

FORTY NINTH REGULAR SESSION OF THE OAS GENERAL ASSEMBLY
June 26 -28, 2019
Medellín, Colombia

INFORMATION BULLETIN

The documents of the 49th regular session of the OAS General Assembly are available on the page : www.oas.org/49ag



VENUE OF THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY

The Forty Ninth regular session of the General Assembly of the Organization of American States (OAS) will take place on June 26-28, 2019 in the city of Medellín, Colombia. The activities of the General Assemblies will take in Plaza Mayor, which includes a Convention Center and an Expo Center.

The **plenary sessions** will take place in the **Plaza Mayor Convention Center**, (41 Street n° 55-80, Medellín, Colombia).

Due to space limitations and the number of people registered, access to the **General Committee** will be limited to **one person per coalition**. We ask Coalition coordinators to confirm the name of the person.

The Dialogue between Member States, the Secretary General and social actors will take place in the **Green Room of the Expo Center** (Pabellones de Exposiciones - Pabellón Verde) on Wednesday, June 26, 2019, from 9:00 am to 1:00 pm.

PROCEDURE TO APPLY TO ATTEND THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY

1. Civil Society Organizations, Indigenous Peoples and Communities of African Descent:

In accordance with the Rules of Procedures of the OAS General Assembly, civil society organizations who wish to attend the General Assembly under the category of “Civil Society Organization” sent their corresponding requests to the OAS General Secretariat by **Monday, April 15th, 2019 at 5:30 pm, Washington, DC-time**.

2. Workers:

The OAS General Secretariat coordinates with the Trade Union Technical Advisory Council (COSATE, for its acronym in Spanish) –which comprises trade-union confederations from the region- all aspects related to workers’ participation in the General Assembly. The Trade Union Confederation of the Americas (TUCA) supports this process.

Invitations to workers’ organizations are made through COSATE, which internally selects its representatives and spokespersons. The Chair of COSATE will send the GS/OAS a list of the workers’ representatives who are to attend the General Assembly. Only persons whose names appear on that list may receive accreditation.

3. List of approved Civil Society, Indigenous Peoples, Communities of African Descent and Representatives of Workers:

The list of Civil Society Organizations, Indigenous Peoples, Afro-descendant Communities, Workers, Private Sector and other social actors approved by the Permanent Council as special guests is available at the following link:

http://scm.oas.org/doc_public/ENGLISH/HIST_19/CP41018E05.doc

The registration of Civil Society Organizations in the Organization of American States is free; as is the registration for attending and participating in meetings of the General Assembly of the Organization.

ONLINE REGISTRATION FOR APPROVED ORGANIZATIONS

Civil society organizations and social actors that have been approved and that appear in the list previously mentioned, must complete the online Accreditation Form available in the [Accreditation System](#), under the category of: “Civil Society Organizations”, “Indigenous Peoples and Afro-descendant Communities” or “Workers organizations”.

If you have a doubt, please consult the list of special guests to find your category:

http://scm.oas.org/doc_public/ENGLISH/HIST_19/CP41018E05.doc

ACCREDITATION AT THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY VENUE

Participants will be able to pick up their accreditation badges beginning on **Sunday, June 23, 2019, at the Expo Center- Access Hall of the Green Room (41 Street n° 55-80, Medellín, Colombia)** <https://bit.ly/2JSiPng> from 8:30am to 5:30pm nonstop.

For security reasons, accreditation badges will be required at all General Assembly Activities.

To receive their accreditation badges, participants will be required to **bring a copy of the confirmation email they will receive after their online registration, as well as their official invitation letter and identity papers.**

COORDINATION

Civil Society and Social Actors

The Section of Relations with Civil Society of the OAS Secretariat for Access to Rights and Equity will coordinate civil society and social actors' participation in the 49th General Assembly, for further information, please contact:

Catherine Pognat, Section Chief
Section of Relations with Civil Society
Secretariat for Access to Rights and Equity
Email: civilsociety@oas.org

Workers' representatives

María Claudia Camacho, Section Chief
Section of Labor and Employment
Executive Secretariat for Integral Development
Email: mcamacho@oas.org

FEATURES OF THE DIALOGUE WITH CIVIL SOCIETY ORGANIZATIONS AND OTHER ACTORS

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".

Venue: Plaza Mayor, Expo Center (41 Street N.° 55-80, Medellín, Colombia)

Date and Time: Wednesday, June 26, 2019, 9:00 am – 1:00 pm.

This activity seeks to provide civil society, social actors and workers an opportunity to interact with the Heads of Delegations of the OAS Member States, the Secretary General and Assistant Secretary General. The objective of the event will be to foster an open and proposition-based dialogue between social actors, Member States and the General Secretariat.

The Dialogue will be divided into 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:

1. **Strengthening the dialogue between the OAS, Member States, civil society organizations and social actors to perfect institutions and the Rule of Law.**
 2. **Tripartite Governance: States, Private Sector and citizens as catalysts for integral development in the Americas.**
 3. **Representation and responsibility: civil society organizations and social actors, the Inter-American System and citizenry.**
- **Each coalition must choose one of these topics to carry out their intervention and will have to inform the General Secretariat of their choice.**
 - **Workers' representatives** and the **Private Sector** can choose 2 topics.
 - **Youth** (through the YABT), can choose one topic.

In the upcoming days, once the coalitions have been confirmed, we will be sending you additional information regarding the topics.

Speaking time: the time allotted to each speaker will be limited to 3 to 4 minutes per coalition (the exact time will be confirmed shortly). Once the maximum speaking time is reached, the microphone will be turned off. Along these lines, we invite coalitions and social actors to draft their interventions accordingly.

PREPARATION FOR THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY

In preparation for the 49th OAS General Assembly, we recommend that the participants get familiar with the following documents:

- [OAS Charter](#)
- [Inter-American Democratic Charter](#)
- [Social Charter of the Americas](#)

We ask that participants carefully read Appendix 2 to the present document: Rules of Participation in the Activities and Venues of the General Assembly.

GENERAL INFORMATION

1. Accommodations

Participants will be responsible for covering the costs associated with their stay in Medellín, including accommodation, transport, meals and other incidentals.

We suggest making your reservations through specialized websites, such as:

- <https://www.hotels.com>
- <https://www.booking.com>

The following hotels are recommended for civil society organizations, given their proximity to the building where the event will take place:

Hotels	Distance between Hotel and Plaza Mayor
<p><u>Mi Hotel Sandiego</u> Calle 31 n° 43-90 Medellín Colombia Tel.: +57 4 4449002 https://www.mihotel.com.co/</p>	<p>10 min</p>
<p><u>El Portón de San Joaquín</u> Calle 42 n° 68A -32 Medellín Colombia Tel.: +57 4 4444008 https://porton-de-san-joaquin.hotels-medellin.com/en/</p>	<p>10 min</p>
<p><u>Binn Hotel</u> Calle 25 n° 10-51 Medellín Colombia Tel.: +57 4 3220289 https://binnhotel.com/</p>	<p>15 min</p>
<p><u>El Poblado</u> Carrera 43 A #4 Sur 75 Avenida el Poblado Medellín Colombia Tel.: +57 4 2685555 https://www.pobladohoteles.com/</p>	<p>15 min</p>
<p><u>Viaggio</u> Carrera 43 A #14-81 Medellín Colombia Tel.: +57 1 7449999 https://www.viaggiomedellin.com/</p>	<p>15 min</p>

2. Colombia travel requirements

The Colombian Government requires that all travelers have a **Passport valid for at least six-months** after the date of travel.

Please see Appendix 1 for detailed information on visa requirement to enter the country.

For more information regarding the requirements, please visit the following link:

https://www.cancilleria.gov.co/tramites_servicios/visa/requisitos

It is the responsibility of each participant to comply with the visa requirements established by Colombia.

Please take into consideration that, depending on your incoming country and in compliance with Circular 018/2017 of the Colombian Ministry of Health and Social Protection, some Airlines require that passengers be **vaccinated against yellow fever** to travel to Colombia. We recommend checking with your respective airlines in advance as the vaccination certificate must show the vaccine was done at least 10 days prior to the travel date. You can also check for additional information on the site: <http://www.minsalud.gov.co/saludalviajero>

3. Transportation

Transportation from the Airport to Hotels:

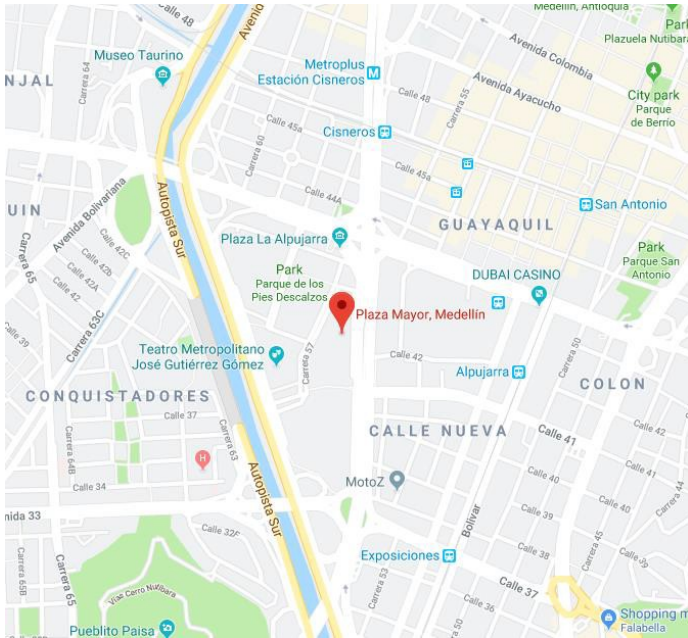
Taxi services:

- **Airport Taxi ACO:** [+57 313 7440680](tel:+573137440680) - <http://www.acoataxiaaeropuerto.com.co/>

Public Transportation in Medellín:

- **Metro:** to access the map of the Medellín Metro system, please visit this link <https://www.metrodemedellin.gov.co/viajeconnosotros/mapas>
- **Bus:** to access the map of the Medellín bus system, please visit this link: <https://www.medellin.gov.co/movilidad/component/jdownloads/viewcategory/1759-rutas-de-buses>

The metro stations closest to Plaza Mayor are: **Alpujarra and Exposiciones**. The closest bus stop is **Plaza Interamericana**, with direct Access to Plaza Mayor. They are marked on the following map:



4. Working and document Languages

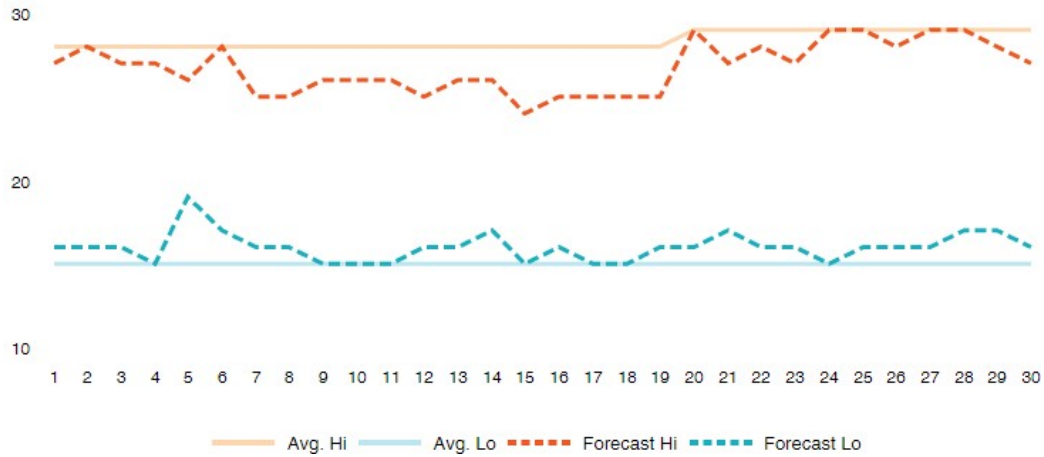
The “Dialogue of Heads of Delegation, the Secretary General, the Assistant Secretary General and the Representatives of Civil Society Organizations, Workers, the Private Sector and other Social Actors” will have simultaneous interpretation in the four official languages of the OAS: Spanish, English, French and Portuguese, as well as American Sign Language.

5. Weather

Medellín's climate is humid template. The average temperature of the month of June ranges between 18° C (64°F) and 25° C (77°F).

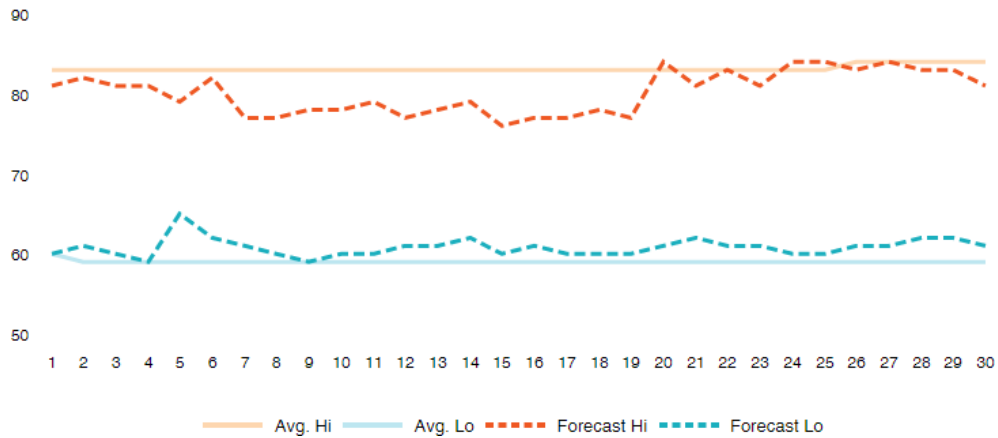
Celcius

Temperature Graph June 2019



Fahrenheit

Temperature Graph June 2019



6. Currency

The monetary unit of Colombia is the Colombian peso. The representative market rate ranges between \$ 3,250 and \$ 3,300 Colombian pesos for each American dollar. International credit cards are accepted in most hotels and commerce in general.

We suggest changing currency at airports and shopping centers since the rates offered by the hotels may be higher.

7. Time zone and telephone area codes

The time zona for Medellín is GMT – 5 (summer).

The international area code for the country is +57 and the city code for Medellín is (4).

8. Business hours

Shops opens at 10:00 a.m. and closes at 20:00 p. m. Monday through Friday, continuous hours, and Saturdays from 9:00 a.m. at 5:00 p.m. Large shopping centers operate every day of the week, with hours until 8:00 p.m.

Banks open Monday through Friday between 9:00 a.m. m. and 3:00 p.m. m.

Most government offices work Monday through Friday between 8:30 a.m. m. and 5:30 p.m.

9. Electric Current

The electric current in Medellín is 110 volts AC. Plugs are A and B as shown below:



Please convey any questions regarding the information provided in this bulletin to civilsociety@oas.org

APPENDIX 1
VISAS

Countries that require a visa to enter Colombia

PAÍS	REQUIERE VISA
ANTIGUA Y BARBUDA	NO
ARGENTINA	NO
BAHAMAS	NO
BARBADOS	NO
BELIZE	NO
BOLIVIA	NO
BRASIL	NO
CANADÁ	NO
COSTA RICA	NO
CHILE	NO
CUBA	YES
DOMINICA	NO
ECUADOR	NO
EL SALVADOR	NO
ESTADOS UNIDOS	NO
GRENADA	NO
GUATEMALA	NO
GUYANA	NO
HAITÍ*	YES
HONDURAS	NO
JAMAICA	NO
MÉXICO	NO
NICARAGUA*	YES
PANAMÁ	NO
PARAGUAY	NO
PERÚ	NO
REPÚBLICA DOMINICANA	NO
SANTA LUCÍA	NO
SAN VICENTE Y LAS GRANADINAS	NO
SAINT KITTS Y NEVIS	NO
SURINAME ⁺	YES
TRINIDAD Y TOBAGO	NO
URUGUAY	NO
VENEZUELA	NO

COUNTRY	VISA	COUNTRY	VISA
Alemania	No	Líbano	Yes
Angola	Yes	Liechtenstein	No
Arabia Saudita	Yes	Lituania	No
Argelia	Yes	Luxemburgo	No
Armenia	Yes	Malta	No
Austria	No	Marruecos*	Yes
Azerbaiyán	Yes	Mónaco	No
Bélgica	No	Montenegro	No
Benín	Yes	Nigeria	Yes
Bosnia y Herzegovina	No	Noruega	No
Bulgaria	No	Países Bajos	No
China, República Popular de	Yes	Pakistán	Yes
Chipre	No	Polonia	No
Croacia	No	Portugal	No
Dinamarca	No	Qatar	No
Egipto	Yes	Reino Unido de Gran Bretaña e Irlanda del Norte	No
Eslovaquia	No	República Checa	No
Eslovenia	No	República de Albania	No
España	No	República de Corea	No
Estonia	Yes	República de Letonia	No
Federación de Rusia*	No	República de Macedonia del Norte	Yes
Filipinas	No	República de Moldova	Yes
Finlandia	No	República Popular de Bangladesh	Yes
Francia	No	Rumania	No
Georgia	No	Santa Sede	No
Ghana	Yes	Serbia	No
Grecia	No	Sri Lanka	Yes
Guinea Ecuatorial	Yes	Suecia	No
Hungría	No	Suiza	No
India*	Yes	Tailandia	Yes
Irlanda	No	Túnez	Yes
Islandia	No	Turquía	No
Israel	No	Ucrania	Yes
Italia	No	Unión Europea	No
Japón	No	Vanuatu	Yes
Kazajistán	No	Yemen	Yes

APPENDIX 2

RULES OF PARTICIPATION IN THE VENUES AND ACTIVITIES OF THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY

A large number of representatives from Civil Society and other Social Actors will participate in the 49th OAS General Assembly, which will provide this sector with 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 or disrespect toward General Assembly participants (Member State Delegates, Civil Society) or organizers will be tolerated.** Examples of harassment or disrespect 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.
- **During the Dialogue, participants must remain in their seat at all times.** They may not bring in or use placards, flags or other objects promoting a specific posture into the room.
- During the **plenary and General Committee sessions**, representatives of civil society and social actors can be present as **observers**. This implies that they may not approach or interrupt the work of the Delegates of the Member States for any reason.
- **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 or face expulsion.
- Access to the designated spaces of the General Assembly will be strictly reserved for accredited persons. The accreditations will be delivered only to persons whose organizations have been approved by the Permanent Council and who have received an official letter of invitation from the General Secretariat of the OAS.

- In the event a participant violates these rules, 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.