



ECUADOR Position Paper

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I. Background Information on Country

Ecuador is situated in Western South America, between Colombia and Peru. While Ecuador is small by size, it is quite diverse and famous for its different geography. Ecuador's natural resources include hydropower and petroleum. The country is divided into four different regions: Costa (coastal area), Sierra (Andean highlights), Oriente (Amazon rainforest), and Galápagos Islands. Nearly half of the population is concentrated in the coastal areas and Sierra regions. Ecuador's official language is Spanish but in some rural areas, different indigenous languages are still spoken. The country's economy is largely dependent on oil exports, which greatly impacts the GDP. Of the total land area, "27% is agricultural land, 39% is forested, and 23% of it is protected" (landlinks)¹.



**The image is taken from "www.worldatlas.com"²*

Ecuador has a great relevance with the issues of South America. The first issue which is how Bolivia faces problems with maintaining independence and accountability in its judicial system. It is a common problem in South America. The issues that Bolivia fights is similar to Ecuador in the area of judicial system and maintenance. Previously before the presidential election of Luis Arce (October 23, 2020), the country had severe problems with justice and its dependency on politics. But after the election, Luis Arce announced that he would be working on justice that justice "is a debt MAS owes" the people, and that the justice system should be independent from politics (Human Rights Watch)³. Yet today the situation is still present in Bolivia. As for Ecuador, there is a massive problem. According to the Inter-American Commission on Human Rights official reports show that at least 19 judges in various regions and at various levels of the

¹ From the website Landlinks in the webpage written as "Ecuador"

² From the website World Atlas, "Maps of Ecuador"

³ From the website Human Rights Watch, as the article "Will Luis Arce rebuild Bolivia's broken judiciary"



judiciary are involved in the allegations of favorable decisions and unjustified procedural days (Inter-American Commission on Human Rights).⁴

The second issue is eliminating any possibility of armed conflict between Venezuela and Guyana. The conflict mainly revolves around the Essequibo region because the region is rich in resources, including oil. The tensions escalated when Venezuela held a referendum to claim sovereignty over the area. This caused the International Court of Justice (ICJ) to be involved in the issue, advising both member states to avoid any action that could raise the tension. In December 2023, Venezuela and Guyana's leaders agreed not to use force, committing to diplomacy (BBC NEWS).⁵ Ecuador is relevant to the issue because the country holds a strategic position as a member of several organizations, including the Union of South American Nations (UNASUR) and the Community of Latin American and Caribbean States (CELAC), and can be considered as a geographical neighbor of both countries. According to AP News, Ecuador promotes peaceful dispute resolution and regional stability, hence reducing tensions between Venezuela and Guyana (AP NEWS)⁶.

The third and last issue is upon tackling the ELN insurgency in Colombia. The ELN (National Liberational Army) is one of Colombia's active guerrilla groups. It is mainly active on subjects like kidnapping, attacks on infrastructure, and drug trafficking. While the group is mainly located in Colombia it has some connections on the Colombian-Venezuelan border which causes regional security risks. As for the relevance of the issue with Ecuador lies in the geographical position and the closeness of Colombia to Ecuador thus their commonly shared opinion on regional stability.

II. Past Achievements and Attempts of Country/Organization on the Issues

A. Maintaining judicial independence and accountability in Bolivia:

- Ecuador participates in the Organization of American States (OAS), whose purpose is to "To strengthen peace and security in the hemisphere; promote representative democracy; ensure the peaceful settlement of disputes among members; provide for common action in the event of aggression; and promote economic, social, and cultural development"(U.S. Mission to the Organization of American States official website)⁷. Ecuador works to uphold democratic principles in Bolivia that have effects on judicial independence.

⁴ From Inter-American Commission on Human Rights website, "IACHR asks Ecuador to ensure judicial independence in the face of organized crime interference"

⁵ From BBC News, "Essequibo: Venezuela votes on claim to Guyana-controlled oil region"

⁶ From AP News, "Tensions are soaring between Guyana and Venezuela over a territorial dispute"

⁷ From the official website of OAS and the webpage titled as " About the OAS"



- In addition to participating in OAS, Ecuador also supports these principles and aims to work towards them through its commitment to the Inter-American Democratic Charter (IACHR), whose purpose is to be a representative of a collective commitment to maintaining and strengthening the democratic system in the region (OAS)⁸.
- Ecuador has no additional involvement in the issue.

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

- Ecuador actively participates in regional organizations like the Union of South American Nations (UNASUR) and the Community of Latin American and Caribbean States (CELAC). These organizations promote stability and non-military resolutions for conflicts, aligning with Ecuador's stance against regional armed conflict (Britannica)⁹. Ecuador's approach is to support open discussions and peaceful negotiations between Venezuela and Guyana (AP News)¹⁰
- Ecuador has no additional involvement in the issue.

C. Tackling the ELN insurgency in Colombia:

- Ecuador is important in hosting peace talks between the Colombian government and the ELN in Quito from 2017 to 2018. This helped facilitate negotiations and showed Ecuador's role as a neutral ground for regional peace initiatives (Equal Times)¹¹.
- Ecuador has no additional involvement in the issue.

III. Objectives, Aims and Possible Solutions Proposed by Country/Organization on the Issues

A. Maintaining judicial independence and accountability in Bolivia:

- Create an annual gathering where the issue will be talked upon while promoting a regional collaboration as to South America to create much stronger bodies within and to support judicial reforms till the annual gathering so that each country can create type of solutions to enhance the safety of the area.
- Making a global-like call to the South American area to encourage transparency mechanisms in order to monitor judicial situations and actions while minimizing political interference within conflicting countries.

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

⁸ From the official website of Organization of American States from the article titled as "Tenth Anniversary of the Inter-American Democratic Charter".

⁹ From Britannica taken from the definition of "UNASUR"

¹⁰ From AP News website taken from the article named as "Tensions are soaring between Guyana and Venezuela over a territorial dispute"

¹¹ From Equal Times news/article website, taken from the article "In Colombia, the ELN steps up the conflict as the options for peace run out" written by Aitor Saéz



- Strengthening diplomatic relations between neighboring South American countries (specifically Venezuela and Guyana by a separate conference just consisting of the two states) by organizing regularly held conferences
- Proposing to create economic cooperation initiatives in border areas to benefit both countries while reducing the possibility for territorial conflict within Venezuela and Guyana that may and will affect the neighboring and surrounding countries in the area of South Africa.

C. Tackling the ELN insurgency in Colombia:

- Working as a whole on improving the security of border regions to prevent cross-border ELN activities that may risk neighboring countries' security, stability, and citizen safety.
- Creating a group that fosters such as but not limited to open-minded leaders of the neighboring countries in the related issue but also knowledgeable individuals who are experienced in fields of socio-economic developments that could help with the resolution of the issue faced with Colombia on economic projects in border areas to reduce and prevent possible damages caused by the ELN and other guerrilla groups.
- Aiming to strengthen the statement of information among these guerrilla groups in order to increase the preparedness of member states in the region

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