

BUDGETARY STATEMENT

*Delegation of the United States of America
Secretariat for Administration and Finance
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GENERAL STATEMENT

It is profound honor for the Delegation of the United States of America to be among such distinguished delegates at this 21st Summit of the Americas. As delegates in the committee of the Secretariat for Administration and Finance (SAF), our duty is to discuss and decide the budget priorities and cuts of the Organization of American States (OAS) for its fiscal year 2018, and to approve the funding of resolutions accepted at the 20th Summit by the General Assembly. Bearing this in mind, the Delegation hereby expresses its intention and readiness to cooperate tirelessly with its fellow delegates of the SAF Committee in order to fulfill this important duty.

There are numerous existing problems that hinder the western hemisphere's path toward the order of peace and justice envisioned in the OAS Charter. The United States Delegation recognizes this and therefore applauds member states' willingness to address such obstacles through collaborative, continent-wide efforts. This willingness is apparent by the many ideas and proposals member states have submitted to the OAS; it is a sign of member states' confidence in the organization, in its vision. Though such disposition is laudable, the Delegation believes some of these problems are, and should be, out of the OAS's reach. The Delegation also thinks that our efforts as an organization should be guided by the four-pronged approach based on the pillars of democracy, human rights, security, and development.

We as the SAF Committee must not lose sight of the finite OAS resources. Although the General Assembly has yet to approve the resolution of the program-budget for the following year, by virtue of the resolution AG/RES. 2912 (XLVII-O/17), a level of expenditure lower than the overall budget of 2018 is in store. This expenditure reduction is a real challenge that the SAF Committee will have to face; it is a challenge that calls for clever, creative, and effective teamwork—a call that this delegation is ready to answer. And in light of a more restrained budget, it is imperative that the resolutions we as a committee approve for funding be the best of the best, that is, that they show the highest potential for the true betterment of lives, and that their financial sustainability be assured without overburdening the OAS budget.

The Delegation of the United States will remain open to discussing any priority and resolution fellow member states deem important or necessary, but it will pay special attention to proposals pertaining to national and regional security, and the consolidation of democracy in the Americas. The Delegation reaffirms that its first and foremost duty is with the American people. And representing American interests, this delegation believes that security and democracy-strengthening efforts, with due respect to the other main pillars, should be advanced.

The five resolutions the United States Delegation has been assigned to defend are in accordance with the American people's interests; furthermore, this delegation affirms that they are in member states' interest, too. These resolutions

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are well-thought, both fiscally and in substance, and refer to the human right to health, renewable energy, combating juvenile delinquency, and civil registration. For their financial defense, the Delegation interpreted the resolutions bearing in mind the importance of collaborating with specialized organizations, and, more importantly, the need of member states assuming greater fiscal responsibilities in the OAS as well as ownership in their own destinies.

The United States Delegation is positive that we as a committee will fulfill our important duty and that the resolutions we approve will be the first step toward bringing the western hemisphere closer to a future where the member states and their peoples thrive with sovereignty, security, and prosperity.

PARTICULAR STATEMENTS

GA./RES. (4) (XX-O/16):

**A PROPOSAL TO IMPROVE ACCESSIBILITY, QUALITY, AND EFFICIENCY
IN MEDICAL CARE**

At the 20th ESMOAS Summit of the Americas, the General Assembly acknowledged that accessibility, quality, and efficiency are three key factors to providing good healthcare, a birthright of the Americas peoples. Important strides toward universal access to health and universal health coverage have been made throughout the continent, but there are communities, both rural and urban, that remain deprived from this human right.

Bearing in mind this predicament, the resolution would advance current hemispheric efforts to achieving universal access to basic health services in both rural and urban areas by addressing the lack of trained personnel in medical institutions, specifically public ones. The approach consists of two points: First, to lessen the financial burdens students deal with throughout their medical education in exchange of their service in public institutions upon their graduation for a number of years; and second, to incentivize with stipends prepared doctors so that they attend needed rural communities, while providing them means of communications and transportations for their safe return.

The Executive Secretariat of the Inter-American Commission on Human Rights (IACHR) would oversee the implementation, funding, and maintenance of the proposed program. Since the Executive Secretariat would only oversee the program's funding, no additional funds would be requested other than the initial start-up of 2.84% of the annual OAS budget. For this program, the OAS would appeal to pertinent non-governmental organizations for financial support. And though public hospitals –and thus the governments of member states– are encouraged to offer the scholarships for this project, the OAS would request funds from the Wellcome Trust for these scholarships.

The Delegation of the United States urges member states to approve the funding for this resolution and to assume the fiscal responsibilities that this resolution implies, that is, to provide the needed resources for implementing this

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program within their territory without renouncing to the right of asking for partial financing with the project's fund.

GA./RES. (15) (XX-O/16):

CARING FOR CHILDREN OF THE AMERICAS

At the 20th ESMOAS Summit of the Americas, by adopting this resolution, the General Assembly recognized the dire circumstances of morbidity and mortality some children of the Americas live. It proved that proposals to further efforts for achieving universal healthcare need not be complicated or expensive, or both; also, that education of basic medical procedures can make a great impact in the health and well-being of the most vulnerable.

This resolution proposes the creation of a program, Care for Children, which would educate adults to perform basic medical attention for minors. Adults would be trained for this purpose through classes and articles provided by the World Health Organization (WHO), the United Nations International Children's Emergency Fund (UNICEF), and Catholic Relief Services (CRS). The Delegation of the United States understands that member states that adopt the Care for Children program would be responsible for organizing and maintaining the classes and, if they decide to do so, facilitate the needed means so that the targeted adults be able to take the classes in larger cities.

Member states that adopt the Care for Children program, it is the understanding of this delegation, shall be able to request first-aid supplies for strategic facilities that work with children; furthermore, the same member states would be in charge of delivering said supplies to the facilities, in observance of the procedure stated in the resolution. The OAS would call upon WHO, UNICEF, CRS, and the United States Agency for International Development (USAID) for donations in form of certain supplies.

Observing that the resolution does not imply additional fiscal burdens to the OAS, and that it aligned to the need of assuming greater financial responsibilities, the United States Delegation urges member states to approve the "funding" of this resolution in order to further the hemispheric efforts in the combat against children morbidity and mortality.

GA./RES. (28) (XX-O/16):

PROMOTING RENEWABLE ENERGY IN THE AMERICAS

Boosting domestic energy production and achieving energy independence are national security interests for the United States. For this reason, the Delegation of the United States expresses its intention to consider resolutions that promise to improve energy production and energy efficiency. Furthermore, as the Trump Administration stands, this delegation is convinced that there are other means to protecting clean air and clean water than treaties stringent for our economies and that risk being inefficient and ineffective.

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The United States Delegations brings forward this resolution, which proposes an advance to the improvement of energy efficiency and the implied environmental care all member states can get behind.

By approving this resolution, an international agency, the Inter-American Energy Development Agency (IEDA), composed of 35 specialists appointed by member states, would be created. The IEDA would be tasked with the duty of integrating and coaching member states to explore and invest in renewable energy; furthermore, the IEDA would guide them in sharing best practices and innovative procedures, and also reviewing infrastructure and construction plans. In such review of plans, specialists would aim to provide feedback and consultation about possible funding sources, which could be public or private, or both. The 35 specialists would meet annually to present their studies about renewable energy investments in the hemisphere. The IEDA would be sited in Washington, D.C., which hints the possibility of it being, either momentarily or permanently, in the OAS headquarters.

The main funding source of the agency would be voluntary donations, which would be employed to cover operation costs. Such donations would be accepted from countries, NGOs and IGOs that would like to support the IEDA's and OAS's efforts toward renewable energy in the hemisphere.

Given that the creation of the IEDA would not add burdens to the budget and resources of the OAS, the United States Delegation encourages the member states to approve the funding of this resolution. By doing so, it is the belief of this delegation, a stride toward promoting renewable energy and improving energy efficiency will be made.

GA./RES. (38) (XX-O/16):

REDUCING YOUTH DELINQUENCY RATES

Understanding that juvenile committing recurrent petty crimes run the risk of becoming involved in more severe crimes, joining gangs and organized crime organizations, the United States Delegation affirms the need to pay special attention to preventive and corrective measures for juvenile delinquency. Addressing youth delinquency through these measures should be considered as part of the hemispheric efforts to combat and prevent transnational organized crime.

This resolution proposes, as a preventive measure for juvenile delinquency, to start a trial of a pilot program in lower income communities of member states. The program aims to structure lower-income students in a productive, positive way through tutoring and extracurricular activities. The OAS Department of Human Development, Education and Employment would oversee the implementation of the pilot programs by member states.

The United States Delegation understands from the resolution that the member states would be in charge of the pilot programs within their territory, that they would have to gather volunteer teachers and upperclassmen who would do

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the tutoring. The funding obtained from voluntary donations from member states, permanent observer states, and pertinent NGOs, would be destined to providing the board games, arts and music equipment, and reading material for the alternative extracurricular activities, as well as making possible the proposed sport matches.

Education is an invaluable investment member states should be willing to undertake. Providing the means to prevent involvement in crime through education and extracurricular activities should be part of such investment. That is why the Delegation of the United States asks member states to approve the funding of this resolution.

GA./RES. (65) (XX-O/16):

TEMPORARY CIVIL REGISTRATION CENTERS FOR MINORS

The United States is committed to promoting and defending representative democracy in the western hemisphere. The Delegation of the United States understands that civil registration, as it gives an identity to people and allows for the exercise of their birthrights and civil rights, is of great importance for democracy. The promotion of civil registration is not only essential for strengthening democracy, but also for assuring the human right to identity.

This resolution proposes, starting with a pilot program in Brazil, the creation of temporary civil registration centers for minors (TCRCMs) in isolated rural regions that lack institutions that can provide registration and documentation services. The TCRCMs program would be supervised by the OAS Universal Civil Identity Program in the Americas (PUICA).

Funding for this program would be requested in the form of voluntary donations from member states, observer states, registered NGOs, such as Child Rights Connect and Humanim.

Member states would have to contribute the resources and funds necessary for this program mostly by themselves, no additional burdens would be added to the budget and resources of the OAS. Bearing this in mind, the Delegation of the United States encourages member states to approve the funding of this resolution.