



OAS SPECIAL MISSION

**DALE
2019**



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INTRODUCTION



What is the OAS Special Mission?

The Organization of American States (OAS) promotes and helps maintain the economic, military, and cultural cooperation of its members. The Special Mission is a section of the OAS that focuses on providing institutional support along with aid and solutions to ongoing problems. It works by training its personnel and appointing secretaries to develop internal tools and procedures to maximize the efficiency diplomacy and democracy amongst its country delegates. Furthermore, it assists members in developing tools to better the dialogue to solve local and international social issues.

The Special Mission section aids in two main fields:

By providing support to soliciting members to strengthen internal capacity of the OAS

By improving their institutional capacity by aiding in the prevention, management, and resolution of social conflicts.

DIRECTOR'S LETTERS



Dear delegates,

It is with great honor that I welcome you to the VII DALE Conference. My name is Claudio Rosales, and I have the honor of serving as the conference's vice president and Director of English Committees. I personally invite you to make the most out of the DALE experience, as it has the power to change you the way it changed me. The conference has helped me grow as a person and a debater, and it has helped me develop several skills that will be useful in my future, specially public speaking and teamwork. I have worked day and night to make this conference as unforgettable as possible, and I assure you that you will enjoy it. Delegates this year will have the opportunity to debate in multiple topics ranging from the cabinet of the Brazilian president Jair Bolsonaro, to more traditional topics such as weapons regulation in the OAS or legal troubles in Court. I truly hope that this experience helps you grow the way it has helped me, and keep in mind that DALE is not only a competition, but also a learning experience.

Please do not hesitate in reaching out to your co-chairs, myself, or the rest of the staff if you have any doubts.

Kindest of regards,

Claudio Rosales

carosales@ans.edu.ni



DIRECTOR'S LETTERS



Hello Delegates,

We are Susan Castellon and Chiara Pilato and we will be your chairs at this year's DALE conference of. As chairs, we are very excited to work and help every single one of you. Our goal is to get all delegates to work together as analytical, intuitive and strategic individuals, to find solutions that will hopefully eradicate the problems in a hopefully near future. We want to ensure the best debating experience possible and make this a memorable committee for everyone of the delegates.

Susan is a creative and determined person who enjoys joking around and helping others as much as she can. She believes that everyone has something that makes them special, and hopes to bring that out in all the people she helps. She enjoys long dangerous hikes and is a total theater kid. No matter what you can always come to her if you have any questions.

Chiara is a sophomore studying at St. Augustine Preparatory School. During her free time she can be found at the golf course or at home playing with her family and friends. As an extroverted person, she enjoys meeting new people and making new friends everywhere she goes. During the conference you can always consider her your go-to person for any questions you might have.

Sincerely,

Susan Castellon and Chiara Luna Pilato

(Scastellon@ans.edu.ni) and (chiara_pilato@csa.edu.ni)

Co-Chairs, OAS Special Mission.




POWERS OF THE COMMITTEE



Chapter XVII, Article 126, of the Charter of the Organization of American States, declares that the OAS Special Mission may function in full autonomy as long as the constraints and parameters set forth by the General Assembly and the Council are kept in mind. Therefore, it is obliged to take direct action when assessing a problem regarding its members - taking actions necessary to establish and promote democracy, human rights, development, and security throughout the nation states.

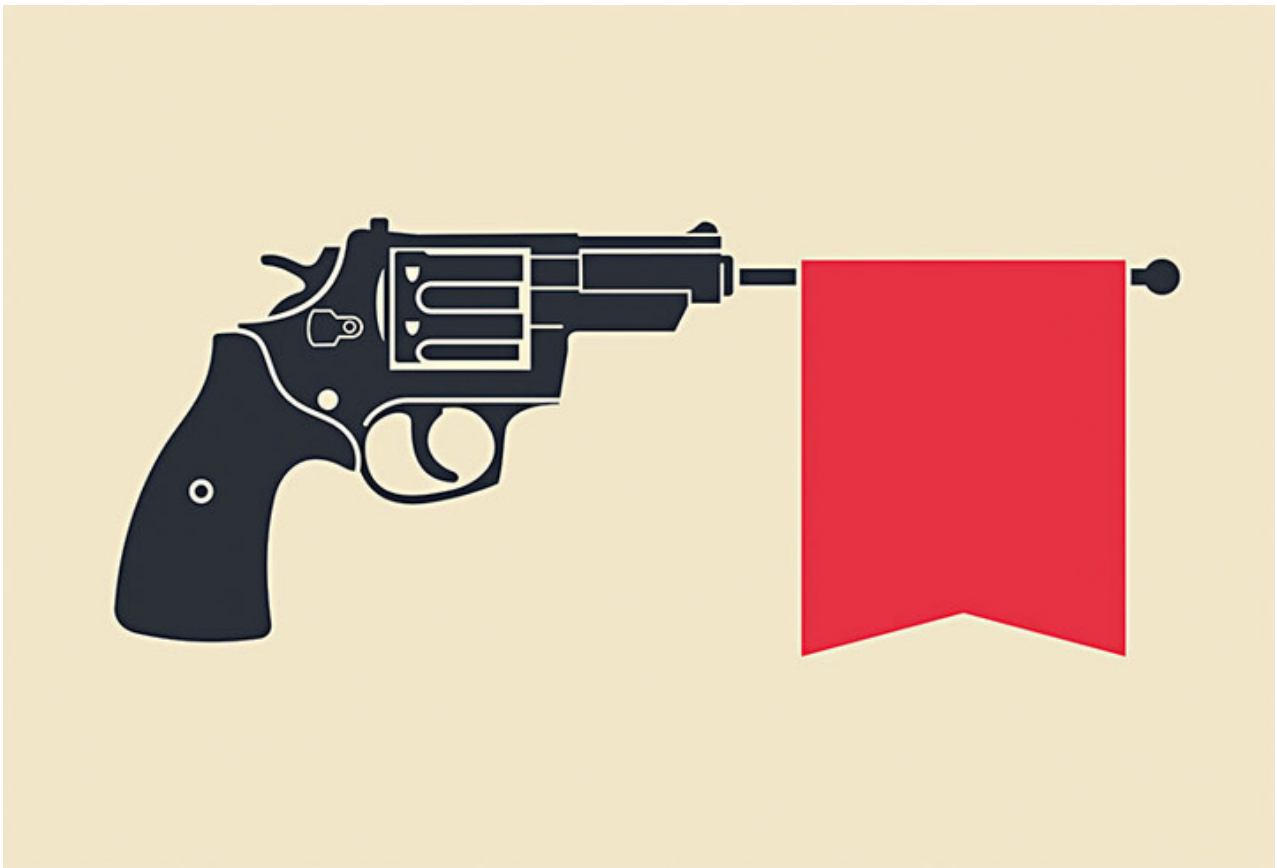
The gravity of these problems is decided first by the committee and then assessed during the debates in order to generate the best and most viable solutions for this problem. It is essential to understand that even though the OAS is in fact an organization with the countries of Latin America and the Caribbean (LAC), nothing can be forced upon any other countries unless it is a strict and essential regulation. In that case it is allowed to include monthly or yearly monitorings of said regulations to aid the participation and collaborations of all countries. In the resolution papers the delegations are allowed to make firm suggestions, but unless a country/delegations is directly violating its people's rights and/or threatening national and/or international security then the OAS will most likely not force any delegation.



TOPIC A:



SECURITY AND FIREARMS REGULATIONS




INTRODUCTION



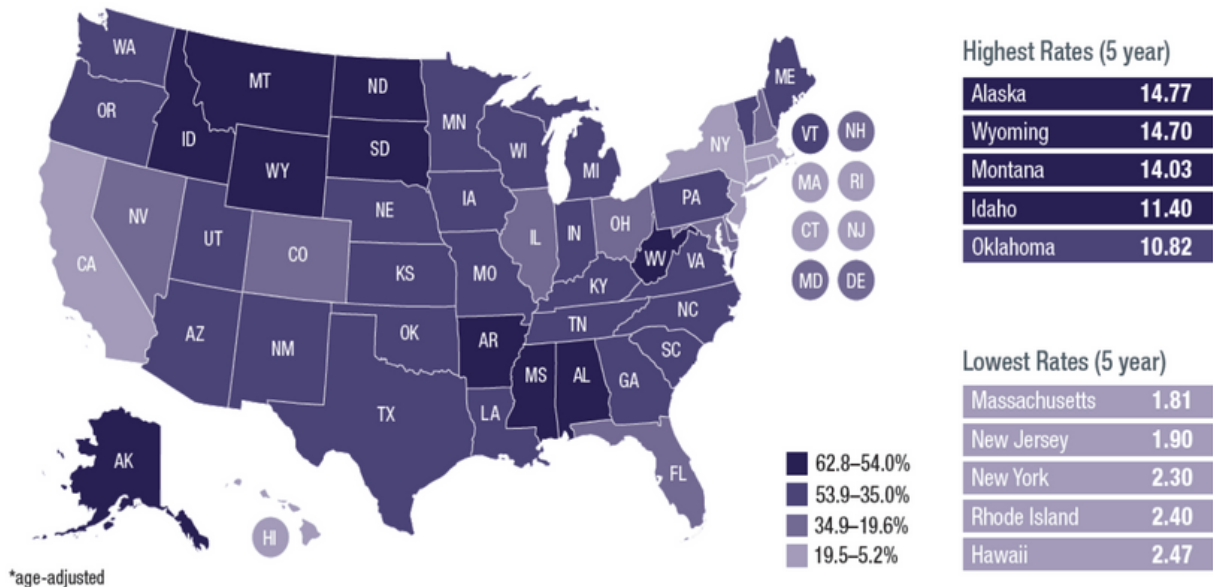
In the United States alone, guns have accounted for more deaths in the last 18 years than the whole 20th century. Confusion rose around the topic of how and why the people have the right to bear arms. Controversy surrounds the reading of the Second Amendment to the United States Constitution, "A well regulated Militia, being necessary to the security of a free State, the right of the people to keep and bear Arms, shall not be infringed," leaves room for speculation on to what exactly is meant by "well-regulated militia". These confusions, combined with the fact that background checks are often not done thoroughly or omitted all together, along with individual state legislation, means that only 14 states require permits to own a gun, is why gun violence is one of the leading causes of death in the U.S.

The fact that 74% of the shootings have been carried out by teenagers or young adults through a gun obtained legally goes to show how easy it is for them to access guns¹. As years go by, not only are shootings becoming more frequent, but they are also becoming deadlier. Recorded as the first mass shooting in U.S history, in 1949, Howard Unruh opened fire on 13 people he found while he walked his "Walk of Death," a tragedy that would soon become infamous amongst American citizens. In January of 2019 alone, there have already been 21 mass shootings, 37 deaths and more than 60 people injured. Not only are guns responsible for the death of over 1.4 million people, but additionally, from 2006 until 2016 suicides caused by firearms have increased by 21%. A study carried out by the Harvard School of Public Health reveals that states in which guns were prevalent in households, there are higher rates of suicide.



INTRODUCTION

Figure 3: Statewide Gun Ownership and Firearm Suicide Rates*



Casualties are not the only consequences left by gun violence, the victims and survivors of gun violence are often left with severe psychological wounds.

Mass shootings are the first and leading cause of Posttraumatic Stress Disorder (PTSD) among children. Disrupting senses of security make people, especially children, more prone to the development of mood disorders and anxiety. As representatives of the American States that compose the OAS, it is your duty to restore order, ensure regulations and promote security among the citizens of your nations.

In the next few pages of your bulletin you will learn how gun laws and public security have evolved to where they are now, and what the current problem is.

Aside from that, you will also be given instructions as to what to take in as the most important information, as well as a set of questions that must be answered during the debate.

TOPIC IN CONTEXT



Over the years, major gun control laws have been created and changed. In 1871, the National Rifle Association (NRA) was founded, with the purpose of preparing for war. However, it has continued to rally against legislation passing laws and reforms that enforce stricter gun control and regulations over the years.

Although the NRA has supported laws such as “The National Firearms Act” (1934), “The Federal Firearms Act” (1938) and “The Mulford Act” (1967) which enforced gun regulations, it has also influenced the issuing of the “Firearms Owners Protection Act”, which implies that gun owners must keep approved applications to getting firearms, available for inspection by officers. After the assassinations of national leaders, the White House had issued a gun registry for all gun carries, however, due to pressure from the NRA, the proposal was blocked, and instead a law was introduced enforcing all guns to have a serial number.

In 1986, after restrictions on buying and transferring firearms had been passed by congress, the NRA donated \$1.4 million to congressional candidates, and the restrictions were thereby limited. Another case of NRA discontent was when the “Violent Crime and Law Enforcement Act” passed a ten-year ban on the gun of choice for gun owners, the AR-15, which caused great discontent with NRA members.

Such anger from the NRA, because of economic losses, comes from the fact that one of the most used firearms by the public is the AR-15, as seen in December 2012 Sandy Hook Elementary School shooting, one of the deadliest school

TOPIC IN CONTEXT




shootings in U.S history. In Connecticut, 20-year-old Adam Lanza entered the Elementary School with his AR-15, along with two automatic pistols and a shotgun. Using the AR-15 as his main firearm, he took the lives of 20 children, mostly between the age of six and seven, as well as six adults. This tragedy sparked once again the issue with the Second Amendment and a particularly the AR-15, a gun that had been banned by U.S. Congress in 1994, but by 2004, the law had lapsed. President Barack Obama stated that stricter gun control laws would be implemented, to which the NRA responded by introducing armed guards in all American schools. Consequently, the “Assault Weapons Ban” was proposed in 2013, to which the NRA started its “Stop the Gun Ban” campaign, which proved victorious as the Government’s proposal was defeated in the Senate.

Since the Sandy Hook shooting in 2012, there have been a further 1,935 mass shootings, in which more than 2,195 people have been killed and leaving more than 8,103 wounded.

Another incident, considered the deadliest shooting in the state’s history, is the Texas Church shooting of 2017. On the fifth of November of 2017, a former Air Force member, 26-year-old Devin Patrick Kelley opened fire at a Baptist church in Texas. Using a Ruger AR-15 variant he killed 26 people, including an unborn child, and wounding at least 20.

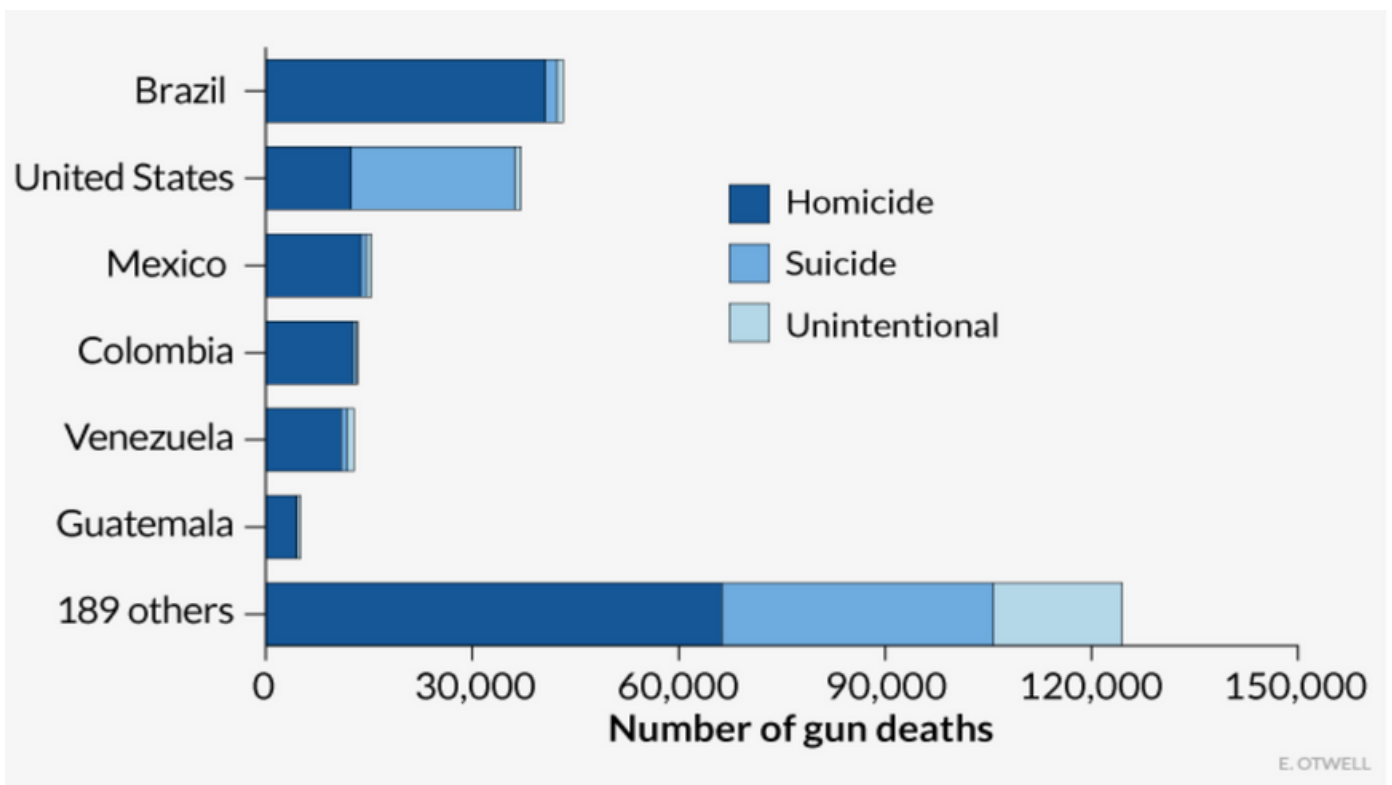
Current U.S president Donald Trump, referred to this event as a “mental health problem at the highest level” without addressing once the gun control problem and need for gun regulation.



TOPIC IN CONTEXT

Yet another school shooting that remarked the importance of the much-needed gun regulations was the Parkland School shooting of 2018: On February 14, 2018, 19 year old Nikolas Cruz opened fire at his former school, Stoneman Douglas High School, taking the lives of 17 teenagers and wounding 14 people with an AR-15 semi-automatic rifle. Once again, President Donald Trump tweeted: “Many signs the Florida shooter was mentally disturbed.” not addressing the need for gun regulations.

These gun violence issues are not only a concern in the United States. The six countries that make up half of the gun violence-related deaths worldwide are United States, Guatemala, Venezuela, Colombia, Mexico, and Brazil.



CRUX OF THE DEBATE



Many other subtopics and issues will be brought up by delegates of the nations, however, delegates must remember and focus on the fact that gun violence is an issue that affects millions of people, not only in the American States, but worldwide. With 44% of Americans stating that they've known someone who has been shot, it's clear that this problem is an urgent matter and should be dealt with the utmost seriousness by all delegates. Countries such as the U.S.A find themselves in a challenging position because of strong factions such as the NRA. The problem with this organizations is that they remain focused on the economic gains they obtain every time a gun is bought, however, every time a gun is bought , it's a step closer to a society in which every citizen owns a gun. Countries must work together to avoid corruption and promote equality, security, and democracy. Working on solutions for these gun violence-related issues will bring all countries closer to nations in which citizens are no longer afraid to go to school and can feel safe in their own homes. Movements and campaigns have been created to advocate stricter gun control and regulations, the most recent and prominent in the U.S. is the Never Again campaign. Created by Parkland teens who witnessed the tragedy that took place in their school, they decided to make a change and take a stand. Teens publicly criticized the NRA for the influence and toll it had taken on the nation's gun laws. Creating the campaign just days after the shooting, teenagers demanded new assault weapons bans, universal and effective background checks and digitized gun ownership records. March For Our Lives s took place on March 24 in Washington D.C, a march planned by the students of Parkland High School to rally against gun violence, more than



CRUX OF THE DEBATE



800,000 people attended.

There has still been no major change in gun laws, however, which The fact that there has still been no major change in gun laws, however, means that gun crime, and the subsequent death-toll, continues to rise.

No person should feel unsafe in their home, or their school. Citizens should feel secure and know for a fact that their government is doing everything possible to fight corrupt companies that put economic gains before people's security. Will countries face economic losses, even cut diplomatic relations with other nations? It is up to you delegates, to find viable solutions and to take any action necessary to ensure the security and tranquility of all citizens of your nation.



QUESTIONS TO ASK



As the debate reaches its climax, you will be asked to provide a Resolution Paper that addresses all of the problems. Answering these questions during the debate will be key to succeeding in bringing a resolution.

According to your country, should this issue even be discussed? If so, how can your country help? With which country should you ally to solve this issue?

Is a uniform consensus between all countries on this matter reachable?

How will the solutions stated be promoted by all sides and perspectives on the argument of gun regulations?

How should people affected by PTSD and victims of gun violence be ensured that no more acts of violence will happen near them?

Will all ethnicities and cultural groups be protected and incorporated in the solutions to the gun violence problems?

What mistakes from the past can nations keep in mind to not repeat again?

What services should governments offer to their citizens, victims of gun violence?



QUESTIONS TO ASK



How will countries that don't have the means to regulate or reform their laws and security be able to participate and append the solutions discussed in their countries?

How can international cooperations aid the process of promoting security within nations?

How will the U.S. delegation react and incorporate viable solutions brought up during the sessions if most U.S citizens already own a gun?

Will all citizens have to go through a background check even after years of owning a firearm?

How will corruption in government and loopholes in legislation be addressed?

What educational initiatives could be installed to promote security in countries?

Up to what extent can police try to protect citizens without violating their basic human rights or privacy?



CONCLUSION



As stated before, the topic of gun safety and regulation was gingerly discussed and chosen because of its importance and regional impact. Although most of the information for Topic A is based around the United States, that doesn't mean this is the only nation affected by these problems. Many other nations that are part of the OAS struggle with gun violence every day. Around the world, families are victims of gun-related crimes. As the conference draws closer and closer, you, as a delegate of your nation, will have to find ways in which every citizen of your nation is protected from corruption and gun violence. You must take every action possible to stop the suffering of thousands of people; and by changing the legislation and laws of your nations through democracy, the Organization of American States will be one step closer to a community of nations in which people no longer are victims of cruel tragedies such as mass shootings or any other gun related crime.

TOPIC B:



URBANIZATION HAZARDS IN LATIN AMERICA

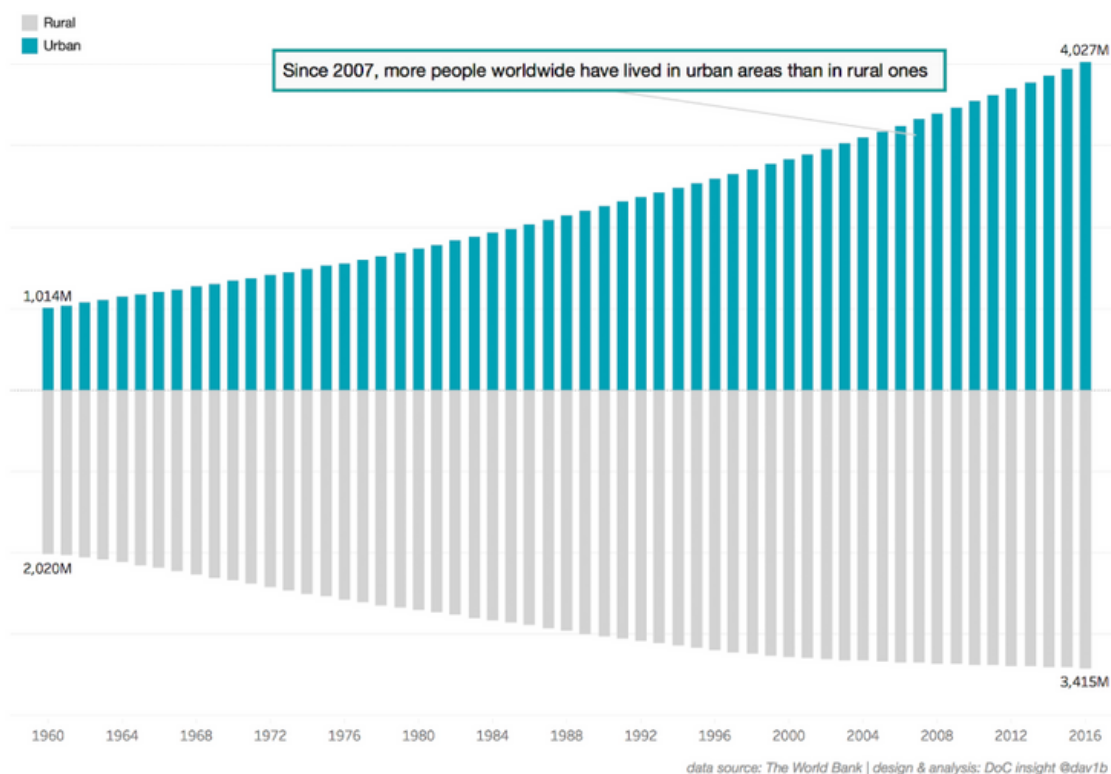


INTRODUCTION



The topic of Urbanization Hazards in Latin America was thoroughly discussed and chosen due to the substantial impact it has, and will continue to have, on society and individuals. Countries of Latin America have failed to manage appropriately their urban development, therefore, this region will be your main focus for the debate.

In the last 50 years Latin American urbanization has grown more than any other region of the world. New technologies and promises of a better and brighter future have caught people's attention quickly, causing them to populate urban areas at an incredibly fast phase. According to a study by the World Economic Forum (WEC), compared to 2007, there are now more people in urban than in rural areas. That study continues to state that if growth rates continue this way, there will be 575 million people living in cities by 2025.



INTRODUCTION



That being said, just because countries are growing, doesn't mean they are prospering. According to The Economist, urbanization management has been done the wrong way. The article explains that governments focus mainly on the little already well developed areas and pays little to no attention to poorer or more slow growing areas leading to famine, high unemployment rates, lack of education, poor law enforcement and high crime rates. The continuous indifference from the government to these areas angers the people and has created a sense of distrust to their government.

Continuing at this rate presents social, political, economical and environmental hazards for Latin America and the Caribbean (LAC). In the next few pages of your bulletin you will learn how urbanization got to where it is now, and what the current problem is. Aside from that, you will also be given instructions as to what to take in as the most important information, previously successful and failed solutions for you to analyze, as well as a set of questions that must be answered during the debate.


TOPIC IN CONTEXT



To make better and more strategic decisions, we must first analyze and evaluate the historical background. Latin America was first colonized by Europe in the 16th century. Back then, because of the effective technology and communications, it wasn't as easy to populate and urbanize cities. However, despite the challenges, European technologies managed to get the cities growing exponentially. In fact, by 1580 the Spanish had established 225 populated cities and by 1600 nearly every major city in LAC had been already founded. Barely a few years later in 1620 Mexico City was already the most populated city of LAC with 100,000 inhabitants, followed by Salvador da Bahia in Brazil, (21,000), Lima (9,500), and Recife (8,000).

During this period the economy, which was mainly handled by European countries, was merely based on agriculture and raw materials found in the area. It wasn't until 1820 that thanks to the independence era, LAC's economy finally grew with the exportation of crops and minerals. By this time things were still pretty rural overall and people did not fully know or understand the implications of running major countries independently.

In the 20th century things started to develop both positively and negatively. From 1900 to 1940 the economy shifted from agriculture and raw materials to industry. The new solution to everyone's lives were machines and factories. By the 1950s the major cities were showing significant growth due to European immigration. Sadly, because of the overabundant amounts of people and the poor management of such, unemployment rates were up to 55%.




TOPIC IN CONTEXT



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Over the past 50 years Latin America and the Caribbean has experienced an urban population growth of 93%. According to a study by Banco Bilbao Vizcaya (BBVA), most of LAC countries struggle with unemployment and low productivity levels although urbanization is often seen as a means for economic gain and productivity. Latin America and the Caribbean is currently the third most urbanized area of the world after Australia and North America. Over half of the population of LAC lives in the few larger cities of each country. Despite its high urbanization rates, human capital is significantly low and productivity is lower than average compared to other urbanized areas of the world. The constant attention on improving the country's economy causes governments to pay less attention to issues such as public safety, mobility, accessibility, and the environmental impact. This leads to overall insecurity and distrust from the citizens which then makes it harder for the governments to make positive changes in society. Whilst some efforts are being made in order to improve the situation of certain countries, LAC is still a long way from being a stable and safe region overall.



CRUX OF THE DEBATE



Many things will be discussed in the conference, but it is crucial for delegates to know what the main focus of this debate will be, what possible plans of action they could take and the points they should touch upon the most. That being said, it is not mandatory to only discuss these during the debate, in fact, we would highly encourage all delegates to come up with creative points of discussion and solutions that could prove helpful and essential to the well being of Latin America's' future.

As members of the OAS, the key to your job is to solve current problems with etiquette, diplomacy, and dialogue, whilst remaining within your delegation's point of view. This is very important given that a country such as Nicaragua would definitely not support costly solutions due to their weak economy. This is not to say that a proper solution cannot be agreed on, it is just a reminder to put yourself in the mindset of your delegation. Naturally, it is important to mention that we expect delegates to have researched their country's position thoroughly. This includes but isn't limited to: the type of government; key points of the constitution; type of economy; unemployment and poverty rates; allied countries and their estimated urban growth rate. With this information delegates are to detect the major issues on the government's urbanization management and create solutions regarding the social, political, and economical problems and difficulties in their countries. However, delegates must keep in mind that their proposed solutions must also be helpful to some if not all of the delegations.

Here are some of the major things you should keep in mind during the debate.



CRUX OF THE DEBATE



Economic:

A country cannot function without proper financial management. A country's GDP could skyrocket but there really is no advantage if it benefits only a small fraction of the population. Colombia, for example, which in spite of being the fifth richest country in Latin America with a GDP of 309.2 billion, has one of the highest poverty rates in the region, with almost 15 out of its 49 million citizens living below the poverty line according to Colombia Reports. On the opposite side of the spectrum, Uruguay, despite not being the richest country in Latin America, has a GDP of 60 billion dollars according to a Trading Economics report. It has one of the lowest poverty rates, 1.4% of people living below the poverty line according to Statista. This is why it is essential for delegates to find ways to not necessarily increase the government's funds, but instead to manage them in better ways. In the long term this could lead to a massive reduction in poverty and unemployment rates, especially in the most deeply affected countries. As for short term solutions, the most impoverished countries who could arguably be considered to be in danger of an economic collapse such as Nicaragua, Venezuela, and Haiti, are to be a priority given that the citizens of those countries are the ones currently suffering the most. Improved financial management is the goal of all nations participating in this Special Mission so we encourage every member state contribute to the debate.

Social:

The social aspect of every society is one of the most fundamental factors of every civilization. When a region is enriched with education, opportunity, and values, it



CRUX OF THE DEBATE



prosper. Returning to example of Uruguay, it is the third best Latin American country for a person to study according to Statista, it has a staggering literacy rate of 98.52% and has ensured that only 1.4% of the population live below the poverty line as previously mentioned. This again, is an exemplary example of management and education. For long-term solutions on education it is important to take into account the effect that education can have on young children. The more a child studies with correct values respecting their surroundings, the better a chance there is for these to take Latin America into a safe and equal place. As for short term solutions, delegations should innovate ways to create awareness among adults so they could start the change and teach the correct values to the future generations.

Political:

Maintaining political stability and proper international relationships is essential in the success of a nation. Good political ethics and manners are very important within the nations. When discussing the political implications of urbanization, delegates must consider long and short term solutions in order to create and/or maintain diplomatic relations within neighboring countries. For short term, countries who previously had little to no contact could be open to the possibility of trade and aid from wealthier or more stable countries. As for long term, resolution papers are encouraged to include the best plan for delegations to exist in a symbiotic way whilst encouraging the conscientization of citizens through thorough political campaigns.



QUESTIONS TO ASK



The following set of questions are to help you in your research and we hope you answer them during the debate.

What will be the economical impact of rehabilitating communities with high crime rates?

According to your country, should this issue even be discussed? If so, how can your country help?

How to deal with the extensive number of homeless and possibly orphaned children?

What alliances either with other delegations or organizations can be made to aid the poor communities of LAC?

How can countries reduce if not obliterate the amount of air and water pollution in major cities? How does this affect rural areas?

What services should be provided in regards to decent youth education and elderly care?



CONCLUSION



Urbanization is an inevitable step towards the development of every country. It is paramount to realize the great responsibility that is put upon all government officials to ensure the social political and economic well being of their citizens. This responsibility also falls onto each and everyone of you as government representatives. Government mismanagement has caused the unnecessary loss of numerous lives. The statistics go some way of painting the picture but the real damage is seen through the eyes of the communities affected. Always remember that the statistics aren't just numbers, each of those represent a mistreated group of human beings that deserve attention, care and opportunity. We encourage you as delegates to consider all viable/helpful options during the debate (always keeping in mind your countries position). Keep in mind all things discussed in this bulletin while forming working papers.

With that, we conclude this topics bulletin. We wish you the best of luck and hope that DALE 2019 will be one of the most memorable conferences so far. Please do not hesitate to contact either of us if you have any doubts.

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