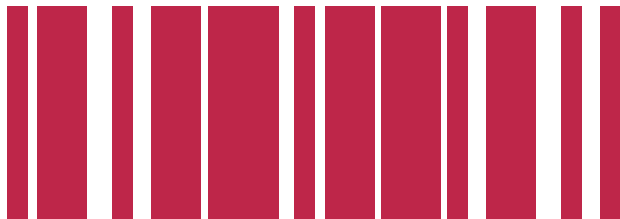




As a young citizen, what new proposals would you offer for tackling the world drug problem in the Americas?

The Voice of the Youth in the Americas



contest rules

PREVENTING AND MINIMIZING THE DAMAGE OF DRUGS





CONTEST RULES

“THE VOICE OF THE YOUTH OF THE AMERICAS”

CONTEST CALL

As young citizen, what new proposals would you offer for tackling the world drug problem in the Americas? The General Secretariat of the Organization of American States (OAS) and the Government of the Republic of Guatemala invite young people of the Americas to take part in the contest “THE VOICE OF THE YOUTH OF THE AMERICAS” by proposing new responses to the world drug problem.

All proposals are to be submitted via the website (http://www.oas.org/en/ser/dia/civil_society/Juventud-Americas/index.shtml) for the contest “The Voice of the Youth of the Americas.” The best proposals will be published in a collection that will represent young people’s contribution towards public policies in the countries of the Hemisphere. The OAS Secretary General and Guatemalan President Otto Pérez Molina will also present the winning proposals to the September 2014 Special OAS General Assembly session on the world drug problem in the Americas, where they will be recognized as contributions to a potential change in public policies.

SPIRIT AND PURPOSE BEHIND THE PROJECT

The aim is to encourage young people to participate in the debate about this problem by proposing new approaches to the drug problem in the Americas.

Young people need to be involved in solving problems in the collective public interest, and the objective, through this competition, is to encourage proactive contributions and creative ideas in the quest to find new approaches to the global drug problem. This is an open opportunity to come up with creative ideas in that direction.

The Government of Guatemala and the OAS General Secretariat are inviting civic-minded young people to join this endeavor by invoking their right to have a say and to be taken into account in the decision-making process.

AWARDS

Publication of the ten best proposals:

- Opportunity to discuss the proposal with Guatemalan President Otto Pérez Molina, Vice President Roxanna Baldetti, the Secretary General of the OAS, and a group of experts.
- Awards banquet hosted by the President Otto Perez Molina of Guatemala, Vice President Roxana Baldetti, and the OAS Secretary General, the cost of which will be underwritten by the Government of Guatemala.

- The best proposals will be published in a collection as a contribution by the youth to public policy in the countries of the Hemisphere and will be presented by Guatemalan President Otto Pérez Molina and the OAS Secretary General, to the OAS General Assembly’s special session on the world drug problem in the Americas, to be held in Guatemala in September 2014.
- Airline ticket, from the winners’ home country to Guatemala, with food and accommodation for three days and two nights included, for them to participate in the special General Assembly session, the cost of which will be covered by the Government of Guatemala.
- Publication on the official contest website and on the sponsoring institutions’ websites.



Ten First-Place Awards:

- The best proposals will be published in a collection as a contribution by the youth to public policy in the countries of the Hemisphere and will be presented by the OAS Secretary General and Guatemalan President Otto Pérez Molina, to the OAS General Assembly’s special session on the world drug problem in the Americas, to be held in Guatemala in September 2014.
- Publication on the OAS website and on the sponsoring institutions’ websites.

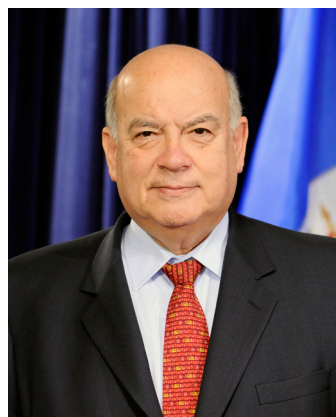


WHO IS ELIGIBLE TO PARTICIPATE

The invitation is being issued to young people of the Americas, between 18 and 30 years old, who are citizens of OAS member states..

ENTRY GUIDELINES AND FEATURES

- Topic to be addressed: “New proposals regarding the world drug problem in the Americas”
- Submissions must be sent by email to civilsociety@oas.org
- Spanish or English
- Format: Arial 12 font, single-spaced lines, change from preceding paragraph 0 pt., and after 10 pt.
- Document lay-out:
 - Cover Page
 - Introduction: Give the reader a brief overview of the alternative solution being proposed. You can explain how the idea came about and the parameters on which it was based.



- Proposal: Develop the perspective you wish to articulate through the portrayal of the main ideas and secondary ideas.
- Concrete proposals
- Final thoughts and conclusions
- Appendix (optional)
- Length: Between 5 and 10 pages, including each of the elements identified above. The Appendices are not counted in the length of the document.

ELIGIBILITY REQUIREMENTS

- Creativity
- Financial viability
- Profitability and sustainability
- Observance of established guidelines
- Clarity in argument, grasp of issue, depth

REGISTRATION

- Complete the Registration Form (http://www.oas.org/en/ser/dia/civil_society/Juventud-Americas/index.shtml)
- Identification document (To be sent in PDF format)
- Recent photo of contestant
- Receipt and registration will be confirmed by email within 48 hours of registration documents being received.

DEADLINES AND DATES

- To submit documents: July 15, 2014
- Pre-Evaluation: July 15-31, 2014
- Selection and Evaluation: August 1-15, 2014
- Announcement of Winners: August 19, 2014

PANEL OF JUDGES

The Executive Secretariat of Inter American Drug Abuse Control Commission (CICAD), a representative of the Government of Guatemala, and three issue experts from the Hemisphere.

DISQUALIFYING FACTORS

- Plagiarism or substitution (Using exact copy of another author's work, failing to attribute citation, using information, photographs, statistics, graphics, etc., without the necessary permission)
- Failure to complete the required registration process
- Failure to follow the guidelines and the set format

SELECTION OF CONTEST WINNERS – POLICIES

Selection of the winners of the Competition does not necessarily constitute validation or endorsement by the Government of Guatemala, by the member states of the OAS, or by the General Secretariat of the OAS, of the policies advanced by the winners to address the drug problem in the Americas.

CORRESPONDENCE

Requested documents must be emailed to civilsociety@oas.org. All correspondence will be by electronic means.

CONFIDENTIALITY

All documents are strictly confidential and only the panel of judges shall be privy to them. Once a winning entry is chosen, the contents of its documents will be made public.

ADDITIONAL CONSIDERATIONS

- All essays entered must be the student's own original, unpublished work.
- Quotes, illustrations, graphics, and photographs are allowed, but should not infringe on intellectual property or privacy rights, nor the rights of third parties, and participants should therefore ensure they are duly authorized to use or even quote any sources used, so as to avoid being disqualified for plagiarism.
- Any document or bibliographical material that a contestant wishes to use must be sent to the official Centroamericambio site for dissemination on the public reference portals. Publication is preceded by a process of content validation.
- Essays must demonstrate thematic relevance, personal perspective, and coherent argument and logic.
- At the time of registering, every contestant grants irrevocable, non-exclusive, full permission free of copyright restriction for the entire copyright period, authorizing us to publish the presentation or otherwise use it insofar as it is relevant to this particular contest, in any manner and at any time, and to transfer said rights to third parties.
- Winners may be asked to participate in promotional activities.
- Matters not considered in this invitation shall be decided by the Organizing Committee, as appropriate.
- When submitting their entries, contestants must also sign the following statement: "By participating in the Contest, you freely grant the General Secretariat of the OAS and the Government of Guatemala non-exclusive, unrestricted permission to publish, distribute, and otherwise use your submission and any other written or spoken submissions, by any medium, including the Internet and other electronic forms and formats, and in all languages."

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