**The Plurinational State of Bolivia**

**Position Paper for the 2016 ESMOAS Summit of the Americas**

1. **GENERAL STATEMENT**

The Plurinational State of Bolivia, as one of the founding members of the Organization of American States (OAS), is elated once again, to be amongst fellow member states at this Summit of the Americas. Since the ratification of the OAS charter on 5 May 1948, the Plurinational State of Bolivia has held the highest standards for democracy and multilateral cooperation, with respect to sovereignty. In concordance with Article 3b, declaring 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*;” (OAS Charter, 1948) the delegation of Bolivia holds all members, including individual states, committees, officials, and the General Secretariat, to respect the sovereignty of each nation’s government. In particular, this delegation looks forward to the General Secretariat making fair and impartial judgments, fulfilling its duty toward multilateral cooperation in the Western Hemisphere.

Bolivia, whose namesake originates from the great revolutionary and independence leader Símón Bolívar, has been a sovereign state since 1825 (Bio., n.d.). Although times have changed, the Plurinational State of Bolivia today continues to fight against the oppression of foreign and capital interests that deteriorate the ideals of sovereignty and the commonwealth. The Plurinational State of Bolivia has established a complex and sophisticated system of society, economy, government, and democracy within its borders, one which strives toward the commonwealth of all its people. The large and wonderful population of close to 11 million, is made up by a great majority of indigenous people, descendants of the ancient Inca (Central Intelligence Agency, 1).

The current president, Juan Evo Morales, was elected into Bolivian office on January 22, 2006, and proudly bears the blood of the indigenous people. President Morales has served as a strong leader in the years since his inaugurated election, and has championed the poor and marginalized. In just the past 10 years, the Morales Administration has accomplished many historical feats, despite the challenges imposed by being an unfairly landlocked country. Poverty rates have decreased unimaginably from 38.7% in 2005, to an all-time low of 17.8%, while GDP per capita has skyrocketed from US$1000, tripling to $3000 in 2014 (TeleSUR, 2015). Much of the growth is due to the *Movimiento Al Socialismo* (MAS) and the foundation of an independent welfare state; in turn creating social programs such as the *Juancito Pinto,* which subsidizes and promotes education for children as. Just as important, Bolivia has taken control of and has nationalized its natural resources, eliminating the right hand of profit-seeking capitalist. Through nationalization of its resources, the Plurinational State of Bolivia redistributes so-called ‘profits’ and turns them into funds for the benefit of the populace (Kaup, p. 28).

While domestic violence, specifically gender-based violence is an issue that is found in almost all societies in the Western Hemisphere, the state of Bolivia has taken several steps to mitigate them, and seeks to empower women. With the establishment of Law 348 “Guaranteeing Women a Life Free of Violence”, and La Fuerza Especiales en la

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Lucha Contra la Violencia (FELCV), the state of Bolivia seeks to end the undesirable effects of *Machism*o culture. (ECLAC, 2015) To promote representation of women in office, Bolivia has created a quota, requiring political parties to select one woman for every three men nominated for a political office, resulting in the second highest number of woman elected in the entire world, holding 51% of elected seats. (UNW, n.d.)

At this Summit of the Americas, the delegation of Bolivia ultimately seeks only to protect the sovereignty of the state, and the dignity of the individual. *Gracias Hermanos e Hermanas.*

**II. PARTICULAR STATEMENTS**

**A. General Committee (GC)**

**Topic A: Reducing the Rate of Violence Against Women**

The Plurinational State of Bolivia denounces all acts of violence against women. The Bolivian delegation supports the goals of La Fuerza Especial de Lucha Contra la Violencia (FELCV) and the United Nations Girls Educational Initiative (UNGEI).

¡El machismo tiene que parar! Sexual discrimination is a false sense of pride in men that has led to inequitable social demands from women, ultimately resulting in gender-based violence. The Western Hemisphere has some of the highest rates of violence against women, where 40% of women have been victims of violence (ECLAC, 2015). It is estimated that only 36% of those women actually report the attack (WHO, 2013). Human trafficking is a major factor associated with gender-based violence today and efforts to end human trafficking and gender-based violence have failed to date. To make matters worse, police forces are ill-equipped to handle violence against women and human trafficking, quite often turning a blind eye to the problem.

*Hermanos e hermanas*, the delegation of the Plurinational State of Bolivia comes here before the Organization of American States in efforts to protect the dignity of all those called mothers, daughters, and sisters. The Plurinational State of Bolivia strictly condemns all acts of violence against women, and urges all member states to take action to combat this horrifying reality.

In this Summit of the Americas, the delegation of Bolivia, in its good intentions, urges for all member states to adopt laws criminalizing gender-based violence; reaffirming and furthering the discussions at the *Convention of Belém do Pará (1993)*. As of March 9th, 2013, Bolivia has promulgated *Law 348 “Guaranteeing Women a Life Free of Violence.”* The Bolivian penal code convicts all those found guilty of *Feminicidio –* in which a woman is murdered due to the fact she is female – to 30 years in prison without pardon. Other fellow states have also adopted similar legislation, and the delegation of Bolivia commends them for taking action against such a detrimental issue in this hemisphere.

Legislation is only the first step; it is meaningless unless one’s country enforces such laws. Bolivian law enforcement has implemented a specialized task force known as the Special Forces in the Fight Against Violence (FELCV). This special force is given the

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task of coordinating and implementing effective legal operational procedures and investigating crimes against life, against bodily integrity and health, against sexual freedom, economic and patrimonial violence, and others matters of violence against women. With its inception, 250 cases of femicide have been tried, and 47 criminals given the maximum sentence.

The empowerment of women is central to the fight against gender-based violence. For women to be empowered, the two keystones are: Education and Inclusion. The State of Bolivia regularly seeks to increase and improve the education of woman. According to the United Nations Children’s Education Fund (UNCEF), the education of girls is both an intrinsic right and a critical lever to reaching other development objectives. Providing girls with an education helps break the cycle of poverty: educated women are less likely to marry early and against their will, less likely to die in childbirth, more likely to have healthy babies, and more likely to send their children to school.” The Plurinational State of Bolivia has been one of the most successful in reaching parity at the educational level, with .98 ratio of females to male in school, owing much of its success to social programs like the *Juancito Pinto* program. The State of Bolivia proposes a new educational program be established, similar to the *Juancito Pinto* program, except that it will be aimed specifically at young women. The program will give vouchers to girls living in impoverished, high-risk environments of sexual assault, motivating them to leave the house in pursuit of an education. The vouchers, which help offset the cost of books, transportation, and uniforms, will only be given and used for female recipients to best mitigate cultural practices that favor the male. To fund this program, we look to the UNCEF, UNGEI, and other NGOs to provide the monetary means.

This hemisphere has had many successful women in very powerful positions, much of which can be attributed to obtaining an education. The Plurinational State of Bolivia, with its renewed constitution in 2009, provides a vast variety political sanctions for women, and most prominently: a 50% Gender parity quota, which requires political parties to nominate equal amounts of female to male candidates. As a result of such law, in the most recent Bolivian election of 2014, 53.1 percent of candidates elected were women; ranking as the second highest nation in the world with women in office. (UNW, n.d.) The delegation of Bolivia hopes that trend continues to grow, with the belief that the more women included in legislation, government, and law enforcement, the more likely laws are to represent the needs and concerns of all its citizens. The Bolivian delegation recommends that each member state strive for equal representation of women, with legislation being the most formidable tool.

If women are not guaranteed protection by law enforcement, however, all prior notions go to waste. The State of Bolivia recommends for each member state to establish specialized task forces in each country. These specialized forces are not for the use of warfare tactics, but rather to combat domestic violence, femicide, and human trafficking. Human trafficking, as we know, is one of great concern in our region and is not limited by borders. Specialized forces will open up communication between member states, sharing intelligence and offering security to each other. With respect to sovereignty,

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cooperation is needed to handle matters of domestic and international concern. Beyond basic combat skills however, inter-personal skills training should be included when assembling these task forces, offering the most effective, compassionate, and confidential assistance to women who have been physically and/or sexually assaulted.

**Topic B: Achieving Universal Access to Basic Health Services**

The Plurinational State of Bolivia affirms that human beings possess an inherit right to access of health care. The Bolivian delegation supports the efforts of the World Health Organization (WHO) toward a *Global Vaccine Action Plan*.

The people of the Americas are suffering. Despite progress in the past decade, 30% of people in Latin America and the Caribbean still do not have access to health care and 21% of people cannot receive benefits due to geographic barriers (PAHO/WHO, 2015). The practice of medicine has deterred from its purpose to serving and protecting the population, and has now become the right hand of *El Capitalismo* (capitalism). As a result, resources in our hemisphere are unequally distributed; concentrated only in major cities where the wealthy live, ignoring those living in poverty and in more rural areas. The health care systems themselves have become inefficient, focused on curing diseases instead of preventing them. Another example of how capitalism seeks profit over the common good: taking advantage of human suffering. Human beings should not have to make the decision between buying medicine and feeding their families.

The Plurinational State of Bolivia seeks to end this vicious cycle of poverty and disease, and remove the hand of capitalism in this basic human right. Therefore, the delegation of Bolivia, a country which has championed the poor and marginalized, proposes a bold step to the left by establishing a basic health care system for all member states to contribute to and benefit from. It will be run and funded by NGOs like the World Health Organization (WHO), World Bank, and Doctors Without Borders to help reach all members of society.

 Where a person chooses to reside should not exclude them from obtaining this basic human right. Clinics will need to be built, especially in geographically challenged areas who do not have medical services within a fifty-mile radius. The clinics themselves will provide basic medical care and services to ensure that those who are living in rural areas, are not being abandoned by society.

 The trademark of this program will be in disease prevention and control. Vaccines will be free to all citizens of each state in order to prevent the spread of infectious diseases. By removing the profit aspect of vaccines, all American states will benefit from this plan, and research will evolve into a more collaborative effort. most efficiently find cures and prevent epidemics like that of the Zika virus, Swine flu, and Ebola virus.

 Ultimately, the Bolivian Delegation wishes to eliminate suffering across the western hemisphere, and around the world. By preventing diseases, and assuring basic health care to all, the OAS is fulfilling its obligation to protecting human dignity, in accordance with Article 45 Section B.

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1. **Committee: Executive Secretariat for Integral Development (SEDI)**

**Topic A: Reducing the Number of Young People Not Studying or Working**

The Plurinational State of Bolivia affirms that the country and this hemisphere have gone through big changes in the last two decades- some more positive than others. The delegation of Bolivia supports education and therefore thinks that the right age for students to start school is six-years-old. Primary school students will range from age 6-11; Lower secondary: ages 12 – 13 and upper secondary: 14- to 17-years-old. The delegation of Bolivia believes that focusing on a clear and structured transition from the different age groups to their respective classes will help develop a stronger educational system.

The Plurinational State of Bolivia has a total of 2,450,000 students enrolled in primary and secondary education. Of these students, about 1,390,000 (57%) are enrolled in primary education. Although these numbers may not initially seem impressive, the Plurinational State of Bolivia is pleased to note that only 1% of youth have no formal education and only 18% of youth have not completed their education (UNESCO, 2011). The delegation of Bolivia notes that improvement is always possible, but that the projects of the Morales administration have proven to be successful.

However, the delegation of Bolivia also notes that the situation in the region remains difficult. A report by the United Nations Children’s Fund (UNICEF) presents some alarming statistics for the region (UNICEF). These statistics are listed below:

**Education, school dropout and unemployment in Latin America:**

* In Latin America and the Caribbean, 35 millions of children between the age of 3 to 18 years do not go to school at all (a number close to the population of Colombia, as a whole).
* Thirty million secondary school-aged people in Latin America and the Caribbean are not enrolled in school, equivalent to one in every three secondary school-aged young people.
* Each school dropout forfeits the equivalent of 14 percent of per capita GDP each year of his or her working life.
* There are 10 million unemployed young people in the region, and 22 million young people (approximately 25% of young people in Latin America and the Caribbean) who are unemployed AND out of school. 30 million young people do informal work under precarious conditions.

 The majority of Latin Americans who do not receive a high school education and are engaged in labor market do not have the good skills to perform the tasks of the jobs and make the economy better. At the same time employers find hard time to fulfill the position with the right candid. However, the level of inequality in Latin America is the highest in the world, with at least 1 in 3 households and 2 in 5 people living below the poverty line. About 12% of the region’s population lives on $2 per day and over the half

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are children. And, in Brazil, children in the bottom income quintile complete an average

of eight years of school versus over ten years completed by children in the top income quintile (World Fund, 2009)

 Additionally, data regarding adults with a high school education demonstrates a large amount of diversity from country to country. The United Mexican States have the lowest levels of high school education, with only 35% of the population achieving this goal. On the other hand, the United States of America has the highest high school education with 89%; Chile comes in the second place with 69% of people with high school education; finally, Brazil with high school education rate of 41%. About 22.2 millions of children are either not in school or about to drop out of school each year and those who do drop out of school tend to have the worse outcomes (physical, mental and economic) than do those youth who stay in school (World Fund, 2009). The Plurinational State of Bolivia declares that any solution to this issue must reflect the diverse needs of the various member states in the hemisphere.

 The member states of the OAS have set a goal to reduce the number of people not studying or working and eradicate by 2020, at the latest, the worst forms of child labor and reduce the number of children that work in violation of national laws. The member states should continue strengthening national policies that enable achievement of these goals. In addition to providing quality basic education, the delegation of Bolivia recommends that the member states build bridges between child labor eradication programs and other support programs, such as income support programs, extracurricular activities and training. To meet this objective, countries shall set national goals and deadlines based on the local situation. The delegation of the Plurinational State of Bolivia looks forward to discussing this important and urgent topic.

**Topic B: Improving Energy Efficiency on a Hemispheric Level**

The Plurinational State of Bolivia affirms that a focus on improved energy efficiency is a necessary and vital focus for the region. The Bolivian delegation supports the goals of the Executive Secretariat for Integral Development (SEDI) by implementing new ideas and focus on how to improve the two main components of rural energy and energy efficiency, knowing these two sources are designated to help the citizens of the Plurinational State of Bolivia make further progress in achieving its goal. The experiences in the Plurinational State of Bolivia will also offer an example of the strengths of a regional approach to energy efficiency.

Bolivia is a resource-rich country with sturdy growth attributed to captive markets for gas exports- Brazil and Argentina. Gas accounts for almost 50% of Bolivia's total exports and can fund over half its 2015 budget.

Bolivia is a resource-rich country with steady growth. Gas accounts for almost 50% of Bolivia's total exports and can fund over half its 2015 budget. According to the CIA World Factbook, although the worldwide recession slowed growth for much of the world, Bolivia “recorded the very best rate in South America throughout 2009 and has averaged 5.3% growth every year since 2009” (Central Intelligence Agency, 2016) This

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success can be attributed to positive and effective state policies by the administration of President Evo Morales.

For example, in 2015, President Evo Morales moved to encourage international investment and to improve Bolivia’s energy production capability. Of the key successful actions of his administration, President Morales “passed an investment law and promised not nationalize additional industries in an effort to improve the investment climate” (Central Intelligence Agency, 2016).

In addition to the investment laws, President Morales has also been inaugurating natural gas facilities and championing Bolivia’s plans to export electric energy to its neighbors. He has campaigned on the message that “whoever has control over energy has political power” therefore, he benefits the Bolivian citizen a lot (theconversation.com). The delegation of Bolivia is delighted to celebrate the efforts of President Morales and of the Plurinational State of Bolivia. The delegation of Bolivia will be promoting the pursuit of alternative forms of energy, such as lithium, of which Bolivia has about 36% of the world’s supply (bolivianthoughts.com).

**C: Committee: Secretariat for Multidimensional Security (CMS)**

**Topic A: Hemispheric Standards for Gun Safety and Regulation**

 The Plurinational State of Bolivia firmly supports hemispheric standards for gun safety & regulation. The Bolivian delegation supports the goals of the Secretariat for Multidimensional Security by previously, currently, and continuing to support regional cooperation to end illicit trafficking and manufacturing of firearms.

The Plurinational State of Bolivia has a long history of contributing to the creation and supporting existing firearms safety and firearms laws. In the past decade the Plurinational State of Bolivia has participated in global, regional, and local forums to create firearms safety regulations that contribute to the overall stability of the region and to Bolivia. While the Plurinational State of Bolivia has constantly shown a desire to end illicit gun trade, the security of the regions is constantly undermined by firearms legislation whilst member states unintentionally or intentionally continue illicit arms trafficking and Manufacturing.

Arms trafficking is an extensive issue in the Americas, the failed Fast and Furious operation directed by the United States to fight the war on drugs in Mexico. It will be difficult to solve this issue in the hemisphere when guns from failed operations to stop the war on drugs end up contributing to insecurity (Tucker, 2016). The efforts taken by the Plurinational State of Bolivia in prevention of firearms trafficking have been documented throughout the past two decades. The trafficking of firearms is serious issue. In 2013 a United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime (UNODC) conducted a study on homicides. The study revealed that 66% of homicides in Latin America were committed using a firearm. The same study in 2010, reported that 7% of all homicides in the Plurinational State of Bolivia were attributed to firearms. This indicates firearms being a big issue not only for the Plurinational State of Bolivia, but also for the region as a whole.

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 In November of 1997, the Plurinational State of Bolivia (then known as the Republic of Bolivia[[1]](#footnote-1)) signed the OAS/Inter-American Convention against the Illicit Manufacturing of and Trafficking in Firearms, Explosives, Ammunition and Other Related Materials (CIFTA) A-63. The purpose of this legally binding multilateral treaty was to promote co-operation between states to counter illicit firearms manufacturing and trafficking. In February of 1999, the Republic of Bolivia ratified OAS/CIFTA A-63, making it one of the 31 members to sign and ratify the Convention. It is important to note that four states did not ratify the treaty.

 In April of 2003 the Republic of Bolivia participated in a meeting with the Andean Community and signed Decision 552: The Andean Plan to Prevent, Fight and Eradicate Illicit Trafficking in Small Arms and Light Weapons in All Its Aspects. This was noted by the Small Arms Survey as “the first legally binding instrument at the sub-regional level” (Small Arms Survey). The document’s goal was to strengthen the capabilities of the participants in eradicating illicit firearm trafficking and manufacturing.

 In August of 2009,the bicameral Plurinational Legislative Assembly of Bolivia created Act 400. This occurred only seven months after the approval of the new constitution (EJU, 2009). The purpose of this act was to establish national laws and regulation for fire arms. Unfortunately, it took nearly four years for the document to become law. In September 2013, the Firearms, Ammunition, Explosives and Other Related Materials Control Law - Act 400; was signed in to law. This law criminalizes illegal manufacturing, trafficking, and ownership of firearms. It also establishes a firearm registration process and database, while promoting the destruction of unwanted, and confiscated firearms. While this document allows citizens to own firearms, it is not a legal right guaranteed in the 2009 Constitution, although it does prohibit them from owning military grade or military purposed weapons. These weapons are restricted to the national police and military. This also maintains civilian control of the military and national police, allowing weapons only to be manufactured after receiving approval from Ministry of Defense and the Ministry of Government, both of these positions are appointees.

 The Plurinational State of Bolivia has demonstrated consistent and strong efforts to counter illicit arms trafficking and manufacturing throughout the past two decades both at the national and regional levels. This level of commitment is indicative of the commitment of the Plurinational State of Bolivia to preventing firearms from being used in nefarious manners both locally and in the region. The delegation of Bolivia will continue to contribute to the overall security of the region through effective and strong programs and the delegation is looking forward to discussing this important and urgent issue at the Summit this year.

**Topic B: Multidimensional Approaches to Combating Juvenile Delinquency**

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The Plurinational state of Bolivia stands firm in its support in addressing the topic of multidimensional approaches to combating juvenile delinquency. The Bolivian Delegation supports the goals of the SMS Committee by noting historic and current efforts to prevent rights violations against adolescents.

 Defense for Children Internationals, a non-governmental organization (NGO), Regional Observatory on Juvenile Justice Systems created a report for 2014. The report was submitted to the United Nations Congress on Crime Prevention and Justice and covered eight countries (Argentina, Bolivia, Brazil, Colombia, Costa Rica, Ecuador, Paraguay and Uruguay) that form part of the Regional Observatory of Juvenile Justice (De Achá, 2015). This report stated there were more than 30,000 adolescents (individuals between the ages of 12 and 18) in custody in detention centers in the eight states monitored. The report states that of the 30,000 adolescent in custody 269 are in Bolivia. This same report also listed several accounts of abuse against in prisoned Juveniles violating their rights and endangering their lives within Bolivia (De Achá, 2015). These accusations against the Plurinational State of Bolivia go against a long history of supporting rights for children.

 The Great Republic of Bolívar was one of 194 countries that signed and ratified the United Nations Convention on the Rights of Child, which celebrated its 25th anniversary in 2014. It is important to note that three countries did not ratify this convention: South Sudan, Somalia, and the United States. Article 40 of this Convention specifically covers juvenile rights when children are accused of violating state laws (1996).

 In November of 1969 during the American Convention of Human rights, the “Pact of San Jose, Costa Rica” was adopted by the OAS. This Pact established the Inter-American Commission on Human Rights (IAHCR). Although The Republic of Bolívar was not an original signee, the pact was eventually ratified and committed to in 1993, in a letter to the OAS (OAS/262/93) There are two articles which are important in establishing human rights in regards to Justice for Juveniles. Article 8: Right to a Fair Trial and Article 19: Rights of the Child. Both of these articles establish a baseline for states, focusing on the importance of protecting the rights of juveniles being prosecuted.

 In 2006 during a visit to the Republic of Bolivia at the invitation of the Government, the IAHCR delegation, noted two issues in their Access to Justice and Social Inclusion: The Road towards Strengthening Democracy in Bolivia executive summary that was published in 2007. These issues observed showed the violation of juvenile rights in the state’s justice system and were a cause of great concern for the delegation.

 During the summer of 2008 another IAHCR delegation visited the Republic of Bolivia to check on the progress following the negative report from the 2007 visit. The follow-up report (OEA/Ser/L/V/II.135) was published in August of 2009. It is important to note that report was in progress at the time of the establishment of Bolivia’s new constitution. The report recommended that the State of Bolivia “adopt measures to expand the coverage of the Juvenile Defenders' Offices and other institutions provided

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for in the legislation, both for protection and for the prevention, investigation and punishment of crimes of all kinds committed against children.”

 In 2009, under the current President Evo Morales, the Plurinational State of Bolivia established a new constitution, which included several articles to address the

issues found by IAHCR. Article 23 specifically covers the right of a juvenile who is facing prosecution. Article 218 established the office of the Public Defender (Defensor del Pueblo) who is tasked with insuring constitutional rights are not violated while also providing legal defense for those in need (Constitution of the Plurinational State of Bolivia).

 The Plurinational state of Bolivia, like most of Latin America, has made great strides to stay in compliance of the UN Convention of the Child and the IACHR Pact. The delegation of Bolivia also celebrates the inclusion of protections for juveniles in the 2009 Constitution. The delegation of Bolivia will continue to support juvenile rights internationally, regionally, and domestically in an effort to continue protecting our citizens.

**D. Committee: Secretariat for Strengthening Democracy**

**Topic A: Addressing Racial Discrimination and Violence**

 The Plurinational State of Bolivia affirms that large amounts of racial discrimination and violence towards the indigenous peoples of the region have taken a toll on Bolivia, as well as in other member states. The Delegation of Bolivia supports the elimination of all racial and ethnic discrimination. Even though pertaining to over half of the Bolivian population, indigenous people still experience discrimination backlash from other cultures in society. As Singham (2015) notes, “to be indigenous meant being treated as less then human, it also determined your social status and livelihood; if you were born indigenous it meant that you wereinstantly relegated to bottom of the racial hierarchy.” This can easily display the amount of severity of which these indigenous people experience within racial discrimination in Bolivia. Even dating back to colonial times, the wide problem of racial discrimination has always been a prominent aspect of Bolivian culture. Up until the National Revolution of 1952, indigenous people were denied universal civil rights consisting of voting, owning property, and learning how to read. However, when these laws were abolished, racism was not taken with them, and still remains conflict until this day. The first indigenous leader in Bolivia, President Evo Morales, is a role model and example for society. The 2009 Constitution of the Plurinational State of Bolivia protects indigenous rights and it is due to the great leadership of President Evo Morales.

**Topic B: Promoting Civil Registration and the Right to Identity**

 The Plurinational State of Bolivia affirms that over the years, problems with civil registration in its country have taken place. The Delegation of Bolivia supports and

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encourages all states to participate in country-wide awareness, as the Plurinational State of Bolivia will continue to do with its own progress on civil registration. With the massive poverty that many countries experience, there are few hospitals in which mothers can give birth to their children. Not only that, but most people do not even have the

financial means to accommodate themselves in a hospital. Since being born in a hospital in most states in the region is a luxury, the majority of the time when a child is born at home they are not immediately registered in civil registry. Chances of parents doing so after the child is born are slim, as “the reasons for the low rate of births in public health centers exist within the context of deficient resources, politics, and cultural differences that all influence the experience of women and their partners at the time of birth,” (Otis 1). Without civil registration, there is no actual proof or documentation that said person exists. The delegation of Bolivia supports continued research and work into this serious issue.

**E. Committee: Secretariat for Administration and Finance (SAF)**

 As a fellow member of the Organization American States (OAS), the delegation of the Plurinational State of Bolivia is esteemed to participate in the administration and finance committee. As an original member of the OAS, Bolivia has encouraged other states in the Western Hemisphere to form the organization by signing the Charter. Bolivia has maintained its original commitment to the four pillars of the hemispheric institution: democracy, human rights, sustainable development, and multidimensional security. The new Bolivian Constitution demonstrates the duties of the member states, such as, the promotion of “independence and equality among states” (Article 225 II #1.), the defense of the rights of citizens, the protection of “Bolivian production”(Article 225 II #11), and the control of “borders in relations to the security of the state” (Article 298 I #10)” (Charter of the Organization of American States).

 Currently, the state of Bolivia has differences with the OAS regarding controversies surrounding the Organization’s program budget that was approved by the general assembly. The Plurinational State of Bolivia, alongside other members of the Organization, do not support the decision to assign financial resources to the Inter-American Defense Board (IADB) (Organization of American States, 2014). The delegation of Bolivia recognizes both the historical and political aspect of in the forming of the IADB within the OAS as a direct reaction of tensions between member states during the Cold War. Nonetheless, Bolivia also recognizes that all states in the hemisphere have now overcome the conflict, and hence the states no longer need for the IADB. The delegation of Bolivia pushes for a modified OAS budget and urges the OAS to adjust to priorities set by the current member states.

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1. Before 2009, the Plurinational State of Bolivia was known as the Republic of Bolivia. All references to the Republic of Bolivia refer to the period before the new constitution in 2009. [↑](#footnote-ref-1)