



**Committee:** Organisation of American States (OAS)

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## I. Crisis Committee

### a) What is a crisis committee?

A crisis committee differs greatly from traditional MUN committees; they follow different protocol and participants have no previous knowledge of the topics being discussed. Typically, a crisis committee consists of 24 participants and is led by three Chairs who are responsible for monitoring the flow of the debate.

Unlike traditional committees, crisis committees are affected by real-time decisions and events that take place in the outside world. While in session, the debate may be interrupted by breaking news bulletins, special guests or the introduction of new evidence. Participants must be able to utilize their critical thinking, leadership and speaking skills because a decision made during one session could alter the course of the debate and create new problems.

During ISRMUN, participants in crisis committees are referred to as representatives. These participants represent their nation and take into consideration the country's culture, economy, religion and foreign policy.

### b) How does a crisis committee work?

A crisis committee is divided into two types of sessions: moderated and unmoderated. Crisis topics are introduced and built upon during the moderated

caucus. Representatives have the opportunity to view and question evidence and resources during this time. This part of the committee is moderated by the Chair and representatives must raise their placards to speak. Proposals to solve a crisis are negotiated during the unmoderated caucus. This section of the debate is timed but allows representatives to speak freely amongst themselves to reach a consensus.

## **II. History of the Organization of American States**

### **a) What is the Organization of American States?**

The Organization of American States (OAS) was established on April 30th, 1948 in order to promote and support collaboration within countries located in the Americas. According to its Charter, the OAS aims to achieve and secure democracy, human rights, security, and development in all of its member states through the use of “political dialogue, inclusiveness, cooperation, and legal instruments” (OAS, 2017).

Since its creation, the OAS has been involved in conflict resolution to aid and support countries located in the Americas. With an emphasis on preventing terrorism and boosting cybersecurity, the organization has helped its member states through “technical assistance and training, policy roundtables, crisis management exercises, and the exchange of best practices related to information and communication technologies.” Moreover, the OAS led Inter-American Committee Against Terrorism has played an important role in preventing terrorism within the region and is considered a model for other organizations involved in counter-terrorism (OAS Topics, 2016).

## **b) The Organization of American States' relationship with the United Nations**

The OAS has a close working relationship with the United Nations (UN). In November 1996, the UN General Assembly passed resolution 51/4 which called for collaboration between the UN and the OAS in order to strengthen the organization's capacity to promote democracy for peace, security, and development (UN, 1997). Since then, the OAS has been a significant contributing member to UN agencies such as the Department of Political Affairs (UNDPA), the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP), UN Women and the UN Democracy Fund (UNDEF).

Currently, the OAS is collaborating with the UN to achieve the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) by 2030. The SDGs are seventeen "global goals" that aim to eradicate poverty and world hunger, and promote gender equality, strong governmental institutions and equal access to justice. The OAS has placed an emphasis on the third goal which focuses on good health and well-being. Together with the World Health Organization (WHO) and the Pan American Health Organization (PAHO), the OAS is working to improve access to health care facilities and treatment in Central and South America (OAS, 2016).

## **c) The Organization of American States' current issues**

In addition to its work in achieving the Sustainable Development Goals, the OAS is committed to working with other regional organizations to combat international crime, narcotics trafficking and money laundering. However, the organization currently faces many challenges in reaching its goals. Severe budget restraints and political differences have left the OAS unable to respond to events in a

timely manner. In addition, the OAS has been accused by Human Rights Watch and Amnesty International of being complicit in human rights abuses in countries such as Honduras, Venezuela and Nicaragua (Curtis, UN, 2016).

One of the organization's most pressing issues is the political and financial situation in Venezuela has triggered a migration crisis with an estimated five million people fleeing in the country to Colombia, Chile, Peru and Ecuador. As a result, the OAS has committed to establishing a regional framework for the reception and treatment of migrants (Baddour, Al Jazeera, 2019). In connection, OAS has also created a Working Group which has been tasked with alleviating the crisis. The group has proposed several solutions to the crisis including the creation of regional identity cards for migrants. Its first report was issued in June 2019 and its content is expected to be debated throughout 2020 (OAS Working Group, OAS, 2020).

### III. Quorum

- Argentina
- Barbados
- Bolivia
- Brazil
- Canada
- Chile
- Colombia
- Costa Rica
- Cuba
- Dominican Republic

- Ecuador
- El Salvador
- Guatemala
- Haiti
- Honduras
- Jamaica
- Mexico
- Nicaragua
- Panama
- Paraguay
- Peru
- Trinidad and Tobago
- United States
- Uruguay
- Venezuela

#### **IV. Topics of Interest**

Formal position papers are not required of crisis committee participants. However, in order to prepare for the simulation, representatives are encouraged to research the following topics:

- Terrorism in Paraguay
- Anti-government protests in Haiti
- Corruption within the General Assembly of the Organization of American States
- Persecution of indigenous transgender women in Mexico

- Cuba–United States relations

## V. Resources

Baddour, Dylan. "Five things to watch for at the OAS General Assembly in Colombia." Al Jazeera. Al Jazeera Media Network, 25 Jun. 2019. Web. 26 Dec. 2019. <<https://www.aljazeera.com/news/2019/06/watch-oas-general-assembly-colombia-190625135103958.html>>.

Curtis, Kimberly. "The Organization of American States is in Crisis. This Matters Big Time." UN Dispatch. United Nations (UN). United Nations, 17 Jun. 2016. Web. 31 Jan. 2017. <<http://www.undispatch.com/why-you-should-be-paying-attention-to-the/>>.

"OAS and PAHO to Cooperate on Implementation of 2030 Sustainable Development Goals." Organization of American States (OAS). Organization of American States, 19 Aug. 2016. Web. 20 Dec. 2016. <[http://www.oas.org/en/media\\_center/press\\_release.asp?sCodigo=E-086/16](http://www.oas.org/en/media_center/press_release.asp?sCodigo=E-086/16)>.

"OAS Topics." Organization of American States (OAS). Organization of American States, 2016. Web. 20 Dec. 2016. <<http://www.oas.org/en/topics/default.asp>>.

"OAS Working Group on Venezuelan Migrants Urges Granting Refugee Status and Creation of Regional Identity Card." Organization of American States (OAS). Organization of American States, 28 Jun. 2019. Web. 16 Dec. 2019. <[https://www.oas.org/en/media\\_center/press\\_release.asp?sCodigo=E-048/19](https://www.oas.org/en/media_center/press_release.asp?sCodigo=E-048/19)>.

"Organization of American States: Who We Are." Organization of American States (OAS). Organization of American States, 2017. Web. 20 Dec. 2016. <[http://www.oas.org/en/about/who\\_we\\_are.asp](http://www.oas.org/en/about/who_we_are.asp)>.

"Secretary-General Supports Broadening United Nations 'Excellent Working Relationship' With OAS." United Nations (UN). United Nations, 18 Jun. 1997. Web. 31 Jan. 2017. <<http://www.un.org/press/en/1997/19970618.sgsm6264.html>>.