



HACIA



2024-2025

HACIA 30

WELCOME PACKET

The official welcome packet for the 30th 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



Sarah Borges and Dariana González

Co-Presidents of HACIA 30

Dear esteemed advisors and members of the HACIA community,

As we stand on the brink of a new chapter for our esteemed organization, it is with great gratitude, humility, and joy that we, Sarah Borges and Dariana González Aguilar, introduce ourselves as the Co-Presidents of the 30th Edition of HACIA Democracy. We are honored to have the opportunity to lead this community, which we have grown to love and cherish, during such an important milestone year. We would like to use this opportunity to share a bit about our personal stories and how they have shaped our vision for HACIA's future.

Dariana González: My journey to HACIA began in my small hometown in Central Mexico, where growing up alongside cattle ranchers and agricultural workers instilled in me both a profound admiration for the resilience of the Latin American community and a desire to understand the socio-political structures shaping our region. Joining HACIA in 2023 therefore became a gateway to understanding the struggles, triumphs, and resilience of our people. As last year's Recruitment Director, I had the absolute privilege of witnessing firsthand the fervor of our students for debate and their deep-seated commitment to finding solutions to the region's most pervasive issues. From the passion and ambition continuously expressed by our delegates, it became clear to me that HACIA is shaping a brighter future for Latin America by empowering its next generation of leaders. It is with utmost commitment and dedication to this ethos that Sarah Borges and I pledge to place the needs of our students at the forefront of our decision-making as Co-Presidents of HACIA Democracy.

Sarah Borges: Stepping foot at Harvard for the first time in 2021, after a year of pandemic, social isolation, and democratic challenges, I felt an immense desire to connect with a community that shared my values and background and to work for the protection of our democratic systems. As the first person from Goiânia, my hometown in the heart of Brazil, to study at Harvard College, I also felt a responsibility to use the opportunities I had to transform the lives of other students. Thus, joining HACIA Democracy was an easy decision. As the largest MUN-style conference focused on sociopolitical issues in Latin America, HACIA provided the chance to fulfill these important goals. In my first year with HACIA, I ran a virtual committee from Colombia and helped establish a formal Portuguese program. The next year, I led all virtual Portuguese Committees, involving 100 students from across Brazil. Despite most of my work being virtual, I had the incredible opportunity to connect with advisors and students in person in Panama. The future of Latin America lies in the hands of these ambitious and brilliant students. To me, being part of their journeys and inspiring them to be agents of positive change is not just a joy but an enormous privilege. For this special thirtieth edition of HACIA, we aim to continue placing students at the center to facilitate incredible growth, dialogue, and collaboration!

Our vision for HACIA 30 centers on enhancing the inclusivity and impact of our organization. One of our primary objectives is to launch school recruitment and registration earlier than normal. This early start will allow ample preparation time for delegates, expand our outreach to students from a broader range of socio-economic backgrounds, and contribute to restoring HACIA's conference size to its pre-COVID levels. Implementing a robust HACIA Student Code of Conduct will be instrumental in ensuring the safety and comfort of our staff and delegates and upholding HACIA's core values of respect, integrity, and inclusivity this coming year. We are also excited to share that HACIA is working diligently to implement a robust financial aid program to welcome low-income students to the HACIA community. As students on full financial aid at Harvard, we know firsthand the importance of accessibility when providing transformative educational experiences—and we will uphold this as one of our biggest priorities this year. Our previous work with HACIA advisors and delegates has taught us the importance of proactive communication with our community members; as such, we are committed to increasing transparency and constant communication with school representatives to ensure that your voices are heard, your needs are addressed, and your contributions are valued.

We look forward to collaborating with each of you, and we are confident that HACIA 30 will stand as a resounding success, continuing the legacy of excellence and dedication that has defined our organization for the past three decades.

With care,

Sarah Borges & Dariana González Aguilar





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 underscores the importance of democracy in fostering accountable governance, protecting human rights, and encouraging civic participation. By engaging in realistic debates and negotiations, students gain a profound understanding of democratic processes and the role of international cooperation in addressing regional issues. HACIA empowers young participants to become informed and active citizens, instilling in them the skills and values necessary 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



Sarah Borges
Co-President



Dariana González
Co-President



Eugenia Briano
Business Director



Nicolas Carrero
Administration Director



Santiago Salazar
Recruitment Director



Frederico Araujo
Development Director



Evan Odegard
English Committees
Director



José Valdez
Spanish Committees
Director



Sofia Oliveira
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.



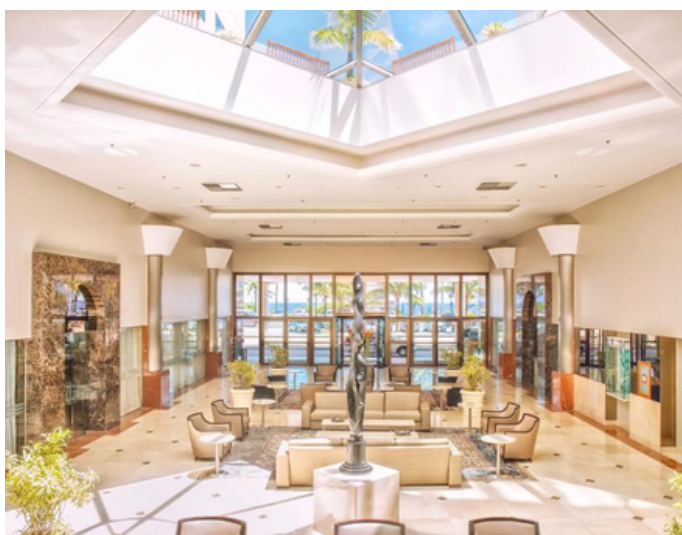
WINDSOR BARRA HOTEL

RIO DE JANEIRO

Windsor Barra Hotel offers an unparalleled blend of luxury, safety, and convenience in the vibrant city of Rio de Janeiro. Nestled in a semi-secluded area, this five-star hotel provides a secure and tranquil environment ideal for teachers and student delegations. Guests can enjoy peace of mind knowing that the hotel's location ensures safety while still granting easy access to Brazil's most breathtaking landmarks, including Sugarloaf Mountain and the iconic beaches of Copacabana and Ipanema.



The hotel boasts an array of exceptional amenities designed to enhance every aspect of your stay. Elegantly appointed rooms feature modern comforts and stunning ocean views, providing a restful retreat after a day of activities. For relaxation and leisure, the rooftop pool offers panoramic vistas of the Atlantic Ocean, while the full-service spa and wellness center provide rejuvenating treatments. Culinary delights await at Windsor Barra's gourmet restaurants, where guests can savor both international cuisine and local Brazilian specialties. The hotel also features state-of-the-art conference facilities equipped with the latest technology, making it an excellent venue for educational sessions, meetings, and group events.



Additional amenities include a fitness center, 24-hour room service, and dedicated concierge assistance to help plan excursions to nearby cultural attractions, nature reserves, and shopping districts. With its commitment to excellence and attention to detail, Windsor Barra Hotel ensures a luxurious and memorable experience for all guests, combining comfort with the rich cultural offerings of Rio de Janeiro.

ACCOMMODATIONS AND PRICE BREAKDOWN

Booking Your Room:

- 1) Visit windsorhoteis.com and select the option "Hoteis".
- 2) Select one of the following hotels for your stay: Windsor Barra, Windsor Tower or Windsor Oceanico (the hotels are all part of the Windsor network, located right next to each other in the same neighborhood).
- 3) When prompted, enter the promotional code "HACIA30" for 5% off, in addition to daily offers.
- 4) Select room type, making sure to select the option that includes breakfast (café da manhã).

Price Breakdown

All prices listed in Brazilian Real, including café de manhã (excluding tax)

Windsor Barra

Room Type	One Bed	Two Beds
Price per night per person	R574.63	R527.28
Total Price per Person For 4 Nights	R2298.52	R2109.12

Windsor Oceanico

Room Type	One Bed	Two Beds
Price per night per person	R450.24	R450.24
Total Price per Person For 4 Nights	R1837.07	R1837.07

Windsor Tower

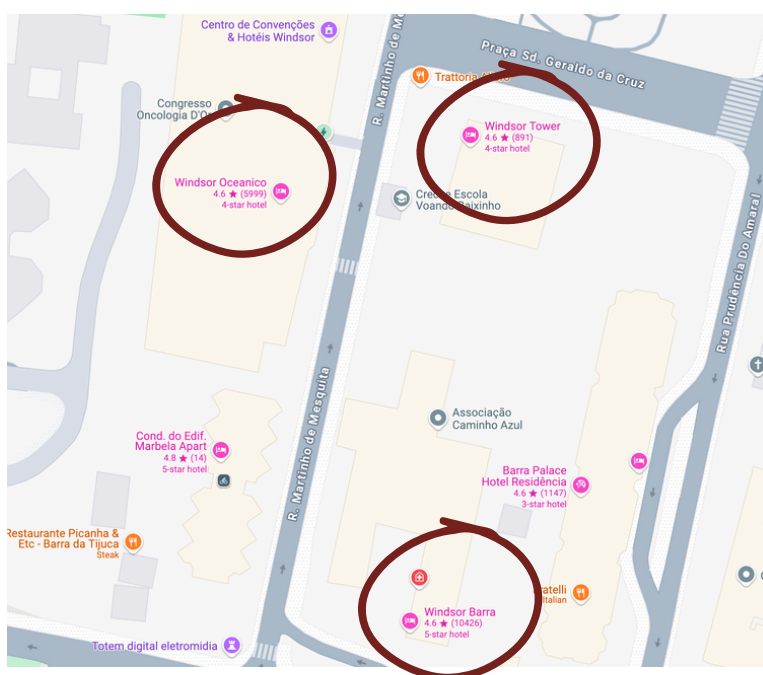
Room Type	One Bed	Two Beds
Price per night per person	R382.02	R382.02
Total Price per Person For 4 Nights	R1528.08	R1528.08

** Every hotel has options for standard, superior, and superior plus room. The prices listed here are the most affordable options for each type of accommodation.*

***Maximum number of beds per room is 2, but they can fit up to 4 guests depending on school preferences.*

Check-in: Friday, March 14, 2025, 3pm.
Check-out: Tuesday, March 18, 2025, 12pm.

Delegations wishing to extend their stay beyond these dates must do so at the regular rate of the Windsor hotels.



Any questions about rooms and accommodations should be directed to centraldereservas@windsorhoteis.com.br

REGISTRATION INFORMATION

Deadlines

The registration deadlines for the 30th Summit of the Americas are as follows:

Early: July 1st - October 15th, 2024
Regular: October 16th - December 15th, 2024
Late: December 16th - January 15th, 2025

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 75	USD 75	USD 75
Additional Advisor Fee	USD 25	USD 25	USD 25
Delegate Fee	USD 220	USD 250	USD 280
J-Staffer Fee	USD 175	USD 175	USD 175
Amenities Fee	USD 200	USD 225	USD 250

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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