

Forum for East Asia-Latin American Cooperation

Background Guide

GWCIA XXXI

Topic A: Gender Inequality
Topic B: Technology and AI

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Conference Policies

Misconduct Policy

GWCIA acknowledges that collegiate Model UN spaces often echo or perpetuate real-world discrimination towards various historically marginalized communities. As such, GWCIA enforces a zero tolerance policy for harassment or discrimination based on race, color, sex, gender, gender identity, sexual identity, national origin, religion, age, disability, or any other identity-based designation. Additionally, GWCIA practices a zero tolerence policy for sexual misconduct of any kind, including sexual harassment and sexual assault. This includes, but is not limited to, inappropriate 1) content in notes passed or documents created during committee sessions, 2) conversations throughout GWCIA, and 3) conduct at The George Washington University campus or at any GWCIA-sponsored programming. If a delegate experiences any kind of discrimination, social discomfort, or sexual misconduct, they are urged to bring it to the attention of any GWCIA secretariat member or report the instance via our anonymous misconduct form, which can be found on our Conduct Policies website page and in each committee room. Any potential cases of discrimination or sexual misconduct will warrant immediate investigation and may result in disqualification from awards and/or dismissal from the conference at the sole discretion of the Secretary-General.

Technology Policy — General Assembly

Using technology is prohibited in GWCIA general assembly committees, unless a delegate has an approved accommodation. GWCIA will provide delegates with one white legal pad and a pen that they may use to write clauses and contribute to resolutions. Delegates are free to bring their own additional notepads, staplers, Post-Its, or other supplies, as these will not be provided.

Plagiarism, Pre-Writing & AI Policy

All pre-written, plagiarized, or AI-generated content, which can include working papers, draft resolutions, directives, or crisis notes, is strictly prohibited at GWCIA. Pre-writing constitutes any language or content that was written outside of unmoderated caucuses in General Assemblies and outside of when debate is formally opened in crisis committees. This means that creating content before or after committee sessions or during moderated caucuses in Assemblies & Specialized committees is pre-writing. Writing during USG feedback, announcements, or during guest speakers equally constitutes pre-writing. All dais members and undersecretaries general are specifically instructed to monitor for pre-writing by checking typed and written materials that delegates may have prepared before the conference if potential pre-writing is suspected.
By participating in GWCIA, your delegation acknowledges that they understand this policy and the consequences if it is broken. Plagiarism includes, but is not limited to, verbatim or near-verbatim copying and pasting from academic sources or other websites. Any delegate found guilty of pre-writing, plagiarism, or flagrant AI usage will be immediately disqualified from any award in their committee. The GWCIA Secretariat reserves the right to search computers and laptops, notebooks and binders, USBs, and any form of electronics for Model UN specific documents in response to allegations. They additionally reserve the

discretion to run any content through an AI detector. In order to report a case of substantive misconduct, please see the anonymous misconduct form on our Conduct Policies page or contact a member of the Secretariat.

Awards Policy

While GWCIA recognizes that the core value of participating in any Model UN committee is education in international affairs and the development of related skills such as productive collaboration, public speaking, and critical thinking, we also recognize the value of rewarding delegates who are exceptionally prepared and proficient in these skills. At GWCIA, we value delegates who can leverage creativity, diplomacy, substantive knowledge, and critical thinking skills to debate effectively, lead negotiations and blocs, and write comprehensive clauses. We especially look favorably towards delegates who individually develop meaningful solutions to the committee's main issues while keeping in mind the realistic diplomatic dynamics of our world, as well as those delegates who are able to advocate for their solutions and ideas to be adopted. The dais encourages delegates to lead in a manner that uplifts and respects their competitors while also introducing strong, unique solutions that consistently anchor their group's directive or working paper. On the other hand, attempts to undermine the goals of the committee without reason or acting without detailed thought of consequences are discouraged. Any rude, disrespectful, or demeaning conduct towards other delegates' ideas will not be tolerated.

Letter from the Chair

Dear Delegates,

My name is Mary Schickedanz, and I am so excited to be chairing this FEALAC committee! I am a sophomore at George Washington University studying International Affairs, with concentrations in both Gender and Security Policy and a minor in Spanish. I am a member of the GW Model UN travel team and serve as one of the team's Assistant Head Delegates, competing in General Assembly and Crisis committees at colleges across the country. Outside of Model UN, I play club lacrosse, enjoy exploring DC, love yoga, and have a serious coffee habit. I am a San Francisco native who loves talking about all things California, especially the beach.

FEALAC stands out to me because of the rapid development of many of its member countries over the past few decades. As the economic strength of countries like South Korea, China, and Vietnam continues to grow, and as the United States begins to break from historic trade relationships and alliances, a committee focused on cross-Pacific cooperation that de-centers the United States feels more relevant now than ever. Thank you so much for participating in GWCIA!

I look forward to meeting all of you. If you have any questions, please feel free to email.

Warmly,
Mary Schickedanz
mary.schickedanz@gwmail.gwu.edu

Reminder: Delegates must CC their advisor on any email sent to the Chair.

Introduction to the Committee

FEALAC (the Forum for East Asia–Latin America Cooperation) was first proposed between the president of Chile, Eduardo Frei, and the Prime Minister of Singapore, Goh Chok Tong, to strengthen ties and trade between East Asia and Latin America at the turn of the twenty-first century. It was officially established in 1999 to support the two regions, which is composed of 36 member countries.[1] FEALAC filled a key regional gap: no formal cooperative mechanism had previously connected the countries bordering the Pacific across these two continents.[2] The forum has expanded significantly through the ten Foreign Ministers' Meetings held since 2001.[3] The FMM is the highest governing body in the organization and holds all decision-making authority, which, once passed, goes to Senior Officials Meetings, where they make decisions about how the goals will be achieved through Working Groups.[4]

FEALAC was designed to be a voluntary, informal, and collaborative organization built on five key principles that any passed resolution must uphold: respect for sovereignty and territorial integrity; non-interference in internal affairs; equality, mutual benefit, and shared commitment to development; respect for unique cultures and social values; and decision-making by consensus.[2] FEALAC's stated goals are somewhat broader: the organization aims to increase mutual understanding and friendly cooperation among member states, develop new partnerships,

[1] FEALAC, "About FEALAC: Overview," accessed August 2026, https://www.fealac.org/new/m/about/overview.jsp.
[2] FEALAC, "About FEALAC: Overview," accessed August 2026, https://www.fealac.org/new/m/about/overview.jsp.
[3] FEALAC, "About FEALAC: Overview," accessed August 2026, https://www.fealac.org/new/m/about/overview.jsp.
[4] FEALAC, "About FEALAC: Organization," accessed August 2026, https://www.fealac.org/new/m/about/organization.jsp.

draw on the potential of multidisciplinary cooperation, and expand common ground on major international political and economic issues to safeguard shared interests.[1]

Resolutions passed by FEALAC are non-binding, but they carry significant weight, shaping global trade and politics as member countries incorporate the initiatives into their own foreign policy.[2] FEALAC organizes its work around four main working groups: Socio-Political Cooperation, Sustainable Development and Climate Change; Trade, Investment, Tourism and MSMEs; Culture, Youth, Gender and Sports; and Science, Technology, Innovation and Education.[2] Its first two projects, signed in 2018, focused on reducing inequality among member countries and on establishing a value-chain development program to further integrate Latin America and East Asia.[3]

Wealth inequality is a serious issue that affects every country but is especially acute in East Asia, where the gap between the wealthiest 10 percent and the poorest 10 percent is more than twenty times greater than the gap in more equitable regions. As AI and other technologies continue to advance rapidly, the divide between upper and working classes is likely to widen further. In response, FEALAC, working alongside the UN's Economic Commission for Latin America and the Caribbean (ECLAC), has partnered on sustainable development programs aimed at combating inequality.

Topic A: Gender Inequality

Because FEALAC functions as a forum rather than a lawmaking body, it has not passed any binding mandates on gender equality to date.[5] Among member states, there is substantial variation in gender-equality legislation: on average, Latin American countries have passed more such legislation than East Asian countries.[6] Most countries trace their legislative frameworks back to two major international conventions on the status of women. The first was the Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination Against Women (CEDAW), adopted by UN member states in New York in 1979. Article 3 calls on states to take "all appropriate measures, including legislation, to ensure the full development and advancement of women, for the purpose of guaranteeing them the exercise and enjoyment of human rights and fundamental freedoms on a basis of equality with men."[7]

Sixteen years later, the Fourth World Conference on Women was held in Beijing in 1995 to reaffirm and build on CEDAW's commitments, placing greater emphasis on the role of poverty in shaping the treatment and rights afforded to women and on preventing all forms of violence against women.[8]

In East Asia, the challenge is twofold. In advanced economies such as Japan, South Korea, Singapore, and China, women can access significant educational opportunities but remain

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[5]FEALAC, "About FEALAC: Organization," accessed August 2026, https://www.fealac.org/new/m/about/organization.jsp.

[6] Shiro Armstrong, "Women's Rights in East Asia," East Asia Forum, December 22, 2025, https://eastasiaforum.org/womens-rights-in-east-asia/.

[7] "Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women," Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights, accessed August 2026, https://www.ohchr.org/en/instruments-mechanisms/instruments/convention-elimination-all-forms-discrimination-against-women.

[8] UN Office of the High Commissioner for Human Rights, "Beijing Declaration and Platform for Action," Fourth World Conference on Women, Beijing, September 4–15, 1995, https://www.un.org/womenwatch/daw/beijing/pdf/BDPfA%20E.pdf.

burdened by societal expectations around childcare and family planning, along with a gender pay gap of up to 20 percent.[9] Japan ranks 117th in the 2026 Global Gender Equality survey, with some of the lowest rates for female political participation across the globe.[10] For nine straight years, the Philippines bested other Asian countries in closing the global gender disparity, rising to 7th place in the 2015 Global Gender Gap Index with improvements in economic participation and political empowerment tied to more female legislators, senior officials and managers, and more women in ministerial positions.[11] In less advanced countries such as Laos, Myanmar, and Cambodia, women are still routinely denied basic access to healthcare and education.[12] Across the region, women remain underrepresented in high-level political and economic decision-making, including within FEALAC forums.[13]

Latin America faces similar challenges related to extreme poverty and traditional expectations that confine women to domestic roles, away from political and economic life. Even so, countries such as Argentina and Chile have become regional leaders in advancing women's rights, passing legislation that establishes quotas for female political representation, criminalizes femicide, and expands access to contraception for all women. According to data from the UN Office on Drugs and Crime, Guatemala experiences 7.6 intentional female homicides per 100,000 women annually, the 8th highest rate globally.[14] FEALAC is currently making it a goal to implement the FEALAC Women Entrepreneurs Network, effective implementation of laws

[9] Shiro Armstrong, "Women's Rights in East Asia," East Asia Forum, December 22, 2025, https://eastasiaforum.org/womens-rights-in-east-asia/.
[10] Jiji Press, "Japan Ranks 117th in 2026 Global Gender Equality Rankings," Nippon.com, September 16, 2026, https://www.nippon.com/en/news/yjj2026091601114/.
[11] Philippine Commission on Women, "PH Rises to 7th Spot, Still Asia's Top Performer in Closing Gender Gap," 2015, https://pcw.gov.ph/?p=9919.
[12] Shiro Armstrong, "Women's Rights in East Asia," East Asia Forum, December 22, 2025, https://eastasiaforum.org/womens-rights-in-east-asia/.
[13] Shiro Armstrong, "Women's Rights in East Asia," East Asia Forum, December 22, 2025, https://eastasiaforum.org/womens-rights-in-east-asia/.
[14] World Bank, "Gender-Based Violence Country Profile: Guatemala" (World Bank Group, 2023), https://openknowledge.worldbank.org/bitstreams/c6eca45f-6fd8-4ff6-a906-2b9cd6c93b16/download.

and regulations on gender equality, containing gender violence, and protecting women and children in migration, disaster, and conflict situations.[15]

[15] FEALAC, "Gender," accessed August 2026, https://www.fealac.org/new/topic/view.do?idx=1402.

Topic B: Technology and AI

In July 2026, Latin American and Caribbean countries convened under UNESCO to agree on a regional roadmap for the ethical use of AI, with a strong emphasis on educating governments, public-service professionals, and private companies on responsible AI implementation.[16] In East Asia, countries are beginning to adopt AI policy frameworks, with Singapore standing out as the clear leader, investing more than $60 billion in AI capital.[17] Korea has championed a meeting this summer to promote "AI Basic Society for All," ensuring that they are sharing with Latin American member states on how to promote AI for use in daily life and with vulnerable populations.[18] Addressing AI policy also means addressing inequities in technology access across developing countries in Asia and Central America, where most people still lack reliable access to wifi, a home computer, or consistent schooling.[19]

[16] UNESCO, "Latin America and the Caribbean Consolidate a Regional Roadmap for Ethical, Inclusive, and Human-Centered Artificial Intelligence," UNESCO Montevideo, July 2, 2026, https://www.unesco.org/en/articles/latin-america-and-caribbean-consolidate-regional-roadmap-ethical-inclusive-and-human-centered.
[17] Southeast Asia Public Policy Institute, "Policy State of Play: Artificial Intelligence in Southeast Asia," August 21, 2024, https://seapublicpolicy.org/work/policy-state-of-play-artificial-intelligence-in-southeast-asia/.
[18] FEALAC, "National Project Database: AI for All," accessed August 2026, https://www.fealac.org/new/document/board_view.do?idx=2203&sboard_id=national_project&sboard_category=SPCSDCC&page=1&onepage=10&orderby=idx&sort=desc&sboard_19=NP&sboard_20=Y&stext=AI%20for%20All.
[19] Marianne Scott Dwight, "AI and Digitalization: An Opportunity for Growth in Latin America," Global Americans, August 28, 2026, https://globalamericans.org/ai-and-digitalization-an-opportunity-for-growth-in-latin-america/.

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