



TOWARD A HEMISPHERIC DRUG POLICY  
FOR THE TWENTY-FIRST CENTURY

PRESS GUIDE



Organization of  
American States

# The Organization of American States

The OAS is the world's oldest regional organization. It dates back to the First International Conference, held in 1889 in Washington, DC. At this meeting it was agreed to create the International Union of American Republics and began to weave a web of provisions and institutions that would become the "Inter-American System," the oldest international institutional system.

The OAS came into being in 1948 with the signing in Bogotá, Colombia, of the [Charter of the OAS](#), which entered into force in December 1951. The Organization was established in order to achieve among its member states—as stipulated in Article 1 of the Charter—"an order of peace and justice, to promote their solidarity, to strengthen their collaboration, and to defend their sovereignty, their territorial integrity, and their independence."

Today, the OAS brings together the 35 countries of the Americas -34 are active members- and is the main political, legal and social governmental forum in the Hemisphere. It has also granted permanent observer status to 69 states and the European Union (EU).

The OAS action is based on its core pillars: democracy, human rights, security and development. Its purposes are: to promote and consolidate representative democracy, with respect for the principle of nonintervention; strengthen the peace and security of the continent; to prevent possible causes of difficulties and to ensure peaceful settlement of disputes between Member States; to seek the solution of political, juridical and economic problems that may arise among the member states; to promote, by cooperative action, the economic, social and cultural development of the Americas; and to eradicate extreme poverty, which constitutes an obstacle to the full democratic development of the peoples of the hemisphere.

## Toward a Hemispheric Drug Policy for the Twenty-First Century

In March 2014, the Permanent Council of the Organization of American States convened the 46<sup>th</sup> Special Session of the General Assembly of the Organization, in compliance with the mandates of the institution's Regular General Assembly held in La Antigua Guatemala in June 2013. The objective of the meeting is to implement the provisions of the ["Declaration of Antigua Guatemala: For a Comprehensive Policy against the World Drug Problem in the Americas"](#).

The meeting takes place in the wake of a process that began with the publication in May 2013 of the Report on the Drug Problem in the Americas, prepared by the OAS under the leadership of



Secretary General José Miguel Insulza. From that point on, member states generated discussions, meetings, and experimental approaches. The debate expanded globally, and the United Nations decided to address the issue at its 2016 General Assembly.

The meeting of September 19, in Guatemala, seeks to find agreements on specific issues that could guide the hemispheric drug policy during the coming years, as well as define the position of the Hemisphere prior to the aforementioned Assembly of the United Nations.

## **José Miguel Insulza**

### *Secretary General*

José Miguel Insulza was elected OAS Secretary General on May 2, 2005, and reelected March 24, 2010. The Chilean politician has an accomplished record of public service in his country. At the beginning of his first five-year term as Secretary General, he pledged to strengthen the Organization's "political relevance and its capacity for action."

A lawyer by profession, he has a law degree from the University of Chile, did postgraduate studies at the Latin American Social Sciences Faculty (FLACSO), and has a master's in political science from the University of Michigan. Until 1973, he was Professor of Political Theory at the University of Chile and of Political Science at Chile's Catholic University. He also served, until that year, as Political Advisor to the Chilean Ministry of Foreign Affairs and Director of the Diplomatic Academy of Chile.

He became involved in politics during his student years and served as Vice President of the Student Association of the University of Chile (FECH), President of the Center for Law Students of the University of Chile and President of the Chilean National Union of Students of University Federations of Chile (UFUCH).

In the early 1970s, Insulza played an active role in Salvador Allende's Popular Unity government and, following the coup that brought General Augusto Pinochet into power, he went into exile for 15 years, first in Rome (1974-1980) and then in Mexico (1981-1988).

In Mexico City, he was a researcher and then Director of the United States Studies Institute in the Center for Economic Research and Teaching (CIDE). He also taught at Mexico's National Autonomous University, the Ibero-American University, and the Diplomatic Studies Institute.

Insulza was able to return to Chile in early 1988 and joined the Coalition of Parties for Democracy, the coalition that won the plebiscite against the Pinochet regime in October of that year.

He has held numerous high-level posts in several Coalition governments.

During the administration of President Patricio Aylwin, Insulza served as Chilean Ambassador for International Cooperation, Director of Multilateral Economic Affairs at the Ministry of Foreign Affairs and Vice President of the International Cooperation Agency.

In March 1994, under the administration of President Eduardo Frei, Insulza was named Under-Secretary of Foreign Affairs and in September of that year was appointed Minister of Foreign Affairs. In 1999-2000, he became Minister Secretary General of the Presidency.

In March 2000, under President Ricardo Lagos, he was designated Minister of the Interior and, as such, filled the office of Vice President of the Republic. When he left that post in May 2005, he had served as a government minister for more than a decade, the longest continuous tenure for a minister in Chilean history.

Insulza is married to Georgina Núñez Reyes. He has a daughter (Francisca), two sons (Javier and Daniel) and seven granddaughters.

## **Albert R. Ramdin**

### *Assistant Secretary General*

Ambassador Albert Ramdin has a long and distinguished career in international relations, diplomacy and government negotiations in the Americas. A citizen of Suriname, Ambassador Ramdin began his career in the private sector and was soon appointed advisor on foreign trade by his government. In 1997, he became Suriname's Ambassador to the Organization of American States in Washington, D.C. Following his tenure as Ambassador, he was appointed Assistant Secretary General of CARICOM. After serving CARICOM from 1999-2001, he became senior political adviser of then OAS Secretary General Cesar Gaviria for three years.

Ambassador Ramdin was elected Assistant Secretary General of the OAS on June 7, 2005. He was unanimously re-elected to serve a second five-year term on March 24, 2010.

As Assistant Secretary General of the Organization of American States, Ambassador Ramdin pledged to ensure the fair and equal representation of all 34 countries represented at the hemispheric organization. Having responsibility for the guidance of the Permanent Council of the OAS, Assistant Secretary General Ramdin has managed the discussion of sensitive issues among countries by providing key advice, recommendations, proposals and solutions to potential conflicts. Assistant Secretary General Ramdin has also been instrumental in managing election-related conflicts in several countries, and has served as Chief of Mission to election observation teams.

Assistant Secretary General Ramdin has advocated for social and economic opportunities for youth as Chair of the OAS Interdepartmental Working Group on Youth. He has been influential in providing support to countries via OAS programs to strengthen sustainable development,

increase productivity and innovation of small and medium-sized enterprises. He secured the upgrade of national identity systems to allow citizens to obtain basic identity documents.

Ambassador Ramdin spearheaded efforts for the creation of the OAS Private Sector Forum to promote dialogue between the public and private sectors of the Western Hemisphere, with a view to improving the conditions for investment, productivity, job creation, social cohesion, and to ensure the effective delivery of the benefits of democracy to the people of the Americas. In 2011, Assistant Secretary General Ramdin delivered on his pledge to Heads of Government from Central America and the Caribbean to strengthen trade relations between the two regions, in light of the global economic slowdown. For the first time in 2011, and subsequently in 2012 and 2013, he brought together top CEOs and Trade Ministers from Central America and the Caribbean to discuss opportunities and challenges to business between both regions, resulting in the establishment of annual meetings on policy issues, business, trade and investment. As a result, top business executives have agreed on measures to fully realize the potential for the development of Pan-Caribbean businesses.

Assistant Secretary General Ramdin has also ensured that Haiti remains a high priority on the OAS Agenda. He has provided active support and assistance to the people of Haiti and consecutive Haitian governments for over a decade and has led negotiations with Haiti's leaders on behalf of the international community in times of conflict. In addition to directly supporting the democratic processes on the ground in Haiti, Ambassador Ramdin also spearheaded the establishment of the Haiti Task Force within the OAS in Washington, which coordinates all Haiti related activities and programs. ASG Ramdin was also instrumental in re-establishing the Group of Friends of Haiti in Washington, which brings together member states, permanent observers, international and financial institutions, to discuss developments and update programs.

In the area of security, Assistant Secretary Ramdin has worked closely with the United Nations and experts from the wider security community to build political awareness of an innovative model that would not only satisfy sub-regional security priorities, but also build capacity to combat the spread of biological, chemical and nuclear weapons to terrorist organizations. By linking a broader set of international security and development issues, he has raised the profile of the OAS within the global security community.

Assistant Secretary General Ramdin's work in the Hemisphere has also served to revitalize OAS relations with other international and regional organizations, including the European Union, United Nations, CARICOM, SICA and others. By bringing together regional and international organizations, civil society organizations and the private sector from different continents, he has facilitated dialogue to address emerging common needs and interests. He has advocated for more inclusive forms of government across the Americas and has promoted sharing the organization's long-standing experience in peace-building and democratization with other regions of the world.

Within the OAS, Assistant Secretary General Ramdin advocated the journey of becoming "green." The organization became more energy efficient, and ultimately reduced paper consumption by over 95 percent.

Having served in different capacities in the Hemisphere for most of his life, Assistant Secretary General Ramdin bases his actions on People, Peace and Prosperity. He believes secure, peaceful, and healthy democracies are enabled by sound economies. Because of this, he has worked hard to deliver programs and provide opportunities to countries across the hemisphere, with the hopes of generating employment, and ultimately improving the quality of life for citizens of all countries.

## **DIRECTORY OF MINISTERS**



### **Antigua and Barbuda**

Winston Baldwin Spencer  
Prime Minister and Minister of  
Foreign Affairs



### **Argentina**

Héctor Marcos Timerman  
Minister of Foreign Affairs and  
Culture



### **Bahamas**

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Minister of Foreign Affairs and  
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### **Barbados**

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### **Belize**

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Vice President





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Minister of Foreign Affairs



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Patrice Nisbett  
Minister of Foreign Affairs,  
Justice, Legal Affairs, Homeland  
Security and Labor



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International Trade and Aviation



[San Vincent and the Grenadines](#)  
Camillo Gonsalves  
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Foreign Trade and Consumer  
Affairs



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Winston Dookeran  
Minister of Foreign Affairs



[Uruguay](#)  
Luis Almagro Lemes  
Minister of Foreign Affairs



[Venezuela](#)

Rafael Ramírez  
Minister of Popular Power for  
Foreign Relations

GENERAL ASSEMBLY



FORTY-SIXTH SPECIAL SESSION  
September 19, 2014  
Guatemala City, Guatemala

OEA/Ser.P  
AG/doc.1 (XLVI-E/14)  
28 August 2014  
Original: Spanish

DRAFT AGENDA<sup>1/</sup> FOR THE  
FORTY-SIXTH SPECIAL SESSION

(Approved by the Preparatory Committee at the meeting held on August 27, 2014)

1. Election of the president
2. Adoption of the recommendations of the Preparatory Committee of the forty-sixth regular session of the General Assembly
3. Report of the Secretary General on Credentials
4. Follow-up on the Declaration of Antigua Guatemala: "For a Comprehensive Policy against the World Drug Problem in the Americas" [AG/DEC. 73 (XLIII-O/13) corr. 1]

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1. Article 35: The agenda of each special session of the General Assembly shall be confined to the subject or subjects for which the session was convoked.

Article 42: For special sessions of the Assembly, the Preparatory Committee may, if necessary, change the procedures and time periods established in this chapter with respect to drafts and working documents.

GENERAL ASSEMBLY



FORTY-SIXTH SPECIAL SESSION  
September 19, 2014  
Guatemala City, Guatemala

OEA/Ser.P  
AG/doc.2 (XLVI-E/14) corr. 1  
29 August 2014  
Original: Spanish

DRAFT SCHEDULE<sup>1/</sup> FOR THE  
FORTY-SIXTH SPECIAL SESSION

(Approved by the Preparatory Committee at its meeting of August 27, 2014)

**Wednesday, September 17, 2014**

8:00 pm      Banquet - The Voice of the Youth of the Americas  
Banquet hosted by the President and Vice President of the Republic of Guatemala  
and the Secretary General of the OAS for the winners of the *Voice of the Youth of the  
Americas* Contest  
*Venue: Presidential Palace*

**Thursday, September 18, 2014**

9:00 a.m.      “Toward a Regional Strategy on the Drug Problem”  
1:00 p.m.      Panel organized in collaboration with the *London School of Economics* and Rafael  
Landívar University of Guatemala  
*Venue: Rafael Landívar University Auditorium, Main Entrance*

4:00 p.m.      OPENING PRESS CONFERENCE  
*Plata Room, Camino Real Hotel Convention Center*

7:00 p.m.      Reception hosted by the Minister of Foreign Affairs of the Republic of Guatemala for  
all delegations (by invitation)  
*National Palace*

**Friday, September 19, 2014**

**9:00 a.m.      INAUGURAL SESSION**  
*Plata Room, Camino Real Hotel Convention Center*

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1. Article 49: The plenary sessions of the General Assembly and the meetings of the General Committee, the subcommittees, and the working groups shall be public, unless the respective body decides that they shall be closed.  
Article 50: Only the delegations of the member states, necessary Secretariat personnel, and the permanent observers, in accordance with Article 8, may attend closed sessions or meetings.  
Article 48: The General Assembly shall hold an inaugural session, the necessary plenary sessions, and a closing session. Nevertheless, in the case of a special session, the inaugural session may be eliminated.



**10:00 a.m. FIRST PLENARY SESSION***Salón Oro, Convention Center, Hotel Camino Real*

1. Election of the president
2. Adoption of the draft agenda
3. Adoption of the draft schedule
4. Adoption of the recommendations of the Preparatory Committee of the forty-sixth special session of the General Assembly
5. Report of the Secretary General on credentials
6. Announcement of the Results of the *Voice of the Youth of the Americas* contest
7. Secretary General's Report on follow-up on the Declaration of Antigua Guatemala
8. Follow-up on the Declaration of Antigua Guatemala: "For a Comprehensive Policy against the World Drug Problem in the Americas." [AG/DEC. 73 (XLIII-O/13) corr. 1]
  - Dialogue of heads of delegation

**10:30 a.m. SECOND PLENARY SESSION***Oro Room, Camino Real Hotel Convention Center*

- Dialogue of heads of delegation (Continued)

**10:30 a.m. FIRST MEETING OF THE GENERAL COMMITTEE***Plata Room, Camino Real Hotel Convention Center*

12:30 p.m. Official photograph of the Heads of Delegation  
*Los Lagos Patio, Camino Real Hotel (Venue to be confirmed)*

1:00 p.m. Private Luncheon of the Heads of Delegation with the Secretary General and the Assistant Secretary General  
*Las Terrazas Room, Camino Real Hotel*

1:00 p.m. Luncheon of the Deputy Heads of Delegation (+1)  
*La Ronda Room, Camino Real Hotel*

**3:30 p.m. THIRD PLENARY SESSION***Oro Room, Camino Real Hotel Convention Center*

- Adoption of the resolution of the forty-sixth special session

**6:30 p.m.      CLOSING SESSION**  
*Oro Room, Camino Real Hotel Convention Center*

**7:00 p.m.      CLOSING PRESS CONFERENCE**  
*Plata Room, Camino Real Hotel Convention Center*

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