

República de Honduras



Position Paper 2018 Summit of the Americas

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Position paper for the 2018 ESMOAS summit of the Americas

I. General Statement

The delegation of Republic of Honduras is committed to improving the security of all citizens across the Organization of American States (OAS) through cooperative diplomatic efforts. During this summit the Republic of Honduras looks forward to the solutions that its sister delegations have to offer in working towards improving diplomacy and stability across the hemisphere. In the past, the OAS has proved its ability to enable member states to peacefully work towards better unity and prosperity.

It is this delegation's hope that the value of the ideas and resolutions brought forward at this year's summit can be recognized for their full potential. The Republic of Honduras has been working alongside other member states to improve citizen security. The Republic of Honduras is a proud member of the OAS and despite some recent criticisms of its democratic institutions and processes. This delegation would like to emphasize to all OAS member states that the democratic process of Honduras is of the upmost importance to the nation and such concerns are unwarranted and further complicate the relationship between our sister nations. It is the opinion of this delegation that the steps taken by Honduras in a joint effort with the OAS General Secretariat under The Mission to Support the Fight against Corruption and Impunity in Honduras (MACCIH) has demonstrated Honduras's good faith efforts and its dedication to ensuring a better future for all its citizens.

It is the hope of the Delegation of Honduras that under measures like MACCIH that the eradication of corruption and promoting the rule of law will serve to strengthen the economic and developmental future of Honduras. Trade is an important aspect in the economic prosperity of any nation's development. Honduras recognizes the importance of a nation's abilities to attract and promote industry and the value of commercial interests both foreign and domestic. The economic struggles within Honduras have presented challenges that President Juan Orlando Hernandez and the Honduran government have been working continuously to address in conjunction with our trade partners. It is the hope of this delegation that through this year's summit, meaningful progress that will be beneficial to all member states can be achieved as we work towards the economic success of the western hemisphere.

In conclusion, the Delegation of Honduras is pleased by the selection of the topics for this year's summit as each of these has a significant impact on many member states. Many of these issues will require the dedicated effort of multiple member states to find effective solutions to work towards the resolution of these pressing issues. The Republic of Honduras is grateful to all delegations for attending this summit and their commitment to work towards the peaceful and inclusive resolution of the issues presented by member nations for the consideration of this body.

PARTICULAR STATEMENTS

A. Committee: General Committee (GC)

Topic A: Addressing the Rights of Migrants, Refugees, and Asylum Seekers

The rights of migrants, refugees, and asylum seekers must be addressed in a meaningful and comprehensive way. The basic human rights of our fellow human beings must be balanced with the legitimate concerns regarding the stability and safety of the countries that migrants, refugees, and asylum seekers are either passing through or seeking to settle in for an extended duration. As the migration of large amounts of people can tax the resources of countries they pass through as well as strain the intake capacity of member states where they settle, The Delegation of Honduras maintains that action is essential. It is with this in mind that the Republic of Honduras is seeking to find a solution to aide in the respectful treatment of migrants, refugees, and asylum seekers while seeking to allow countries the ability to handle the capacity of people in a manner that is just and practical to both refuges and sovereign nations. Thus, it is important to to have the rights of all involved respected while meeting facing this challenge with an appreciation of human dignity and the rights of migrants, refugees and asylum seekers.

It is the belief of this delegation that the mass migration of people through the Americas puts the safety and well-being of these individuals at great risk for exploitation and other acts that could prove detrimental to these people, as the ability of governments to provide protections to these individuals is diminished by a multitude of problems. Most recently, this has resulted in mass caravans or migrations being places of probable exploitation and the violation of human rights and dignity of those seeking refuge. It is with this in mind that the Delegation of Honduras believes that the ability of governments to organize and take measures to prevent violations and exploitations of these individuals. It is with this need to protect from these actions that the Delegation of Honduras seeks to find ways to support the security of migrants, refugees and asylum seekers and prevent these conditions of exploitation from forming.

Topic B: Hemispheric Standards on Protection of Journalists and Freedom of the Press

The Republic of Honduras believes that the role that journalists play in the role of combating corruption and promoting democracy is key to the development and protection of the prosperity of all OAS member states. It is with this in mind that the Republic of Honduras is urging member states to take measures to increase protections for journalists across the OAS from acts of violence. Acts of violence, intimidation, and coercion against journalists can threaten the reliability of information and instead result in the spreading of misinformation which in some cases can have a potentially destabilizing effect on democracy, justice and the rule of law. With this in mind the Republic of Honduras urges OAS member states to seek better efforts within their respective countries to enact measure to protect journalists.

B. Committee: Executive Secretariat for Integral Development (SEDI)

Topic A: Hemisphere cooperation of climate change initiatives

The Delegation of Honduras would like to thank the OAS for its cooperative efforts in combating the rising threat of global climate change. As time has progressed, we have seen multitudes of research informing us that the planet and our hemisphere is in fact getting warmer and the climate is becoming less stable. It is only right of us as an organization to work together and aid not only one another, but the entire world in preventing any future damage that we as humans may cause. The Delegation of Honduras also would like to thank external countries not part of the OAS that plan too or have already aided in climate change initiative. We as a country and as proud members of the OAS we look forward to the upcoming propositions of member states to the aid of climate change in our own hemisphere.

Topic B: Creating mechanisms to encourage free and fair trade

The Delegation of Honduras thanks member states of the OAS for their support of free and fair trade. History has shown to us that the best means of growing and developing countries derives from countries willing to trade between one another. It is from these trades that technology is advanced, relationships are formed and agreements are negotiated. As new mechanisms are formed, the possibility of expanding connections is opened. We as a country are more than thankful to all member states that have worked with us in the past and in the future to boost and nurture each other's economy.

However, as time has passed we as a nation have observed something that goes against this very belief. While recent developments have been made to the North American Free Trade Agreement (NAFTA), the Delegation of Honduras noticed something lacking and exploitative in the Dominican Republic- Central American Free Trade Agreement (CAFTA-DR). At this very moment, CAFTA-DR permits aggrieved parties to request excessive and unreasonable amounts of monetary damages. It was even recorded that in the past a member state of the OAS was sued and was ordered to pay monetary damages in excess of 1.2% of their nation's GDP in a single judgement. This caught our attention very fast, especially since this goes against the encouragement of free and fair trade itself.

It is our duty as an organization to allow any member state to prosper and not be burdened so immensely and from the greed foreign corporate entities that trade within member states that would inhibit such growth. For as we all know, the economic prosperity of corporate interests should not come at the expense of the common good of all.

C. Secretariat for Multidimensional Security

Topic A: Combating Human Trafficking in the Hemisphere

The Delegation of Honduras stands strongly opposed to the act of human trafficking and sees this crime as a grave threat to the security of its citizens. The Delegation of Honduras believes that significant strides have been taken to mitigate the effects of this crime, and that with increased assistance from the Organization of American States (OAS) the decline in the prevalence of this crime will continue. The Republic of Honduras has worked and will continue to work with all who offer assistance.

In recent years the Republic of Honduras has shifted its focus to fighting this heinous crime. Accordingly, the Republic of Honduras has increased resources for law enforcement agencies to target traffickers and has increased convictions considerably. The Republic of Honduras has also worked to protect those victims that have been rescued from their captors, and to provide them with the appropriate services to assist their recovery from such a traumatic event. As a result, Honduras has increased resource allocation to abuse shelters to assist directly in the care for these individuals by providing protection, shelter, counseling and education.

The Republic of Honduras also seeks to prevent people from being trafficked in the first place as opposed to recovering individuals who have already been victimized. This has taken the form of allocating resources and coordinating with non-governmental organizations (NGOs) to raise awareness of the danger of trafficking. These campaigns have been especially prevalent in the Republic of Honduras' public education system. It has also been noted that to help with these efforts the government of the Republic of Honduras has worked to increase interagency cooperation and has provided anti-trafficking training to many of its personnel, regardless of whether or not they are engaged in law enforcement roles.

Through these means the Republic of Honduras has sought to combat the prevalence of human trafficking within its borders. The Republic of Honduras will continue to work with many members of the OAS to achieve this goal of significantly reducing the effects of human trafficking and exploitation and will continue to work diligently with them until this miscarriage of justice has been resolved. The Republic of Honduras continues to strive for the eradication of this crime, even in the face of emaciated budgets and severe resource limitations.

Topic B: Improvement of Food Security & Sustainable Forestry and Fisheries

The Republic of Honduras is dedicated to the development of citizen security across many fronts. One of these that is critical to insure the health and well-being of its citizens is food security. Honduras enjoys a distinguished agricultural history, miles of biologically diverse coast line in both the Pacific and Atlantic oceans, and a number of rivers that support a multitude of

aquatic species. Both of these resources are vital to the long term stability and success of the economic development of Honduras.

The Republic of Honduras recognizes the value of national forest resources. Through the creation of the National Institute for Conservation and Forestry Development the Republic of Honduras hopes to work towards more sustainable practices in managing these important resources.

It is the hope that member states can see the benefits of responsible management of these resources as Honduras has. In the past, the mismanagement of national forests has left a severe negative impact on Honduras. Over time, with the implementation of new practices that are more oriented towards sustainability, the national forests have served to advance the ecological well-being of the Republic of Honduras, and contribute to its economic development as nation, that is ceaselessly striving for progress.

In Conclusion, The Republic of Honduras has long supported the development and protection of its fisheries and watersheds. The importance of a summit such as this where we will discuss these issues are of the upmost importance as rivers and fisheries can span several member states. It is with this in mind that the Republic of Honduras is pleased to join with fellow delegations to work towards the protection and advancement of these vital ecological centers. The Republic of Honduras is pleased to see the resolve and the increased attention that is being brought to the issues of the forests and fisheries of the delegations at this summit and will remain committed to advancing the responsible management practices.

