



HACIA 31

WELCOME PACKET

The official welcome packet for the 31st edition of the HACIA Democracy Summit of the Americas. This document details information needed for registration, preparation, and successful engagement in the conference.

Prospective attendees will find guidelines on the main goals of the conference, strategies for effective participation, and logistical details to ensure a seamless registration process.

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WELCOME MESSAGE



Eugenia Briano and Santiago Salazar

Co-Presidents of HACIA 31

As we begin a new chapter for HACIA Democracy, it is with gratitude, humility, and joy that we, Eugenia Briano and Santiago Salazar, introduce ourselves as the Co-Presidents of the 31st Edition of HACIA Democracy. We are truly honored to lead this community we have come to deeply love and cherish. We would like to use this opportunity to share a bit of our personal journeys and how they have shaped our vision for HACIA's future.

Eugenia Briano: My journey in HACIA started in my first year of college. Back home in Montevideo, Uruguay, I had never heard of MUN-style conferences before. However, when I arrived at Harvard, I met students from all around Latin America who had been debating for years. They sparked in me not only an interest in debate, but a passion for engaging with the issues our region faces every day. When I joined HACIA 29 in Panama as Co-Director of the Inter-American Court of Human Rights along with my now co-president Santiago, I was inspired by the level of commitment and enthusiasm of every single delegate. The moment I stepped into a committee room, I could feel the energy of students eager to confront the challenges of their communities. Seeing how much HACIA means for both the students and the advisors led me to join HACIA 30 as Business Director. Together, we made history: for the first time, we took HACIA to Brazil, and we had all the Portuguese Committees in person. Now, as we prepare for the thirty-first edition of HACIA, our goal is to continue fostering spaces for rich, eye-opening discussions. We want every delegate to have the chance to share their knowledge, learn from others, and grow into a future leader of Latin America.

Santiago Salazar: My own journey with HACIA began with a deep sense of curiosity and admiration for the way this conference brings together young leaders from across Latin America. Growing up in Chile in a Colombian household, I witnessed firsthand the richness and complexity of our region: its challenges, but also its resilience and potential. When I joined HACIA 29 as Co-Director of the Inter-American Court of Human Rights alongside my now co-president Eugenia, I was struck by how powerful it was to see delegates from different countries come together to debate, collaborate, and imagine new futures for our hemisphere. That experience left me convinced that HACIA is more than just a conference; it is a space where ideas transform into action, where young people discover their voice, and where community is built across borders. In HACIA 30, as Recruitment Director, I had the privilege of supporting our delegates and staff as we brought the conference to Brazil for the very first time, expanding the reach and inclusivity of our mission. Now, stepping into this role as Co-President, my vision is to continue strengthening HACIA as a platform that empowers delegates not only to debate policy but also to develop the confidence and skills to lead in their own

Our vision for HACIA 31 centers on enhancing and expanding the impact of our organization. One of our primary objectives is to maintain the Portuguese committees in person. Last year, for the first time in HACIA's history, all delegates participating in the Portuguese committees had the opportunity to debate face-to-face. This milestone not only offered a completely new experience for Brazilian students but also created a more vibrant and enriching environment for all delegates, advisors, and organizers involved in HACIA 30. We are committed to preserving this multilingual and multicultural atmosphere for the next edition. Another key goal for HACIA 31 is to increase the representation of students from the southern region of the continent—particularly from Argentina, Chile, and Uruguay. This year, we are proud to have strong representation from the South on our Board, and we are determined to see these countries equally represented in Bogotá.

Building on the success of last year's independent delegate initiative, we aim to continue encouraging individual students to participate in HACIA. Many passionate students across Latin America care deeply about the challenges their communities face but do not have the opportunity to attend with their schools. We want HACIA to remain an accessible and welcoming space for them. To that end, we will expand the support system for independent delegates by assigning a dedicated HACIA member to accompany them throughout their entire conference experience.

Finally, we plan to grow our scholarship program. We are already reaching out to potential sponsors to secure funding for students who may need financial assistance, ensuring that every motivated participant has the chance to be part of this transformative experience.

We are deeply grateful to every advisor, delegate, and school that continues to make HACIA possible. Your passion, dedication, and belief in the power of dialogue are what keep this community thriving year after year. We look forward to welcoming you all to Bogotá, Colombia for an unforgettable conference that celebrates the spirit of leadership and democracy across the Americas.

With gratitude and excitement,

Eugenia Briano & Santiago Salazar
Co-Presidents, HACIA Democracy XXXI





ABOUT HACIA

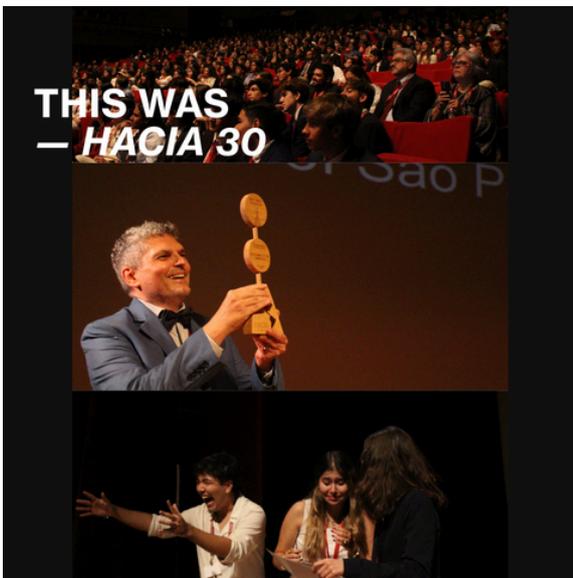
The Harvard Association for Cultivating Inter-American Democracy (HACIA) is an influential student organization dedicated to promoting democratic values among high school students through its annual conference, which simulates the proceedings of the Organization of American States (OAS). This immersive experience highlights the importance of democracy in fostering accountable governance, protecting human rights, and encouraging civic participation. Through realistic debates and negotiations, students develop a deep understanding of democratic processes and the significance of international cooperation in addressing regional challenges. HACIA empowers young participants to become informed and active citizens, equipping them with the skills and values needed to advocate for and uphold democratic principles in their communities and beyond.

HACIA is renowned for its intellectually vibrant debating rooms and diverse cultural experiences, including an intercultural fair, iconic talent show, delegate dance, and social entrepreneurship workshops. The conference also features panels on higher education in the United States, offering valuable insights into the admissions process and academic life. Each year, the Summit of the Americas, hosted in a different Latin American country, allows high school students to engage with over thirty Harvard students from various nationalities. With more than eight thousand participants over the past three decades, the conference offers committees in Spanish, Portuguese, and English, fostering the **largest and most diverse OAS simulation in the world.**



OUR GOAL

Critical thinking is one of HACIA's pillars. By simulating the proceedings of the Organization of American States (OAS), students learn the importance of exploring new ideas. Participants engage in rigorous debates and discussions on domestic and regional issues affecting the Americas, encouraging them to analyze complex problems, develop nuanced arguments, and propose viable solutions. By addressing a diverse range of topics and simulating real-world diplomatic scenarios, HACIA challenges students to think critically about democratic advancement and development. This emphasis on critical thinking equips students with the analytical skills necessary to navigate and influence the complex political landscapes of their respective countries.



Continuous learning is a cornerstone of HACIA Democracy's mission, reflecting its commitment to the ongoing intellectual and personal development of its participants. Since its inception in 1994, the conference has continually expanded its scope, introducing new committees and topics to reflect the evolving issues in the Western Hemisphere. HACIA's faculty advisers and undergraduate staff, who bring a wealth of academic and cultural expertise, provide a rich educational experience that goes beyond the conference. The organization's annual research, recruitment, and fundraising campaigns further emphasize the importance of lifelong learning, encouraging students to stay engaged with international affairs and democratic processes long after the conference ends.

HACIA Democracy places a strong emphasis on **diversity and inclusion**, striving to create an environment where a wide range of perspectives can be heard and respected. From its early days, the conference has worked to include delegations from various countries, and its commitment to diversity has only grown over the years. Notably, the introduction of Spanish language committees and the participation of public school students have broadened the scope of voices represented at the summit. The virtual summit in 2020 marked a significant milestone, as it allowed unprecedented access for public school students and delegations from diverse geographical regions. As HACIA continues to evolve, it remains committed to fostering an inclusive forum that values and celebrates the diverse backgrounds and viewpoints of its participants.

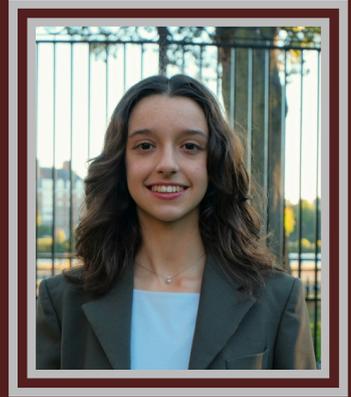
MEET THE BOARD



Eugenia Briano
Co-President



Santiago Salazar
Co-President



Rita Palacio
Business Director



Vandie Dumaboc
Administration Director



Sofia Oliveira
Recruitment Director



Frida López
Development Director



Evan Odegard
English Committees
Director



Ana Aguilar
Spanish Committees
Director



Lucas Moreno
Portuguese Committees
Director



ABOUT THE COMMITTEES

Our English, Spanish, and Portuguese committees simulate the proceedings of the Organization of American States (OAS), offering a unique opportunity for students to engage deeply with important regional and global issues. In past conferences, participants have tackled critical topics such as climate change, the rights and challenges of indigenous communities, the impact of infectious diseases, responses to natural disasters, and international crises. Through these simulations, students develop valuable skills in diplomacy, critical thinking, public speaking, and collaborative problem-solving. This experience not only enhances their understanding of international affairs but also prepares them to become informed and active global citizens.

For more information about specific committee offerings and topics, please visit our website: haciademocracy.org.

SPECIAL APPLICATIONS

Special committees are crafted to offer a comprehensive perspective on the conference's diverse aspects. They enable students to experience the HACIA conference from various viewpoints, whether through the media's lens, the urgency of crisis management, or the logistical and organizational efforts that ensure the event's success.

Participating in these special committees allows students to acquire insights and skills that extend beyond traditional debate and diplomacy. It provides a chance to view the conference from a fresh angle and contribute in ways that highlight their unique talents and interests.



THE CONFERENCE



Taste of HACIA

Join us for a vibrant cultural evening where delegations from across Latin America come together to share the rich tapestry of their heritage! This event promises a delightful showcase of traditional foods and unique trinkets from various home countries. Experience the flavors, sounds, and colors of Latin America in one place, celebrating the diversity and unity that define our region.



Talent Show

A fan favorite, get ready for an unforgettable night of entertainment at our Talent Show! Delegations from across the region will come together to showcase their incredible talents, celebrating the diverse artistic heritage of our countries. From traditional dances and music to contemporary performances and unique acts, this event promises a dazzling display of creativity and skill.



University Panels

Don't miss the opportunity to attend our University Panels and Workshops, featuring students from Harvard University! Delegations from across Latin America are invited to participate in engaging sessions led by current Harvard students, providing valuable insights into higher education opportunities in the United States. Learn directly from Harvard representatives about various academic programs, student life, and gain practical advice on the application process.

Delegate Dance

Prepare for an enchanting evening at our Delegate Dance, where students from delegations across Latin America come together for a night of celebration following their last day at the conference. This event, reminiscent of a prom, promises an unforgettable experience filled with music, dancing, and camaraderie. Dress to impress and enjoy the chance to connect with fellow delegates in a festive atmosphere that celebrates the spirit of unity and friendship.



HILTON BOGOTÁ CORFERIAS BOGOTÁ, COLOMBIA

Hilton Bogotá Corferias offers the ideal setting for HACIA Democracy delegations, combining safety, comfort, and convenience in the heart of Colombia's capital. Strategically located within the Corferias business complex, the hotel provides direct access to Bogotá's leading convention and exhibition center—making it the perfect base for academic conferences, student leadership events, and international programs.



Delegates benefit from the hotel's secure environment and central location, just minutes from El Dorado International Airport, major universities, government institutions, and cultural landmarks. The area's accessibility ensures smooth coordination and peace of mind for educators and students alike.

Modern, spacious rooms feature soundproofing, premium amenities, and panoramic city or mountain views—offering a quiet retreat after a full day of sessions and activities. Guests can unwind at the rooftop pool, stay active in the fitness center, or connect with peers in welcoming lounge areas designed for collaboration and networking.

Dining at OKA Grill House and Four Eleven Bar showcases both authentic Colombian flavors and international cuisine, ideal for informal discussions or group meals. The hotel also offers flexible meeting spaces equipped with advanced technology, perfect for workshops, simulations, and delegation briefings.



With its commitment to safety, service, and comfort, Hilton Bogotá Corferias provides HACIA Democracy delegations with an exceptional home base—where global learning, cultural exchange, and leadership development meet the warmth of Colombian hospitality.

REGISTRATION INFORMATION

Deadlines

The registration deadlines for the 31st Summit of the Americas are as follows:

Early: September 24th - November 14th, 2025
Regular: November 15th, 2025 - January 5th, 2026
Late: January 6th - February 16th, 2026

Delegations wishing to register after the late registration deadline should send an email to registration@hacia-democracy.org to confirm space availability. Participation in the conference after this deadline, however, is not guaranteed.

Fees

In order to complete the registration process, all delegations must pay the following fees in full. Please note that the rates are only guaranteed once payment is processed. For example, a school that completes the registration form in December but only submits payment in late February will have to pay late registration fees.

	Early	Regular	Late
Delegation Fee	USD 90	USD 90	USD 90
Additional Advisor Fee	USD 30	USD 30	USD 30
Delegate Fee	USD 250	USD 280	USD 300
J-Staffer Fee	USD 190	USD 190	USD 190
Amenities Fee	USD 230	USD 250	USD 280

Due to the fixed costs of the conference, HACIA will have a strict no refund policy. However, if you believe that your delegation might require a refund due to unforeseeable and extenuating circumstances, please reach out to registration@hacia-democracy.org to discuss options.



HACIA



READY TO
SIGN UP?



www.haciademocracy.org

registration@hacia-democracy.org

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