

PAIGH USNS 2020 Meeting  
March 10-11, 2020  
Suitland, MD



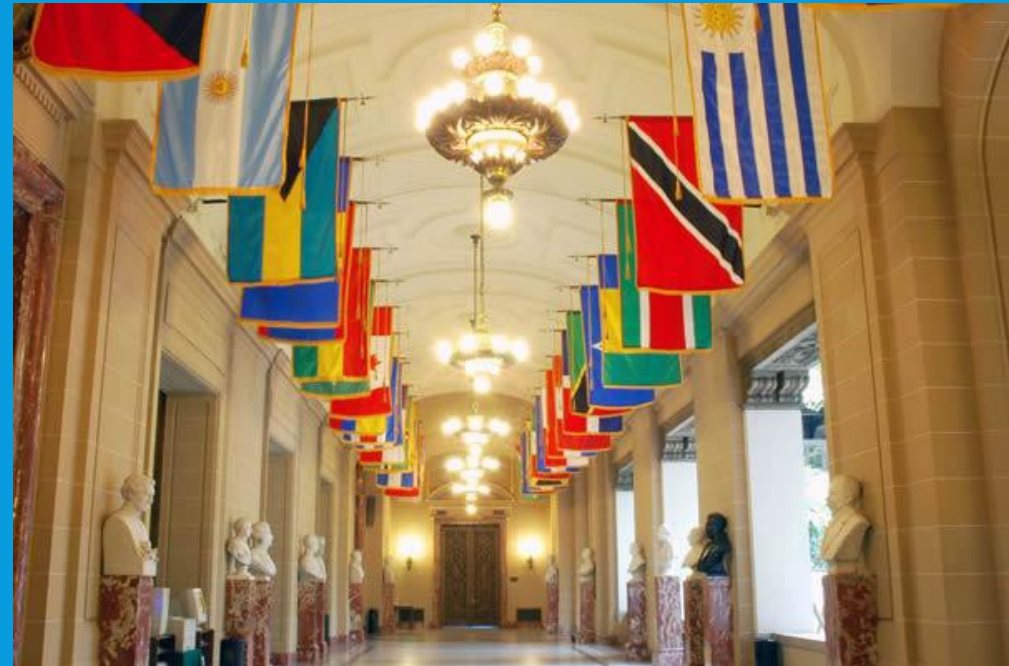
# UPDATE: WESTERN HEMISPHERE AFFAIRS

Ben Barron

U.S. Permanent Mission to the Organization of American States  
Department of State

# ORGANIZATION OF AMERICAN STATES

- 34 Active Member States
  - OAS Secretariat (implementation)
- 4 Largest Quota Contributions: United States, Brazil, Canada, and Mexico
- 72 Permanent Observers
- PAIGH = Specialized Organization of the OAS



Charter: 30 April 1948

# PILLARS OF THE OAS

- Democracy
- Human Rights
- Security
- Development



# U.S. MISSION (DELEGATION) TO THE OAS

- Based in U.S. Department of State
- Permanent Representative:  
Ambassador Carlos Trujillo (April 2018)
- Political Team and Development Team



# PRIORITIES



# SECRETARY GENERAL ELECTION: MARCH 20

- 3 Candidates
  - Luis Almagro (Uruguay; Incumbent)
  - Hugo De Zela (Peru; Bilateral Ambassador to U.S.)
  - Maria Fernanda Espinosa (Ecuador; Politician)



# VENEZUELA



- Restoring democracy and freedom
- January 2019: U.S. recognized Juan Guaidó as legitimate President
- All options are on the table
- OAS:
  - Seated President Guaidó's representative in mid-2019.
  - Rio Treaty (activated in September 2019 for first time since 2001)

# NICARAGUA

- Restoring democracy and freedom
- Unwavering commitment to use all economic and diplomatic tools to hold the government of Daniel Ortega accountable for acts of corruption and unconscionable human rights violations, and to support the Nicaraguan people's struggle for a return to democracy.
- OAS: Formed high level commission to push for democracy and human rights





# CUBA

- Restoring democracy and freedom
- Create opportunities for the Cuban people
- Destabilizing role in the region



# BOLIVIA

- October 20, 2019 Elections: Fraud
  - OAS: Observation monitoring and technical assessment
- Transitional government in place
- May 3, 2020: General Election
- U.S. position: Calling on the Bolivian people put in place a diverse, inclusive, just, fair country, prosperous as well, that respects the rule of law.



# ADDITIONAL: U.S. PRIORITIES IN THE OAS



Responsible budget and burden sharing



50<sup>th</sup> General Assembly (June)



Voluntary contributions

# THANK YOU!

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