which will combine the ability of implementing policies with the necessary information that will ultimately lead to the establishment of an effective and efficient framework for both the public and private sector’s participation.
8. That if a collective constituency is to remain steadfast in its conviction that representative democracy is the most appropriate form of government; that governing institution must convince its citizens through the delivery of benefits that will reinforce its material, social, and psychological welfare; as such needs and desires are indispensable dimensions of the 21<sup>st</sup> century human condition. One elemental goal of all representative democracies is to acknowledge these phenomena as well as to be conscious and able to satisfy the evolution of rising expectations.

**JOINT DECLARATION ON STRATEGIES FOSTERING TRANS-BORDER AND  
HEMISPHERIC COOPERATION TO PROTECT LAND, WATER AND AIR**

First Committee  
Joint Declaration presented by the First Committee Delegates

Joint Declaration

THE FIRST COMMITTEE,

HAVING SEEN:

That the Charter of the Organization of American States (OAS) affirms “proper nutrition, especially through the acceleration of national efforts to increase the production and availability of food,” and “urban conditions that offer the opportunity for a healthful, productive and full life”;

CONSIDERING:

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

RECALLING:

That the American Declaration of Rights and Duties of Person affirm the “right to the preservation of health and to well-being through sanitary and social measures such as food and medical care”;

That the Santiago Plan of Action established in 1998 at the 2<sup>nd</sup> Summit of the Americas considers environmental reform as necessary for economic progress;

TAKING INTO ACCOUNT:

That the Declaration of Santa Cruz, signed in 1992 calls for member states to adopt policies and strategies that will preserve the natural environment of the hemisphere;

That the 1<sup>st</sup> Summit of the Americas held in Miami in 1994, created a partnership for pollution prevention that address priorities such as improved water and air quality, and access to safe drinking water;

That the 3<sup>rd</sup> Summit of the Americas held in Quebec City in 2001, looked to promote national environmental protection;

RECOGNIZING:

The Special Summit of Monterrey held in 2004, in which water and sanitation were addressed as well as calling for access to potable water and sanitation as universal rights, giving particular attention to the most unprotected sectors;

DECLARES:

1. To encourage member states to view clean water as a necessity of life for all inhabitants of the hemisphere.
2. To think globally when reacting to environmental concerns and consider how the actions of one member state will affect the resources and environment of the hemisphere.
3. To reinforce previous commitments to achieve the UN Millennium Development Goals which address the areas of clean water, food and a sustainable environment.
4. To recognize and accentuate that the protection of the environment represents an essential precondition for the full exercise and enjoyment of life.
5. To support the voice of civil society and grass roots organizations as an asset in regional and international forum to create measures to protect air, land and water.
6. To support all measures both political and economic for the environmental protection of the hemisphere.

DECLARATION OF THOMAS CIRCLE  
Recommendations of the Second Committee on Hemispheric Security in Washington  
D.C. on April 11, 2008

The Second Committee, assembled in Washington D.C., United States, on the occasion of the thirty-eighth regular session of the Model Organization of American States, considering the topic “Reevaluation of Nuclear Proliferation and Nuclear Energy Production in the Hemisphere”;

RECALLING that under Article 3 of the Charter of the Organization of American States, one of the essential principles of the Organization is that “international order consists essentially of respect for the personality, sovereignty, and independence of states, and the faithful fulfillment of obligations derived from treaties and other sources of international law”;

AFFIRMING the Declaration of Bridgetown that “the development of common approaches to the various aspects of security in the Hemisphere would lead to harmonization within the Inter-American security system and is therefore, essential for increasing confidence and security among member states”;

RECOGNIZING the Declaration of Security in the Americas that “each state has the sovereign right to identify its own national security priorities and to define strategies, plans, and actions for addressing threats to its security, in accordance with its legal system and within full respect for international law and the norms and principles of the Charter of the OAS and the Charter of the United Nations”;

REAFFIRMING the principles and ideas behind the Treaty for the Prohibition of Nuclear Weapons in Latin America (Tlatelolco Treaty);

DECLARE it is important to distinguish between proliferation of nuclear technology for the purpose of development of weapons and the development of nuclear technology for the use of energy;

With regard to the proliferation and production of nuclear weapons and technology associated with nuclear weapons, this organization will not accept or tolerate the proliferation of nuclear weapons nor technology associated with development of nuclear weapons;

This body declares that the use of nuclear technology is to be considered an acceptable alternative energy source for member states. This body also declares that all member states have the right to develop nuclear energy programs as they see fit. Also member states who wish to develop or further nuclear energy programs are encouraged to reach out to other member states with technical expertise for the development of these programs. This is to ensure that all member states can develop the safest and most efficient nuclear energy programs;

We further declare a commitment to transparency in nuclear energy development.

## DECLARATION FOR THE TECHNOLOGICAL ADVANCEMENT OF EDUCATION FOR THE PEOPLE OF THE AMERICAS

(Adopted in the Sixth Committee Session of the Washington Model Organization of American States, held on April 12, 2008)

We, the esteemed members of the Third Committee of the Washington Model Organization of American States, those responsible for social development policies and programs, meeting in Washington, D.C., United States, on the 8<sup>th</sup>, 9<sup>th</sup>, 10<sup>th</sup>, 11<sup>th</sup>, 12<sup>th</sup> of April 2008.

CONSIDERING article 30 of the OAS Charter, which claims that “The Member States, inspired by the principles of inter-American solidarity and cooperation, pledge themselves to a united effort to ensure [...] integral development for their peoples...” and that “Integral development encompasses the [...] educational, cultural, scientific, and technological fields through which the goals that each country sets for accomplishing it should be achieved”;

REITERATING providences 1, 2, 3 and 4 of the 2004 Declaration of Mexico, in which the Ministers of Education of the Member States of the Organization of American States, declare that they are committed to “attaining the education goals of the Summits of the Americas”;

RECOGNIZING the AG/RES. 1985 (XXXIV – O/04) “Report of the Third Meeting of Ministers of Education within the framework of CIDI”, (Resolution adopted at the fourth plenary session, held on June 8, 2004), that Resolves: “3. To instruct the General Secretariat, through the Unit for Social Development and Education and in coordination with the Executive Secretariat for Integral Development, to continue supporting the process for preparation and follow-up of meetings in the education sector”;

RECOGNIZING ALSO the AG/RES. 1985 (XXXIV – O/04) “need to make education one of the tools of development to achieve greater social equality and to overcome poverty,” along with the fact that societies “will fully achieve their cultural, economic, and political development by placing top priority on expenditure and investment in quality education of all kinds, levels, and modalities, in scientific research, in technological development.” Finally member states must assume “responsibility of consolidating an education system that is committed to democracy as a way of life.” It is important to remember that all “collaboration among all sectors of our societies is crucial in attaining our goals”;

AFFIRMING the Strategic Plan for Integral Development 2006-2009, which proclaims a commitment to “supporting member states in developing effective policies and practices in priority areas such as early childhood education, adult education, and lifelong learning, including the appropriate use and adaptation of new technologies, and online and distance courses and materials to support learning”;

NOTING that AGRES. 2308 (XXXVII-O/07) mentions that “illiteracy and functional illiteracy are the reason that large numbers of people are deprived of the possibility of participating fully in the processes aimed at achieving integral development and of receiving its benefits”;

TAKING INTO ACCOUNT the Social Charter of the Americas, under the Right to Education, that “states undertake to provide educational centers with adequate facilities to ensure the continued existence and that they remain scientifically, technologically, and humanistically up-to-date”(Chapter III, 20);

ALSO CONSIDERING that the Social Charter encourages the states to move forward in designing and applying innovative ways of reaching and socially including the poorest and most marginalized groups and of promoting academic and pedagogical alternatives with a view to achieving universal literacy and job training (Chapter III, 23);

EXPRESSING DEEP APPRECIATION for the beautiful and spectacular Washington Plaza Hotel as a gracious and forgiving host of this Model Organization of the American States;

NOTING WITH SATISFACTION the hard work of every member states’ delegations in this year’s Washington Model of the Organization of American States (WMOAS).

DECLARE:

1. Our commitment to improving standards of living throughout the hemisphere through increased access to electronic educational opportunities. We recognize the importance of this social development in the effective practice of representative democracy.
2. The importance of exploring all realms of electronic forms of education in order to maximize the potential of this resource as it applies to individual member state needs.
3. That these electronic educational tools be adapted to the needs and characteristics of the diverse member states of the Hemisphere taking special notice of the geographic, demographic, economic, and cultural differences within the region.
4. That these electronic measures should harmonize with and strengthen pre-existing educational programs at all institutional levels.
5. That individuals of every age, race, gender, and ethnicity have equitable access to utilize technological tools such as, but not limited to:
  - a) Computers, new and refurbished
  - b) Internet, especially wireless networks
  - c) Smart environments such as smart halls and classrooms
  - d) Electronic training programs
  - e) Instructional websites
  - f) E-Government
  - g) Free Virtual libraries
  - h) E-learners

- i) Electronic portable text books
  - j) CD-ROMS
  - k) Cell phones
  - l) Television
  - m) Radio, including satellite radio
6. Our determination to promote working groups that study best-practices amongst member states to utilize such technologies with the purpose of identifying the means, resources, and tools to strengthen and enrich the educational processes in schools across the Hemisphere.
  7. Our desire to encourage the proactive cooperation and participation of organizations to utilize technological and financial resources in order to promote education for the Hemisphere. These organizations could include:
    - a) Member and observer state governments, at all levels
    - b) Civil Society Groups (CSOs)
    - c) Non-Governmental Organizations (NGOs)
    - d) Educators
    - e) Corporations
    - f) Small businesses
  8. Our commitment to the advancement of efforts already in place to provide infrastructure to support this technology, and encourage the use of renewable energy resources in the implementation of these endeavors.

JOINT DECLARATION OF THE COMMITTEE FOR ADMINISTRATIVE AND  
BUDGETARY AFFAIRS:  
SETTING OAS BUDGETARY PRIORITIES AND ASSESSING THE OUTSOURCING  
EFFORTS OF THE OAS SECRETARIAT

(Adopted at the sixth committee session, held on April 10, 2008)

THE MEMBERS OF THE COMMITTEE FOR ADMINISTRATIVE AND BUDGETARY PRIORITIES OF THE ORGANIZATION OF AMERICAN STATES (OAS), meeting in Washington, D.C., United States of America, on the occasion of the 2008 Washington Model of the Organization of American States,

REAFFIRMING the foundational principles of the OAS Charter, including the promotion and consolidation of democracy, respect for the personality and sovereignty of the member states, and the spirit of international cooperation;

RECOGNIZING the link between ensuring basic human needs and full participation in democracy;

RECALLING Article 3j of the OAS Charter, which states that, "Social justice and social security are the bases of lasting peace," and Article 45a of the charter, which suggests that "All human beings without distinction as to race, sex, nationality, creed, or social condition, have a right to material well-being and to their spiritual development, under circumstances of liberty, dignity, equality of opportunity, and economic security;"

AWARE that the Inter-American Democratic Charter states, in Article 13, "The promotion and deservance of economic, social, and cultural rights are inherently linked to integral development, equitable economic growth, and to the consolidation of democracy in the states of the Hemisphere;"

NOTING that the continued participation of civil society organizations (CSO's) and other private sector actors, including corporations and banking firms, increases the fiscal efficacy of the OAS and helps guarantee its fundamental goals;

BEARING IN MIND that the contributions of the private sector, financial organizations, and foundations are fundamental for the development of OAS projects;

REITERATING that one of the founding principles of the OAS is international cooperation and the agreement to seek pacific settlement of disputes;

TAKING INTO CONSIDERATION the Santiago Plan of Action (1998), which was written to promote "regional dialogue with a view to revitalizing and strengthening the institutions of the Inter-American system, taking into account the new political, economic, social, and strategic-military factors in the Hemisphere and in its subregions;"

CONCERNED BY the pressing need, particularly on the upcoming 100<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the Pan-American Union Building, to renovate and repair facilities used by the OAS to further guarantee its continued effective participation in the Hemisphere;

RECOGNIZING FURTHER the constraints of the OAS Program Budget, which funds all OAS initiatives and projects, and the need for increased fiscal responsibility in order to act as good stewards of these funds: and

HIGHLIGHTING Article 93 of the General Standards to Govern the Operations of the General Secretariat, which appoints the Committee on Budgetary and Administrative affairs to oversee “all matters related to the management of the General Secretariat and to the formulation, discussion, approval, execution, evaluation, and monitoring of its program budget,”

DECLARE:

1. Their recognition of four foundational principles that should serve as priorities during the debate, modification, and compilation of the 2009 Program Budget, which are:
  - a. The meeting of the basic human needs of all people of the hemisphere, including the needs of ample food, clean, potable water, sanitation, and basic health care,
  - b. The continued and increased financial participation of the private sector and civil society organizations in the OAS,
  - c. The promotion of international cooperation and the reaffirming of principles of pacific settlement and conflict mediation enumerated under the OAS Charter, Rio Treaty, and Resolution 1080, and
  - d. The refurbishing and repair of the physical operating offices of the OAS, namely the Pan-American Union Building.
2. Their belief that budgetary resolutions and declarations addressing one of these four principles, in any order, should receive special priority from the Committee on Budgetary and Administrative Affairs.
3. Their desire to urge the OAS General Assembly to set as a priority the fulfillment of the basic human needs of individuals in the hemisphere, and to establish, on the occasion of the Pan-American Union Building’s 100<sup>th</sup> anniversary, the “Year of Hemispheric Human Needs.”
4. Their commitment to engage civil society organizations and other private and public institutions in the workings of the OAS, and encourage their continued financial participation in budgetary initiatives.
5. Their united interest in the invitation of interested private and public institutions from civil society from the private sector to OAS-sponsored conferences.
6. Their earnest desire for the implementation of innovative and far-reaching methods to mediate conflicts between member states and facilitate greater international cooperation on issues facing the Hemisphere.
7. Their continued commitment to the proper funding of renovation projects, particularly those that remedy issues regarding the physical plant of the OAS.
8. Their instruction to the General Secretariat to prioritize the most urgent and important needs of maintenance and renovation of OAS buildings and real estate properties over those needs of the same nature that are not as urgent, as determined by the Committee for Budgetary and Administrative Affairs in future sessions, and that this budgetary prioritizing should be applied permanently from the approval of this declaration, including the 2009 OAS Program Budget.

9. Their need to stress fiscal responsibility as a key priority in budgetary and administrative decisions made in the coming year, particularly the need to properly coordinate and streamline the external donation process and reduce redundant spending.

10. Their suggestion to consider the continuation or augmentation of outsourcing of basic, non-political functions as a way to reduce strain on the OAS Program Budget.

11. Their resolve to research diligently all ways to reduce overhead and administrative costs of running the OAS, including outsourcing, to provide the most possible funding for projects and programs deemed necessary by other committees under the Permanent Council.

12. Their appreciation to the support staff and advisors of the 2008 Washington Model Organization of American States for their efforts to make this model possible and successful.