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Position Paper of the

Republic of Chile

**I. General Statement**

The Republic of Chile is proud to have the opportunity to participate with fellow states at this year’s General Assembly. The Republic of Chile recognizes the vital role that the Organization of American States (OAS) plays in the Americas as it promotes the importance of peace, security, civil rights, and human rights. Chile is proud to have been one of the first states to sign the OAS Charter in 1948 recognizing the importance of having such a body within the Hemisphere. As stated in Chapter 1 Article 2(a) of the OAS Charter, a fundamental goal of the organization is “to strengthen the peace and security of the continent,” especially as it pertains to the youth of the Hemisphere and the rights of all peoples.[[1]](#endnote-1)  While respecting all of the pillars of the organization, the Republic of Chile and its delegation is especially interested in moving forward on these principles.

The Republic of Chile has had a long standing tradition of respect for representative democracy within the Hemisphere. It is also aware of the importance of protecting that system and the rule of law against authoritarian threats. The Republic of Chile has been under the leadership of President Veronica Michelle Bachelet Jeria of the Chilean Socialist Party from 2006-2010, and in 2014 she was reelected to a second term. The Republic of Chile is proud of its accomplishments as a democracy that is able to represent the views of its peoples in the Americas. Chile is home to five world heritage sites as stated by The United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization (UNESCO), which give the people a physical celebration of their culture and history in this country. Chile has some of the world’s largest and still active volcanoes that bring in tourists who enjoy climbing and seeing the magnificent view that these volcanoes have to offer.

Strengthening democracy is the most pertinent issue that needs to be addressed by all delegations present for this coming General Assembly. Article 3 of the 2001 Inter-American Democratic Charter states, “respect for human rights and fundamental freedoms” are essential elements for a representative democracy.[[2]](#endnote-2) The Delegation of Chile is aware of the challenges facing the Hemisphere and recognizes the necessity of cooperating with other delegations towards solutions to these challenges. The Administration of President Michelle Bachelet has worked to improve the protection of human rights and to reduce the amount of abuses or violations committed by all actors. “Chile’s parliament in 2015 debated laws to strengthen human rights protection, as promised by President Michelle Bachelet,” including various types of protections, such as prevention of violence against people.[[3]](#endnote-3) In between terms, President Bachelet was appointed the first executive director of the newly created United Nations Entity for Gender Equality and the Empowerment of Women (UN Women). This entity “works for the elimination of discrimination against women and girls; empowerment of women; and achievement of equality between women and men as partners and beneficiaries of development, human rights, humanitarian action and peace and security.”[[4]](#endnote-4) President Bachelet has dedicated her professional life in the securing and protection of rights of not only Chileans but also of all Americans. Strengthening human rights is critical in the quest of strengthening democracy.

The youth in Chile and in the Hemisphere should be one of our principal priorities for they are the bright lights of the future. The Delegation of Chile sees this General Assembly session as an opportunity to share new ideas and best practices, and a way of creating new programs and documents that will help all delegations to achieve higher-quality education and life for the youth. By providing better education, the delegation believes that the ideals of democracy will be further realized. Last May, Chile “endorsed the global Safe School Declaration, committing to do more to protect students, teacher[s], and schools” and also implemented the *Guidelines on Protecting Schools from Military Use*.[[5]](#endnote-5) Chile’s government places great emphasis on enhancing the quality of education for its students. It has worked towards guaranteeing more civil and human rights to youth by implementing a national youth policy, as well as a government authority responsible for the youth, and a national health program. The National Youth Action Plan was created to give more opportunities to the youth in regards to five key areas: citizenship and generation networks, culture and recreation, self-care health, work, and access to new technologies.[[6]](#endnote-6) The Bachelet administration strongly believes that education is the key to a better society and a more democratic community.

The Delegation of Chile is looking forward to working with its fellow member states throughout these coming sessions in the hopes of generating solutions and new ideas to address these pertinent topics. Chile is honored to be attending this year’s General Assembly to discuss relevant issues with fellow member states. It is confident that opening up a dialogue will lead to the advancement of our Hemisphere as a whole.

**II. Particular Statements**

**A. Committee: General Committee (GC)**

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

The Republic of Chile believes that the protection of women against violence is a fundamental human right and a critical factor for assuring democratic values. The Hemisphere that values democracy cannot tolerate abuse on half its population. The OAS has made a continuous effort towards achieving equality of women’s rights, and has always prioritized the rights of women who are in need of additional support and protection. The Republic of Chile is pleased to be able to participate in a discussion with fellow member states in order to address the measures that will reduce the rate of violence against women. The OAS member states have agreed on the importance of addressing the challenges that women from all backgrounds, races, and communities have faced. The Republic of Chile is proud to be a supporter of the Inter-American Convention on the Prevention, Punishment, and Eradication of Violence against Women, known as the Convention of Belém do Pará. The convention “defines violence against women, establishes that women have the right to live a life free of violence and that violence against women constitutes a violation of human rights and fundamental freedoms.”[[7]](#endnote-7) Additionally, Chile applauds the work of the Inter-American Commission of Women (CIM) on drafting this convention and its insistence on the urgency of establishing these mechanisms that will protect and defend women’s rights. The OAS and CIM have the only hemispheric policy forum that focuses on women’s rights and their equality within the Americas. Together both organizations have achieved substantial progress with regard to women’s rights and empowerment.

The Ministers of Women of the OAS member states have adopted the 2016 Declaration of Lima, which works to promote women’s equality and economic autonomy. This document urges countries to promote equality, to improve working conditions, and to accomplish much more.[[8]](#endnote-8) The Convention of the Elimination of all Forms of Discrimination against Women and Belém do Pará Convention establishes principles that should be upheld, such as recognizing the gravity of physical, psychological, and sexual violence.[[9]](#endnote-9) The Declaration of Lima identifies the importance of “equality in the exercise of human rights for the attainment of women’s full autonomy, including their capacity to protect themselves from gender-based violence and their participation and contribution as agents of development and democracy.”[[10]](#endnote-10) Many advances have been made by the OAS its specialized organizations, but there is still more work to be done for the equality of women’s rights in the Hemisphere.

The Bachelet administration has worked continuously towards reducing the rate of violence against women. As Chile’s first female head of state, President Bachelet recognizes the importance of gender equality and has made efforts to prioritize women on the country’s agenda by advancing the political and social discourse regarding the advancement of women. The Inter-American Commission on Human Rights (IACHR) report, “On the Rights of Women in Chile,” commends the Chilean State for having developed various initiatives in the form of policies and plans that are aimed at solving problems with domestic violence.[[11]](#endnote-11) The Republic of Chile has made great strides in the past decades promoting the rights of women as part of its efforts to strengthen and preserve its democracy. It realizes that it still faces challenges in promoting women’s equality in the workforce, as do all member states. While Chile has worked endlessly for the rights of women, it recognizes the continuous need to improve upon their status.

The Delegation of Chile welcomes opportunities to share information on best practices in the Hemisphere to bring about meaningful change in reducing violence against women in all areas of life so that all can enjoy the freedoms afforded by a democratic system.

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

Health is a basic human right critical for the flourishing of democracy and should be available to all citizens, particularly the youth. The Delegation of Chile applauds the OAS in all its efforts to spread access to health services around the Americas. In the Social Charter of the Americas, member states committed to broadening access to health care and recognizing that health is a fundamental right to all persons.[[12]](#endnote-12) The Pan-American Health Organization (PAHO) and the World Health Organization (WHO) have partnered with the Adolescent and Youth Regional Strategy and Plan of Action for 2010-2018. This document aims to draw attention to the issues and find solutions to youth and adolescent health problems.[[13]](#endnote-13) It seeks to “protect achievements and progress in improving the health status of young people to date and addresses the unfinished health agenda to achieve universal health coverage and reduce health inequalities among this population group.”[[14]](#endnote-14)

The Republic of Chile has invested significant resources in providing basic health care to its citizens. The current health care system, established 50 years ago, is comprised of a public National Health Insurance Fund and private insurers.[[15]](#endnote-15) Currently, sixty-eight percent of the population is covered by the public system.[[16]](#endnote-16) Prior to becoming president, Michelle Bachelet worked as a surgeon, pediatrician, and epidemiology before assuming the portfolio of Minister of Health in 2000 under former President Ricardo Lagos.[[17]](#endnote-17) This experience convinced her that making quality health care available to all Chileans is crucial. The Chilean Ministry of Health has endeavored to provide high quality health care in every possible avenue. During her first presidential term, the Constitutional Court of Chile declared that the private insurance companies’ premiums based on age and gender were discriminatory and prohibited the practice.[[18]](#endnote-18) The ministry has set a number of health objectives to accomplish and has proposed bills to reform the health care system to make it more accessible to all. The public sector is not only the largest insurer for the country, but the largest health care provider as well. “Chile’s complex process of setting health care priorities has been praised and given a favourable welcome in the national and international policy communities.”[[19]](#endnote-19) This is all part of the program for making universal health care accessible and affordable. Her administration has continued work on this initiative during her second term and supports efforts to spread universal health care throughout the Hemisphere.

Using the Chilean experience, the Delegation of Chile is well aware of the pitfalls and challenges in trying to make universal health care a reality. Despite the difficulties, the delegation remains convinced that the connection between a healthy citizenry and a strong democracy is important. realizes that all member states are working towards achieving universal health care for their citizens. It looks forward to productive discussions with other member states about how to secure the best quality universal public health care for all citizens and thereby guarantee strong and healthy democracies in the Hemisphere.

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

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

The Republic of Chile recognizes leadership role that the OAS has assumed in furthering hemispheric development to secure democracy. This is reflected in Chapter 1 Article 2(g) of the charter of the OAS, which states one of the main purposes of the organization: “To eradicate extreme poverty, which constitutes an obstacle to the full democratic development of the peoples of the hemisphere. . . .”[[20]](#endnote-20) The OAS has done extensive work battling unemployment and lack of educational opportunity throughout the Americas. It has partnered with Young Americas Business Trust (YABT), in order to create the Youth for Sustainable Development (YSD). This program trains and educates youths in fields such as entrepreneurship, risk management and leadership, as well as on issues pertaining to the environment and energy.[[21]](#endnote-21)

The Republic of Chile has worked to develop and implement education and job training programs designed to help youth at risk. The government has partnered with the International Youth Foundation (IYF), which is committed to helping solve the problems that face the youth today.[[22]](#endnote-22) In 2015, the Bachelet administration launched New Employment Opportunities (NEO), connecting youth with training and placement services within the local community.[[23]](#endnote-23) In addition to these programs, it has implemented a multi-tiered educational system to give its youth the best chance for success.[[24]](#endnote-24) The Ministry of Education and President Bachelet have recently made it possible for students in low socioeconomic conditions to attend institutions of higher education for free in the Gratuity for Higher Education program. This new program was implemented in January 2016 and will begin taking applications in 2017.[[25]](#endnote-25) The Bachelet administration is proud that 139,894 students received aid in 2016 and more are expected to apply in the coming years.[[26]](#endnote-26)

The Republic of Chile believes that meeting the challenges facing undereducated and underemployed youths is a hemispheric challenge that can only be solved by cooperative action among member states. Far too many youths are uneducated and unemployed, exacerbating the poverty rate, and increasing all levels of crime. To address this challenge, programs like YSD have been implemented successfully in some areas to help offer young people more opportunities and hope. Training and educating the youth of the Hemisphere will bring about long term benefits that outweigh the costs which these programs incur.

The Delegation of Chile, armed with ideas drawn from initiatives of the Bachelet administration and other international efforts, looks forward to working with fellow member states to tackle, this problem. Solving this problem will benefit not only the youth, but will strengthen our democracies with newly educated and economically productive citizens.

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

Although the OAS Charter was written in 1948, the Republic of Chile believes that Chapter 1 Article 2(f), establishing one of the main purposes of the organization: “To promote, by cooperative action, their (member states) economic, social, and cultural development. . . .” provides a clear mandate for the goal of improving hemispheric energy efficiency. The OAS has done much to further alternative energy in the Hemisphere by launching an initiative called Energy and Climate Partnership of the Americas (ECPA), whose goal is to make clean energy a more affordable alternative to fossil fuels and other nonrenewable resources.[[27]](#endnote-27)

The Republic of Chile fully supports the ECPA and the goal of making clean energy an available and affordable alternative to traditional energy sources. The Bachelet administration has worked tirelessly to develop and implement clean energy alternatives, and is currently expanding the state’s energy infrastructure. In 2014, nine percent of the state’s energy was provided by alternative means.[[28]](#endnote-28) This energy production sector is growing, with a legislated goal of twenty percent of the state’s energy coming from renewable means in 2025.[[29]](#endnote-29) In addition to more traditional alternative energy sources, such as windmills and solar panels, Chile also has great geothermal potential. With fifteen percent of the world’s volcanoes and eight percent of the world’s geysers, it is estimated that Chile possesses the capacity to produce 16,000 MW of geothermal power.[[30]](#endnote-30) Additionally, the Chilean government has a department known as the Chilean National Energy Commission (CCEN). The CCEN is dedicated expanding the renewable energy system in Chile. In 2009, Chilean Minister of Energy Marcelo Tokman Ramos signed a Memorandum of Cooperation between the United States of America and Chile. It establishes the structure necessary for both states to cooperate on expanding renewable energy in the Hemisphere. In 2014, President Bachelet and President Barack Hussein Obama met in Washington D.C. to cement further the cooperation between the two countries. Through all of these initiatives, President Bachelet has worked to make Chile energy efficient and renewable. The Delegation of Chile hopes to follow these initiatives increasing the amount of renewable energy to preserve the Hemisphere’s resources for future generations. Fortunately, there are many areas in the Hemisphere with ample potential for alternative energy. The long-term benefits of switching to clean energy far outweigh the short-term costs. The Delegation of Chile looks forward to working with other member states to explore cooperative efforts to expand alternative energy potentials in the Hemisphere. It is confident that these efforts will allow states to continue to prosper economically while meeting their energy needs and

preserving the environment. Such measures to preserve both growth and our natural heritage are critical for the survival of representative democracy.

**C. Committee: Secretariat for Multidimensional Security (SMS)**

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

The Republic of Chile has always supported the OAS goal of “strengthening the peace and security of the continent” as stated in the Charter.[[31]](#endnote-31) As part of this effort, Chile supports the effort to “achieve an effective limitation of conventional weapons that will make it possible to devote the largest amount of resources to the economic and social development of the Member States,” as stated in Chapter 1 Article 2.[[32]](#endnote-32) Chile further supports conventions such as the Inter-American Convention on Transparency in Conventional Weapons Acquisitions. The committee’s goal to “contribute more fully to regional openness and transparency in the acquisition of conventional weapons” is a crucial and necessary measure needed within the Hemisphere.[[33]](#endnote-33) The OAS has repeatedly taken actions to inform the body of the importance of these measures, reminding its member states of the “deep concern felt by citizens and governments at the dire levels of violence and insecurity” as stated by Secretary General José Miguel Insulza at the Seminar on Illicit Trafficking in Firearms in 2012.[[34]](#endnote-34) Taking into account these goals set forth by the OAS, the Delegation of Chile would like to express its concerns relating to the increased reports of gun violence across the Hemisphere.

In order to address these findings, Chile has partaken in discussions with fellow member states. In 1997, Chile signed the Inter-American Convention Against the Illicit Manufacturing of and Trafficking in Firearms, Ammunition, Explosives, and Other-Related Materials to promote the population’s safety in order to “achieve effective control of firearms.” [[35]](#endnote-35) In 2001, Chile also committed to the United Nation’s Programme of Action to Prevent, Combat, and Eradicate the Illicit Trade in Small Arms and Light Weapons in All Its Aspects. Recognizing the call to “put in place and implement adequate laws, regulations, and administrative procedures to ensure the effective control over the export and transit of small arms and light weapons.”[[36]](#endnote-36)

Through these efforts, the Republic of Chile has attempted to address the spreading scourge of gun violence across the Hemisphere. The Bachelet administration’s approach to gun violence is to place citizen safety first and foremost in the equation. In 2012, a campaign educating the people on gun ownership and responsibility resulted in the voluntary destruction of over 5,000 guns, half of which were legally registered.[[37]](#endnote-37) The procedure for legally obtaining a gun is an extensive process under Chilean regulations, which require registry through the national firearm authority, a psychiatric evaluation, and successful completion of an exam on usage and maintenance.[[38]](#endnote-38) In 2015, President Bachelet signed new laws that implemented stipulations on sale and registration, and introduced penalties for illicitly made or bought guns.[[39]](#endnote-39)

The Delegation of Chile believes that these requirements are necessary to ensure the safety of all citizens across the Hemisphere and hopes, that with cooperation from fellow member states, the committee can create effective solutions to this pressing issue which will result in an atmosphere of safer democracy. The Republic of Chile looks forward to participating in the hemispheric discussion of the pertinent issue that is gun safety and regulation standards.

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

The OAS declares one of its main purposes in Chapter 1 Article 2(a), to be “to strengthen the peace and security of the continent”[[40]](#endnote-40). While juvenile delinquency has always been a concern in the Hemisphere, reducing its occurrence has become increasingly important as the Hemisphere has moved towards establishing democracy as a hemisphere-wide norm. The OAS has established a special office under the Inter-American Commission on Human Rights (IACHR) dealing with all issues concerning children, including delinquency. The Rappoureturship has documented the occurrence of delinquency in each member state and has expressed concern regarding this matter in some states. This document reported statistics of each country and brought to nations’ attention their need for improvement in juvenile delinquency laws. The Delegation of Chile hopes for this document to encourage member states to address the situations that the Comission presented.

Chile has a juvenile delinquency rate that fluctuates between three to five percent, which is considerably low, when compared to other countries of its size.[[41]](#endnote-41) Nevertheless in keeping up with the spirit of peace and cooperation established, the Bachelet administration has adopted its laws to comply with international legal standards relevant to children’s education. Furthermore, the country has taken an active stance to prevent and reduce this phenomenon in its homeland, by introducing “reforms to its juvenile justice system with the aim of complying more fully with international and domestic legal standards relevant to children’s education.”[[42]](#endnote-42) Chile is also proud to report that over fifty-five percent of juvenile delinquency cases are resolved in less than one month, while many cases tend to have longer court durations, due to appeals and bureaucratic procedures.[[43]](#endnote-43)

There are both public and private organizations working in Chile, that have taken an interest in juvenile delinquency and the protection of the youth. The Fundación Paz Ciudadana, an NGO, is working to protect the constitutional rights of citizens through public policy. This organization has taken an interest in juvenile delinquency. It has targeted issues, such as violence in the household, lack of education, poverty, and other influencing factors. On the government side, branches such as the Servicio Nacional de Menores (SENAME), have discovered that the most common age for delinquency occurs between 13 and 15 years of age. SENAME has deployed different methods ranging from prevention to detention, to ensure that children are discouraged from participating in criminal activities, and directing them to take part in wholesome activities.

The Delegation of Chile reflects the concern of the Bachelet government to reduce juvenile delinquency through innovative and effective solutions that can be applied across the Hemisphere. It is deeply disturbed by the growing rate of juvenile delinquency in the Hemisphere. Additionally, it hopes that through transnational cooperation and integration of ideals, the member states can combat this situation. The Chilean delegation remains confident that the solution lies in creating a more engaging educational experience for the youth, and opening up new opportunities for productive lives. In this way, these programs will help fulfill the promise of a democratic society for all.

**D. Committee: Secretariat for Strengthening Democracy (SSD)**

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

As part of the efforts to strengthen democracy, the OAS has made progress in the last decade to ensure that all citizens of the Hemisphere live free from racially motivated discrimination or violence. In 2005, the IACHR established the Rapporteurship on the Rights of Persons of African Descent and Against Racial Discrimination, “charged with dedicating itself to activities of stimulating, systematizing, reinforcing and consolidating the action of the Inter-American Commission on the Rights of Persons of African Descent and against Racial Discrimination.”[[44]](#endnote-44) The creation of this Rapporteurship illustrated both the recognition of the discrimination that Afro-descendants have faced as well as the commitment to protecting the rights of this disadvantaged group. Beyond this measure, the OAS adopted the Inter-American Convention Against Racism, Racial Discrimination and Related Forms of Intolerance in 2013, which affirms that “Every human being is equal under the law and has a right to equal protection against racism, racial discrimination, and related forms of intolerance in any sphere of life, public or private.”[[45]](#endnote-45) Additionally, at the Forty-Sixth Regular Session of the General Assembly this year, the OAS also adopted the American Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples, which states that “indigenous peoples and persons have the right to the full enjoyment of all human rights and fundamental freedoms, as recognized in the Charter of the United Nations, the Charter of the Organization of American States and international human rights law.”[[46]](#endnote-46)

The Republic of Chile has been taking steps towards eliminating discrimination and violence that its citizens face on racial grounds. In July of 2012, an anti-discrimination law was passed which not only strengthened penalties against discrimination and hate crimes, but also provided citizens with the means to seek legal remedies in cases of perceived discrimination.[[47]](#endnote-47) Chile has also affirmed its support for the extension of due human rights to all persons, regardless of ethnic or national status, migrants included.[[48]](#endnote-48) Last year, the Bachelet administration approved new legislation prohibiting acts of discrimination or racism by fans or football clubs to promote tolerance and protect the proper spirit of friendly international competition and sport.[[49]](#endnote-49)

The Delegation of Chile supports OAS initiatives that provide for greater capabilities for educational and social initiatives, which promote tolerance within member states. The delegation pledges to work with other member states to establish programs that will encourage greater interaction between persons across ethnic and racial lines, with the aim of combating prejudiced attitudes which establish themselves in adolescence. Through these measures, the delegation hopes to further the OAS vision of a fully democratic Hemisphere where all individuals, regardless of race, are permitted access to their full human and civil rights under the law.

**Topic B: Promoting Civil Registration & the Right to Identify**

The Republic of Chile affirms the measures that the OAS has taken to ensure all the Hemisphere’s residents are able to acquire the rights of citizenship through registration with their home governments. Work done in this area has been supervised by the Universal Civil Identity Project of the Americas (PUICA), which is an organization under the Secretariat for Strengthening Democracy (SSD).[[50]](#endnote-50) The five objectives of the organization are: universalization and accessibility of civil registration and the right to identity, strengthening policies, public institutions and legislation, participation and awareness, identification of best practices, and international and regional cooperation.[[51]](#endnote-51) Some of the ways that PUICA fulfills these objectives are, “by providing assistance in professional training, technological modernization, and by promoting the exchange of good practices among institutions through workshops and virtual forums.”[[52]](#endnote-52) The OAS recognizes that civil registration and the right to an identity are fundamental for well-being and social inclusion: “A child without a birth certificate is less likely to receive an education and healthcare and more likely to be neglected or exploited.”[[53]](#endnote-53) Since 2010, PUICA has implemented projects across the Hemisphere in 17 member states in Central America, South America, and the Caribbean.[[54]](#endnote-54) The five strategic areas that PUICA has focused on in its registration efforts are: hospital birth registration, mobile campaigns in border areas, reconstruction of destroyed records, institutional interoperability and database security, and horizontal cooperation and identification of successful practices.[[55]](#endnote-55)

The civil registration system in Chile is administered by the executive branch through the Department of Justice with the help of 429 regional offices.[[56]](#endnote-56) Additionally, the country is divided into 13 administrative provinces to make the registration of citizens easier and more accessible.[[57]](#endnote-57) Births, marriages, and deaths are the main registration functions, but other vital statistics are often also recorded.[[58]](#endnote-58) Chile has an extensive bureaucratic structure to facilitate civil registration. The Bachelet administration is proud of its longstanding and efficient system for registration, but recognizes that there is always progress to be made. As in many other member states, the highest concentration of unregistered people is in rural areas. With assistance from PUICA, Chile hopes to raise registration numbers. Currently, however, Chile does not face the kind of challenges to universal registration that other states do. Nevertheless, Chile believes that universal registration in the Hemisphere is critical for strengthening democracy and therefore it hopes to contribute solutions to facilitate universal registration.

In accordance with the OAS pillars of increasing the efficiency and legitimacy of representative democracy and eradicating extreme poverty, the Delegation of Chile wishes to highlight the importance of PUICA’s efforts, and seeks to restructure the goals of PUICA to help the organization more effectively meet its goals. [[59]](#endnote-59) In addition to the work PUICA has already done, the Delegation of Chile hopes to include the importance of offering civil registration to indigenous peoples. By doing so, the Delegation of Chile hopes that social services may be more efficiently provided to these peoples, and representative democracy may grow stronger as a result.

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

**Topic A: Budgetary Statements**

The Republic of Chile appreciates the international cooperation that the OAS embodies and the honor of being able to join in the work that the OAS does. The Delegation of Chile looks forward to cooperating with fellow member states to solve dilemmas within the Hemisphere and work toward the preservation and improvement of human rights, development, security, and democracy. The Bachelet administration recognizes that the OAS has a limited amount of funding that cannot be equally applied to all resolutions passed by the body. While the Republic of Chile applauds the body for addressing such pressing topics, Chile posits that there are several central issues that command increased attention and funding in order to ensure efficient asset allocation and maximize the good accomplished in the Hemisphere by the OAS. The most crucial issue for the Summit of the Americas to address in 2016 is improving the wellbeing of juveniles in the Hemisphere as well as curbing violence against several demographics.

The Republic of Chile affirms that the youth are the future of the Hemisphere, and without substantial improvements in the educational and social environments of the youth today, the prospects for a Hemisphere with equality and rights for all will cease to exist. In the absence of adequate education for today’s youth, there will be a lack of innovation and initiative from the economic and political leaders of tomorrow. The OAS Charter states, “The Member States will give primary importance within their development plans to the encouragement of education,” which clearly highlights the necessity of investment in programs that remedy the cultural precedent of artificial limitations.[[60]](#endnote-60)

A major threat to human rights is unchecked violence against certain individuals and needs to be addressed by the OAS more directly. Several types of violence persist in the Hemisphere and deserve greater attention from the OAS to achieve the affected demographics a more secure standing in society. The two categories are violence against women and racial violence. The perpetuation of these types of violence lowers the quality of life within each member state. The OAS must invest more in this issue to insure proper protections are in place to guarantee human rights for all. Improving social conditions through enhanced citizen security and improved education not only protects two crucial pillars of the OAS, prosperity and security, but also insures that the youth of the Americas will be ready to assume their adult responsibilities as good citizens.

Through wise investments and cautious fiscal policies the OAS can eliminate obstacles in the path to realizing a Hemisphere of harmonious states firmly situated on the pillars of equality, human rights, and democracy. During the 2016 Summit of the Americas, the Delegation of Chile looks forward to collaboration with fellow member states on measures to fund resolutions to fund crucial reforms for the good of the Hemisphere.

**Endnotes**

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