



Colombia Position Paper

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I. Background Information on Colombia

Colombia is a country in northwestern South America. Its coast towards the west is surrounded by the Pacific Ocean and Colombia borders Panama, Brazil, Ecuador, Venezuela, and Peru.

Colombia's history is hugely influenced by Spain as the country was a colony of Spain between the years 1499 and 1819. The population is mostly mestizo (a mix of European and Indigenous backgrounds) with minorities of African-Americans and Europeans.

The economy of Colombia is mostly based on agriculture, mainly focusing on coffee and fruit production, with an increasing importance of services and industry in the country as well. For reference, Colombia has the 43rd biggest economy in the world.

As for Colombia's relevance to agenda items under the Advisory Panel on the Question of South America (APQSA), Colombia holds the title of being one of the most influential countries in the region, so its part is substantial. Specifically, for the first agenda item, although Colombia has flaws within its judicial system and some miscarriages occur, the country is still better than Bolivia in terms of accountability, so Colombia can be considered as a regional influence for judicial practices in Bolivia. The second agenda item emphasizes the possibility of an armed conflict between Venezuela and Guyana, Colombia's effect is vastly larger as the country shares long borders with Venezuela. Due to its proximity, Colombia holds a history of diplomatic relations with Venezuela, though the two countries had tension between them, Colombia mainly focuses on preventing escalations. Given the proximity and diplomatic relations between parties, it is safe to say that if there were to be an armed conflict, Colombia could be the one to raise or lower the tensions between Venezuela and Guyana. The last agenda item is directly related to Colombia, tackling one of the most vital internal problems of the country: the National Liberation Army (ELN). As it is an inner matter within Colombia, the country has the most say on this agenda item, and without further explanation Colombia's significance can easily be understood.



II. Past Achievements and Attempts of Colombia on the Issues

As mentioned above, Colombia is located in South America, which is the theme and the main topic of the committee APQSA. Due to this, Colombia naturally has some effects on most of the agendas that take place in South America. From being an influence on other countries due to regional closeness to being the agenda item's main topic, Colombia almost always has influenced other countries. Specific examples are below.

A. Maintaining judicial independence and accountability in Bolivia:

- Colombia has collaborated with organizations like the Organization of American States (OAS), and the United Nations (UN) to advocate for accountability of courts across Latin America.
- Colombia has executed impactful reforms to renovate its judicial system and make the system more accountable and unbiased for everyone, which is a regional influence for Bolivia.

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

- Colombia has often served as a mediator and an unbiased third-party country when tensions arose between Venezuela and Guyana. Colombia often encouraged and acted as a middle ground for peace talks between Member States.
- Colombia's presence in the Andean Community and the OAS helped with peace talks between Member States and has improved both states' diplomatic relations on military confrontation.
- Colombia also supported multilateral peace initiatives such as the Union of South American Nations (UNASUR) to lead to creating platforms for diplomatic initiatives between Member States.

C. Tackling the ELN insurgency in Colombia:

- Colombia signed a peace deal with the Revolutionary Armed Forces of Colombia (FARC) in 2016. This vastly important treaty is considered one of the most successful treaties signed between countries and guerilla groups. Though a peace deal has yet to be achieved with ELN, this is a start for the government of Colombia.
- Colombia has significantly decreased the operation capabilities and military forces of ELN by executing military efforts such as the Elite Anti-Terrorist Task Force (ATF) and Counter-Narcotics Operations. These efforts led to capturing or neutralizing high-ranked officials of the ELN.
- Colombia has shown participation in initiatives such as the UN Mission in Colombia and partnered with international partners to damage the economy of the guerilla group by blocking illegal drug trafficking and other practices.
- Colombia has developed programs to aid those who are affected by the guerilla group ELN's attacks. These aids often target displacement victims and rural communities and these efforts have been complemented by work with NGOs and international organizations.



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

The aforementioned involvements of Colombia due to its regional placement in South America are followed by the national interests of the country and future objectives. These objectives are necessary for the country's good and details will be mentioned below.

A. Maintaining judicial independence and accountability in Bolivia:

- Colombia has cooperated with organizations like the Organization of American States (OAS), and the United Nations (UN) to advocate for judicial independence across Latin America, so the main aim is to continue these practices and establish long-lasting fair judicial systems in South America.
- Colombia will show efforts towards bettering judicial systems and courts in Bolivia whilst not interfering with their national sovereignty by requesting model countries to be in close communication in Bolivia for the Member States to make impressions on how an accountable court system would work.

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

- Colombia will most probably request UN peacekeeping forces to assist between two Member States and be a mediator. This way, the possibility of an armed conflict and political tensions arising from territorial disputes may be alleviated.
- Colombia will promote diplomatic talks between Member States through multilateral peace organizations such as UNASUR and will work to better the effect of these initiatives on the region, specifically between Venezuela and Guyana due to the high importance of the possibility of a conflict.

C. Tackling the ELN insurgency in Colombia:

- Colombia is directly involved in the insurgency of ELN and because of this, the country has ratified S/RES/2694 in 2023. The resolution tackles the issue of ELN and is considered a great solution to suppress ELN forces.
- Colombia will focus more on military practices to overpower the ELN forces in the country and bring an end to this internal conflict as soon as possible.
- Colombia aims to strengthen the UN Verification Mission. The UN Verification Mission in Colombia is important in monitoring and verifying ceasefire agreements, and it ensures both parties adhere to their commitments.



IV. Bibliography

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