



**ORGANIZATION OF AMERICAN STATES**  
**Inter-American Council for Integral Development**  
**(CIDI)**



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**AMENDED ORGANIZATION PLAN OF THE**  
**TRADE UNION TECHNICAL ADVISORY COUNCIL (COSATE)**

**(Provisional)**



## **AMENDED ORGANIZATION PLAN OF THE TRADE UNION TECHNICAL ADVISORY COUNCIL (COSATE)**

### **NATURE AND PURPOSE**

Article 1. The Trade Union Technical Advisory Council (COSATE) shall be a special advisory council of the Inter-American Conference of Ministers of Labor for the purpose of promoting the effective participation of labor organizations in the development of the Inter-American Conference of Ministers of Labor.

Article 2. To fulfill the purpose set forth in the foregoing article, COSATE shall provide the Inter-American Conference of Ministers of Labor and the Permanent Technical Committee on Labor Matters (COTPAL) with technical advice on the planning and implementation of programs that have special significance for workers and involve their participation in development activities at both the national and the international level. It may also provide such advice to the Inter-American Council for Integral Development (CIDI).

### **MEMBERSHIP AND OPERATION**

Article 3. COSATE shall be made up of one representative of the national free, democratic trade-union organizations of each of the member states of the Organization of American States, one of whom shall be elected chairman for a term of one year or until his successor is elected and takes office. An alternate shall be designated for each member of COSATE. The regular member and the alternate shall be chosen by the most representative national free, democratic trade-union structure of each country. The regional free, democratic trade-union organizations that maintain relations of cooperation with the Inter-American Council for Integral Development may be members of COSATE with voice but without vote.

Article 4. The representation of the trade-unions organizations on COSATE shall continue unchanged until the competent official organ of each country reports changes in the current representation, at least six months before meetings of COSATE.

Article 5. The trade-union organizations may terminate their participation in COSATE upon written notification to its Secretariat.

Article 6. COSATE shall hold one regular meeting a year and special meetings as necessary. The place and date of the meetings shall be determined by the Chairman in consultation with the members of COSATE and its required to convoke special meetings.

Article 7. The organization expenses of the meetings of COSATE shall be paid by the Trade Union organizations.

Article 8. An absolute majority of the representatives, or their alternates in the absence of the former, shall constitute a quorum at meetings of COSATE. The decisions of the Council shall be taken by a majority vote of the representatives present at the meeting. Each representative shall be entitled to one vote.

Article 9. The officers of the meetings of COSATE shall be a Chairman and a first and second Vice Chairman, who shall be elected at the same time, and shall serve until the next regular meeting. In the absence of the Chairman a Vice Chairman shall act in his stead in the order indicated.

## POWERS

Article 10. The Chairman of COSATE shall have the following powers:

- a. To represent COSATE, in coordination with the Technical Secretariat, in official activities and technical meetings associated with workers' interests;
- b. To adopt measures he considers advisable to advance the progress of COSATE and to comply with the provisions of this Organization Plan.
- c. To take cognizance of requests made to the Secretariat by the national federations.

## MEETINGS

Article 11. During the meetings of COSATE the Chairman has the following duties:

- a. To establish, in agreement with the Secretariat, the order of business for the plenary sessions;
- b. To preside over the sessions and submit the matters on the order of business to COSATE for considerations;
- c. To grant the floor to the representatives in the order of their requests;
- d. To call to order any representative;
- e. To rule on points of order that may arise during the meetings;
- f. To put to a vote the points under discussions that require decision and to announce the results; and

- g. To adopt measures that he considers advisable to advance the progress of the meeting and to see that the provisions of this Organizations Plan are carried out.

Article 12. The meetings of COSATE shall be closed. However, trade union organizations that have relations of cooperation with the Organization of American States may attend meetings of the Council in the capacity of observers. The members of COTPAL may attend the meeting in the same capacity, as may representatives of organizations concerned with trade-union matters that have relations of cooperation with the Organization of American States and are invited by the Secretariat.

Article 13. The draft agenda of the meetings of COSATE shall be prepared by the Secretariat in consultation with the Chairman and communicated for consideration to the representatives of COSATE, who shall make their observations thereon within the period fixed by the Secretariat.

Article 14. The definite agenda of each meeting shall be adopted at the first working session, by a majority vote of the representatives present, whether or not to permit discussion thereof.

Article 15. If a matter not appearing on the order of business is brought up for consideration at any of the sessions, it shall be decided immediately, by majority vote of the representatives present, whether or not to permit discussion thereof.

Article 16. Proposals on substantive matters that are to be considered at plenary sessions or by working groups shall be presented in writing to the Secretariat of the meeting, which shall deliver copies in advance to all representatives. However, during the sessions, if it is so decided, discussions may be held on a text not previously distributed.

#### ADVISORY SERVICES

Article 17. COSATE shall report, through the Secretariat, to the meetings of the Inter-American Conference of Ministers of Labor and of COTPAL. The Chairman may participate in these meetings with right to voice.

Article 18. The conclusions reached by each meeting of COSATE shall be included in a final report published by the Secretariat.

Article 19. Final reports shall be published in Spanish and English.

#### SECRETARIAT

Article 20. The Technical Secretary of COSATE, designated by the Secretary General of the Organization of American States, shall have the following duties:

- a. To attend the meetings of COSATE, with voice;
- b. To inform the meetings of any matter that deserves consideration;
- c. To provide the meetings with the technical advisory services they may require and to keep them informed about the tasks entrusted to the Secretariat by the previous meeting;
- d. To direct the Secretariat services; and
- e. During the period between meetings, to keep the Council informed of any matters that he deems of importance, within its purview.

#### AMENDMENTS

Article 21. The Organization Plan of COSATE may be amended by the Inter-American Conference of Ministers of Labor by its own decision or at the request of COSATE.