



## Bolivia Position Paper

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### I. Background Information on Bolivia

Bolivia; also known as the Plurinational State of Bolivia (recognized by the 2009 constitution of Bolivia) is a landlocked country that is located in west-central South America. The country lost its Pacific coast territory to Chile during the War of Pacific therefore making it landlocked. However, Bolivia still has indirect access to the Pacific and Atlantic due to certain agreements done with neighboring countries that have access to the ocean. In Bolivian history after the Spanish conquered them, they became a part of the vice-royalty of Peru. Venezuelan Simon Bolivar liberates Bolivia from under Spain's rule. Therefore the country of Bolivia is named after him. A year after this event, Bolivia officially declares independence and Simon Bolivar becomes the president. Bolivia has two capitals. One of them is the constitutional and judicial capital while the other one is the administrative capital. The constitutional and judicial capital is the city of Sucre in which the Supreme Court is established. The administrative capital is La Paz. In the city of La Paz the executive and legislative branches of the government take place. It has an area of 1,098,581 square kilometers. It is the fifth largest country located in South America. It borders with Brazil in the north and east, Argentina in the south, Paraguay in the southeast, Chile in the southwest and west and Peru in the northwest. It has three significant regions called: the Altiplano (west), the Valles (central region) and the Llanos (east). It hosts the second largest lake in South America alongside Peru called Lake Titicaca. Bolivia has also been regarded as a highland country for many decades. Its population is 12 million and indigenous people make up most of that population. The main languages spoken in Bolivia are Spanish, Quechua, Aymara, Guaraní. Although, 33 other languages are also spoken. The currency used in Bolivia is Bolivian boliviano. The most dominant religion is Roman Catholicism, followed by Protestant Christianity. Since, indigenous people make up most of the population, spiritual beliefs can also frequently be seen. Its current president is Luis Arce who won the presidential election in October 2020, bringing back the Mas socialist party to power. Bolivia is a member of the Organization of American States (OAS), the Community of Latin American and Caribbean States (CELAC) and the Union of South American Nations (UNASUR). Bolivia's economy is mainly dependent on its natural resources, agriculture, industry and manufacturing and also partly tourism. Bolivia has natural resources such as gas, oil, tin and silver and lithium as Bolivia also is home to one of the world's largest





lithium stocks called the Uyuni Salt Flats. Some examples of agricultural products that benefit the Bolivian economy are soybeans, coffee, corn, potatoes and coco (the main ingredient found in the drug cocaine and therefore has to be exported under very strict manners). There are also mining, food processing, textile and hydrocarbon industries. Although it is not necessarily known for its tourism, it is still home to landscapes such as Lake Titicaca and the Amazon rainforest. Since Bolivia also consists of the Amazon, it faces the important issue of deforestation in those areas mainly due to agriculture and illegal tree cutting. Lastly, Bolivia is still struggling with inequality in many areas of life such as jobs mainly regarding indigenous people. Although, there have been many solution alternatives regarding that issue.

Bolivia has several important policies regarding different aspects of their country. Firstly, due to the high number of indigenous people living there, they adopted the UN Declaration on the Rights of the Indigenous People as well as a new constitution. Thus, they became a plurinational state. As mentioned, Bolivia has many natural resources. Evo Morales has instituted a policy where natural resources are more nationalized rather than other countries having more control over Bolivia's own resources. Bolivia is one of the main producers of the plant coca which is the main substance found in the drug cocaine. In 2004, the government of Bolivia established a policy where farmers were allowed to legally grow a limited amount of coca leaves. Bolivia also has several social welfare programs such as Bono Juancito Pinto, Bono Juana Azurduy, Renta Dignidad that provide the necessary financial assistance to the people that need it. There is a policy called "Rights of Mother Earth" implemented by the Bolivian government that aims to protect the environment and provides the people with certain values and protection examples regarding it. As mentioned, Bolivia is a part of UNASUR as well as Bolivarian Alliance for the Peoples of Our America (ALBA) that are crucial in bringing South America/Latin Americans together as a whole.

Bolivia is very relevant to the Question of South America first and foremost because it is a country located in that region. Bolivia also holds economic and political importance in South America. It has natural resources such as oil and gas; holding the second gas and oil reserve in the region, the first being Venezuela. This advantage has contributed to Bolivia's economy severely. Bolivia also has a geopolitical advantage and this becomes visible when it is considered that Bolivia is one of the main suppliers in South America of drinking water, electricity and gasoline. In result of the 2005 elections in Bolivia Evo Morales was selected as president. One of his actions was to withdraw Bolivia from the American Free Trade Area. This had economical implications on Bolivia. Although, Bolivia has many natural resources it also depends heavily on buyers that have the upper hand in markets in which the produced raw materials are sold. Then, they buy these back as complete and finished products but at a much higher price. This system makes up a high percentage of the trade in Bolivia. Unfortunately, apart from energy and gas exchange Bolivia's trade relations with other countries are not very much. Still, we can conclude that Bolivia is applying external expansion policies. Bolivia has been known for its political weakness. In order to gain some kind of role in



determining the political policies in South America it has to act as politically as it can. Bolivia is one of the oldest countries in the region and therefore was growing at a time where immigrants were very present. This made the population of Bolivia very mixed. This can actually lead to balance the economic and political relations in the region. Peru and Argentina, which are neighboring countries of Bolivia share similar cultural heritage to that of Bolivia. Since, there are a lot of indigenous people that live within Bolivia, the country also speaks up for their rights on a regional basis. It also discusses the environment as there are ongoing problems regarding the Amazon and its deforestation. On the other hand, the tension between Bolivia and Chile over who accesses the Pacific Ocean coast has been one of the focuses of the region.

## II. Past Achievements and Attempts of Bolivia on the Issues

### A. Maintaining judicial independence and accountability in Bolivia:

- The earliest framework done by Bolivia regarding this specific issue was in 1836, when the Bolivarian Constitution was adopted. Thus, the concept of independent judiciary was introduced in Bolivia.
- In 1993 a reform was made so that the judges in the Supreme Court would be chosen with a 2/3 majority in the Congress.
- Bolivia has accepted recommendations on maintaining their judicial independence that is in line with the international standards.
- Bolivia has stated that it has intentions to gather a forum on judicial reforms and then put these to referendum in which the Bolivian society would be involved.
- After Luis Arce was elected as president in November 8, the October 18 elections went by smoothly and he had promised "to learn from and overcome our errors."
- Luis Arce stated that "justice 'is a debt Mas owes' the people and the justice system should be independent from politics."-  
<https://www.hrw.org/news/2020/11/25/will-luis-arce-rebuild-bolivias-broken-judiciary>
- Normally, the 2009 Bolivian Constitution states that "high court judges and members of the Magistrates Council would be elected by voters from lists created by Congress."-  
<https://www.hrw.org/news/2020/11/25/will-luis-arce-rebuild-bolivias-broken-judiciary>
- The Consejo de la Magistratura stated that there would be temporary judges that could apply for 489 fixed-term positions on August 26, 2022. This was a step towards diminishing the temporary positions of judges in Bolivia.

### B. Eliminating the possibility of armed conflict between Venezuela and Guyana:



- Bolivia does not have a direct connection with the issue. Therefore, there is no achievement or attempts on the issue.

### C. Tackling the ELN insurgency in Colombia:

- Bolivia has also faced an issue such as this during the 1960s concerning Bolivian National Liberation Army (ELN).
- The Secretaria General Iberoamericana (an international organization formed by 19 of the Spanish speaking countries including Bolivia) has shown encouragement to the Colombian Peace Agreement in October 2016.
- Although these are worth noting, Bolivia does not have a direct connection with the issue. Therefore, there is no achievement or attempts on the issue.

## III. Objectives, Aims and Possible Solutions Proposed by Bolivia on the Issues

### A. Maintaining judicial independence and accountability in Bolivia:

- First and foremost Bolivia aims to solve the critical judicial independence problem in their country by trying to diminish its reasons.
- Bolivia hopes to find a solution on this agenda item by collaborating with other UN member states including its neighboring states.
- It also aims to follow the directions and routes that are considered or may be considered by the UN.
- In maintaining judicial independence in Bolivia, Bolivia would struggle less politically as a country on the international scale.
- It would propose solutions that aim to keep judicial independence in accordance with international levels.
- This would be done while also maintaining the human rights in the country. This would be kept comprehensive; making sure this is done in all areas of the justice system including the judges and those who are prosecuted.
- These proposed solutions would constantly be monitored in order to reduce any chance of judicial problems occurring in Bolivia.
- Bolivia would also accept help from organizations such as but not limited to the ICJ in order to solve this issue in a faster and more effective manner.
- Bolivia would want to tackle this issue with great care; designing a transition period if necessary. This would ensure that everything is kept stable while maintaining the judicial independence.



### B. Eliminating the possibility of armed conflict between Venezuela and Guyana:

- Bolivia aims to be a mediator between Venezuela and Guyana as it has close relations with both countries in areas such as but not limited to trade.
- Bolivia aims to eliminate any possibility of armed conflict between Venezuela and Guyana which would also contribute to peace in the South American continent; increasing overall world peace.
- Bolivia would propose solutions that would aim collaboration between the two countries so that an agreement can be made; Bolivia can also possibly act as a mediator such case.
- Bolivia would also focus on the humanitarian aspect of things; making it so that no civilian gets hurt.
- Bolivia would look into the possibility of either implementing or creating certain policies that would restrict the two countries from engaging in any damaging action. These would be done by the help of certain UN organizations such as but not limited to United Nations Security Council (UNSC) and General Assembly (GA) committees.
- Bolivia would aim to propose these solutions by stating that it would always ask for the permission of the aforementioned countries to not breach their national sovereignty.

### C. Tackling the ELN insurgency in Colombia:

- Bolivia would aim to tackle the ELN insurgency issue in Colombia swiftly before it gets destructive.
- Bolivia has struggled with something similar during the 1960s called Bolivian National Liberation Army (ELN). Therefore this issue would be a national interest of Bolivia; having gone through something very similar.
- Bolivia would aim to propose solutions that are very peace oriented which would maintain peace in Colombia, international peace as well as keep the civilians living there safe.
- Bolivia would also engage with this issue with the solutions that have worked for their problem in the past.
- Bolivia would aim to take very strict measures regarding the issue. This would ensure its swift and undamaged resolve.

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