

**PRESENTATION OF THE ACTIVITIES WITH CIVIL SOCIETY AND OTHER SOCIAL ACTORS IN THE  
FRAMEWORK OF THE 48<sup>TH</sup> REGULAR SESSION OF THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE  
ORGANIZATION OF AMERICAN STATES (OAS)**

**FORMAT AND PRINCIPLES OF PARTICIPATION**

**BACKGROUND INFORMATION ON THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY**

- The 48th regular session of the OAS General Assembly will take place on June 3-5 2018 in Washington, DC, USA.
- There is no central theme for the General Assembly. However, this year marks the **70<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of the Organization of American States**.

**PURPOSE OF THIS DOCUMENT**

The present document was established to:

1. Present the format and objective of the **“Dialogue of Heads of Delegation, the Secretary General, the Assistant Secretary General and Representatives from Civil Society Organizations, Workers, the Private Sector and other Social Actors”** (the Dialogue) which will take place on Sunday, June 3, 2018 In Washington, DC, in the framework of the 48<sup>th</sup> regular session of the OAS General Assembly.
2. Guide civil society organizations and social actors on format of the work through coalitions of organizations sharing common positions, in preparation for the Dialogue.
3. Establish the principles which must guide the participation of civil society representatives in the spaces and activities of the General Assembly.



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## OBJECTIVE AND FORMAT OF THE DIALOGUE

The main activity planned at the General Assembly for Civil Society is the **“Dialogue of Heads of Delegation, the Secretary General, the Assistant Secretary General and Representatives of Civil Society Organizations, Workers, the Private Sector and Other Social Actors”**.

### **Objective and Format:**

This dialogue will have follow the same format established last year for the 47<sup>th</sup> OAS General Assembly.

- The **objective of the event will be to foster an open and proposal geared dialogue** between civil society, the Member States and the OAS General Secretariat.
- It is anticipated that the Dialogue will be divided into **the following three segments:**

We invite civil society and social actors to propose actions on the contribution of the OAS towards the global advancement of the following themes:

- Human Rights, Democracy and the Rule of Law
- Integral Development and Prosperity in the Hemisphere
- Multidimensional Security

Furthermore, we invite participating organizations to incorporate the themes of empowerment of women and gender equality in their interventions.

### **Venue, date and duration:**

- The Dialogue will take place on Sunday, June 3 in the Hall of the Americas at OAS Headquarters. The event will begin at 9:00 am and will end at 1:00 pm. The duration of the segments will be adjusted in accordance with the interest expressed by civil society and social actors on the three thematic areas.

### **Results of the Dialogue:**

- The OAS General Secretariat will make a report of each segment of the Dialogue, which will include the topics of greater interest, as well as concrete proposals that may come out of the exchange.
- Furthermore, the OAS General Secretariat will issue a transcript of the segments for publication and distribution in the weeks following the General Assembly.

## ESTABLISHMENT AND WORK IN COALITION

- We ask civil society organizations and other social actors to organize into self-managed hemispheric thematic coalitions in order to facilitate a broader, more equitable and inclusive participation in the General Assembly.
- For the purpose of the General Assembly, a “thematic coalition” will be understood as a group of at least 10 organizations registered to attend the General Assembly, with shared positions on at least one of the three segments of the Dialogue.
- The central objective of this coalition-based work format is to promote the contribution of civil society to the work of the 48<sup>th</sup> General Assembly, principally the Dialogue.
- This work format will also allow organizations that cannot attend the General Assembly to join a coalition and participate in the preparatory work leading up to the Dialogue.

### Work methodology for the Coalitions:

- Each Coalition will determine its membership and work methodology in preparation for the General Assembly.
- Each coalition must **present the following information to the OAS General Secretariat, by Monday May 21, 2018 at the latest.** The information must be submitted via email at [civilsociety@oas.org](mailto:civilsociety@oas.org) with a copy to [oassociedadcivil@gmail.com](mailto:oassociedadcivil@gmail.com):
  1. **The list of the organizations forming the coalition.**
  2. **The name of the organization which will act as the coordinator of the Coalition.**
  3. **The priority Segment for its intervention.** In case a coalition wishes to intervene in more than one Segment of the Dialogue, it may indicate a second segment of interest, where the coalition could speak, once all other coalitions having chosen this segment as priority have intervened, and as long as time constraints permit it.
  4. **A summary (1 page maximum, font Calibri 11, single-spaced)** of the intervention of the coalition in the Dialogue.
  5. **The name and Organization of the Spokesperson for the Coalition.** In case a coalition asks to intervene in a second segment, the coalition could designate a separate spokesperson for each segment. The accredited CSO representatives that will not act as spokespersons will participate in the Dialogue as observers.



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- In cases some organizations do not belong to a coalition, and upon their request, the OAS General Secretariat will channel them toward an existing coalition for their participation in the work of the 47th OAS General Assembly. Those organizations who expressly decide not to join a coalition will participate in the Dialogue as observers.
- Due to time constraints, there will be a **maximum of 25 spaces for interventions by Coalitions during the Dialogue, and an additional maximum of 7 spaces for other social actors, with a maximum duration of 5 minutes by intervention**. This arrangement will also allow enough time for interaction with representatives of the Member States and the Secretary General and Assistant Secretary General.
- In case the number of coalitions exceeds the number of spaces available for intervention, the General Secretariat will suggest alliances among coalitions with shared positions, so that they might work together on a consensus intervention.
- **On Wednesday, May 23, 2018**, the General Secretariat will communicate the final list of coalitions that will intervene in the Dialogue, as well as the speaker's time for each intervention. Furthermore, should it be necessary, the General Secretary will invite coalitions to form alliances to ensure a thematic balance.
- **By Tuesday, May 29 at the latest**, the definitive Coalitions must send to the OAS General Secretariat, the text of the presentation or presentations to be made by the spokesperson(s) in the Dialogue, so that these can be distributed to the Member States, taking into account the maximum speaker's time of the spokesperson. The text must be sent via email to [civilsociety@oas.org](mailto:civilsociety@oas.org) with a copy to [oassocideadcivil@gmail.com](mailto:oassocideadcivil@gmail.com). A longer version of the presentation can also be included to the official website of the 48th General Assembly for dissemination.
- Each coalition is asked to present proposals geared towards fomenting a constructive reflection and/or propose solutions or **actions** to address problems common to the region, in the framework of the thematic areas of the segments of the Dialogue and the OAS Agenda.



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## METHODOLOGY CALENDAR

Deadline	Activity
Monday May 21, 2018	The CSO present the information regarding their coalitions to the OAS General Secretariat.
Wednesday May 23, 2018	The OAS General Secretariat issues the final list of coalitions and the speakers' time for the interventions. Furthermore, should it be necessary, the General Secretariat will invite coalitions to form alliances to ensure a thematic balance.
Tuesday, May 29, 2018	The coalitions present the text of their presentations in the Dialogue to the OAS General Secretariat.

## PRINCIPLES OF PARTICIPATION IN THE ACTIVITIES AND SPACES OF THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY

A large number of representatives from civil society and other social actors will participate in the 48<sup>th</sup> OAS General Assembly, which will provide this sector an open forum for dialogue and exchange of views with OAS Member States.

The organizers of the General Assembly want this to be a safe and productive space for all participants. To this end, this document sets forth the rules of conduct expected from each one of the participants at the General Assembly:

- We are committed to having diverse points of view represented, as well as rich and constructive discussions based on plurality and respect. Thus, participants must commit to making these working forums welcoming and respectful places for all participants, regardless of their national origin, ethnicity, gender, gender identity and expression, age, sexual orientation, disability, or physical appearance.
- No harassment of any kind toward General Assembly participants or organizers will be tolerated. Examples of harassment include offensive comments, verbal threats, intimidation, stalking, harassment through photographs or recording, disruptive behavior at sessions, events, or inside and outside of the bathrooms and unwanted physical contact.
- Participants must follow these rules of participation at all times. If participants are requested to desist from any inappropriate behavior, they are to immediately comply with such request.

- In the event a participant violates these principles, the General Assembly organizers reserve the right to bar participants involved from remaining, inviting them to leave without a right to continue to participate, as well as to consider adopting the measures they deem appropriate to safeguard the principles of pluralism and respect. Individual sanctions, where applicable, will be determined at the organizers' discretion.