The Organization of American States

The Organization of American States (OAS) brings together the nations of the Western hemisphere to promote economic development, democracy, strengthen human rights, and foster peace and security. The OAS is the region's principal multilateral forum for political dialogue and collective action.

The OAS is made up of 35 Member States: the independent nations of North, Central and South America and the Caribbean—of which 34 currently actively participate. Nations from other parts of the world participate as Permanent Observers.

The member countries set major policies and goals through the General Assembly, which gathers the hemisphere's Ministers of Foreign Affairs once a year in a regular meeting. The Permanent Council, made up of ambassadors appointed by the Member States, gathers regularly to discuss and define political and response guidelines.

To put into practice the strategic and political goals established by the political organs, six Secretariats coordinate the efforts of the OAS in specialized areas; the Secretariat for Multidimensional Security, the Secretariat of Political Affairs, the Executive Secretariat for Integral Development, the Secretariat for External Relations, the Secretariat for Administration and Finance and the Secretariat for Legal Affairs.

For A Comprehensive Policy against the World Drug Problem in the Americas

All the countries of the Americas agree that drugs are a global problem with a singular impact in this hemisphere, which brings with it important political, economic, social and environmental costs for all the societies of the region, and which generates adverse effects in terms of health, coexistence, citizen security, public policies and economic activities, among other areas. In response to these challenges, the Heads of State and Government of the Hemisphere instructed the OAS at the Sixth Summit of the Americas in Cartagena, Colombia, to prepare a study on the drug policies implemented so far and to explore possible future scenarios.

The Report on the Drug Problem in the Americas, the result of this mandate, was presented by the OAS Secretary General, José Miguel Insulza, on May 17, 2013 in Bogota, Colombia, to President Juan Manuel Santos. The leader of the hemispheric institution expressed his hope that the Report “will not be a conclusion, but only the beginning of a long awaited debate.” That political dialogue among Member States, based on the Report, will begin at the General Assembly in Antigua, Guatemala, for which the host country chose the theme “For a Comprehensive Policy against the World Drug Problem in the Americas.”
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 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. A member of the Socialist Party, he has held numerous high-level posts in several Coalition governments.

Under the presidency of 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 became Under-Secretary of Foreign Affairs and in September of that year was appointed Minister of Foreign Affairs. In 1999, he became Minister Secretary General of the Presidency, and the following year he became President Ricardo Lagos’s Minister of the Interior and 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 was born June 2, 1943, and is married to Georgina Numen Reyes. They have three children: Francisca, Javier and Daniel.
mbassador Albert Ramdin, a citizen of Suriname, has a long and distinguished career in public service at the international, hemispheric, regional and national levels. He was first elected as Assistant Secretary General of the Organization of American States (OAS) on June 7, 2005 and was re-elected by acclamation to a second term on March 24, 2010.

Prior to his election he served as Ambassador at Large and Special Adviser to Government of the Republic of Suriname on Western Hemispheric Affairs.

In 1997, Albert Ramdin was appointed Ambassador Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary and Permanent Representative to the OAS. Between January and March of 1998 he chaired the OAS Permanent Council. In 1999, Ambassador Ramdin chaired the Inter-American Council for Integral Development and on that same year he was also appointed to serve concurrently as Suriname’s non-resident Ambassador to Costa Rica. Also in 1999, Ambassador Ramdin joined the CARICOM Secretariat as Assistant Secretary-General for Foreign and Community Relations, where he was responsible for the coordination of the foreign policy of CARICOM and the strengthening of relations among its member states. A strong supporter of building alliances with other regional integration movements and economic groupings in the Hemisphere, Ambassador Ramdin played a leading role in strengthening relations with the Central American Integration System and the Andean Community, thereby contributing to increased cooperation between CARICOM and these organizations. In 2001, Ambassador Ramdin was appointed Adviser to the OAS Secretary General, where he continued his close engagement with the situation in Haiti, dealt with small states’ issues, and monitored the hemispheric trade agenda.

For the last 10 years, Ambassador Ramdin has dedicated a great deal of time and effort to helping the people and government of Haiti build and consolidate peace and stability in their country. In order to ensure a more effective and coordinated OAS policy and service delivery to the Government of Haiti, Ambassador Ramdin established and chairs the OAS Haiti Task Force (HTF) as a mechanism for cooperation on policy, programs and financial contributions and management among Member States, the Inter-American system, the international financial institutions and with the United Nations System.

As Assistant Secretary General of the OAS, one of his primary objectives is to guide the institution into a broader and more structured global dialogue and cooperation, whereby the OAS can share with other regions the organization’s long-standing experience in peace-building, democratization, as well as in development and competitiveness.
Directory of Ministers of Foreign Affairs

**Antigua and Barbuda**
Winston Baldwin Spencer
Prime Minister and Minister of Foreign Affairs

**Argentina**
Héctor Marcos Timerman
Minister of Foreign Affairs and Culture

**The Bahamas**
Frederick A. Mitchell
Minister of Foreign Affairs and Immigration

**Barbados**
Maxine Ometa Pamela McClean
Minister of Foreign Affairs and Foreign Trade

**Belize**
Wilfred Elrington
Minister of Foreign Affairs and Foreign Trade

**Bolivia**
David Choquehuanca Céspedes
Minister of Foreign Affairs

**Brazil**
Antonio de Aguiar Patriota
Minister of Foreign Affairs

**Canada**
Diane Ablonczy
Minister of State of Foreign Affairs (Americas and Consular Affairs)

**Chile**
Alfredo Moreno Charme
Minister of Foreign Affairs

**Colombia**
María Ángela Holguín
Minister of Foreign Affairs

**Costa Rica**
Enrique Castillo Barrantes
Minister of Foreign Affairs and Culture
Dominica
Roosevelt Skerrit
Prime Minister and Minister of Finance, Foreign Affairs and Information Technology

Dominican Republic
Carlos Morales Troncoso
Secretary of State of Foreign Affairs

Ecuador
Ricardo Patiño
Minister of Foreign Affairs, Trade and Integration

El Salvador
Hugo Roger Martínez Bonilla
Minister of Foreign Affairs

Grenada
Nickolas Steele
Minister of Foreign Affairs and International Business

Guatemala
Luis Fernando Carrera Castro
Minister of Foreign Affairs

Guyana
Carolyn Rodrigues-Birkett
Minister of Foreign Affairs

Haiti
Pierre Richard Casimir
Minister of Foreign Affairs and Worship

Honduras
Mireya Agüero de Corrales
Minister of Foreign Affairs

Jamaica
Arnold Joseph Nicholson
Minister of Foreign Affairs and Foreign Trade

Mexico
José Antonio Meade
Secretary of Foreign Affairs

Nicaragua
Samuel Santos López
Minister of Foreign Affairs
Panama
Fernando Núñez Fábrega
Minister of Foreign Affairs

Suriname
Winston G. Lackin
Minister of Foreign Affairs

Paraguay
José Félix Fernández Estigarribia
Minister of Foreign Affairs

Trinidad and Tobago
Winston Dookeran
Minister of Foreign Affairs and Communications

Peru
Eda Rivas Franchini
Minister of Foreign Affairs

United States
John Kerry
Secretary of State

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

Uruguay
Luis Almagro
Minister of Foreign Affairs

Saint Lucia
Alva Baptiste
Minister for External Affairs, International Trade and Aviation

Venezuela
Elías Jaua
Minister of Foreign Affairs

Saint Vincent and the Grenadines
Douglas Slater
Minister of Foreign Affairs, Foreign Trade and Consumer Affairs
1. Adoption of the agenda of the General Assembly

2. Adoption of the recommendations of the Preparatory Committee of the forty-third regular session of the General Assembly

3. Annual report of the General Secretariat on the Organization’s activities and financial statements

4. Report of the Secretary General on Credentials

5. Annual Report of the Permanent Council

6. Observations and recommendations of the Permanent Council on the annual reports of the organs, agencies, and entities of the Organization
   a. Inter-American Council for Integral Development (CIDI)
   b. Inter-American Juridical Committee (CJI)
   c. Inter-American Commission on Human Rights (IACHR)
   d. Inter-American Court of Human Rights
   e. Inter-American Institute for Cooperation on Agriculture (IICA)
   f. Pan American Health Organization (PAHO)
   g. Administrative Tribunal (TRIBAD)
   h. Inter-American Commission of Women (CIM)
   i. Inter-American Telecommunication Commission (CITEL)
   j. Inter-American Drug Abuse Control Commission (CICAD)
   k. Inter-American Children’s Institute (IIN)
   l. Pan American Institute of Geography and History (PAIGH)
   m. Justice Studies Center of the Americas (JSCA)
   n. Inter-American Committee against Terrorism (CICTE)
   o. Inter-American Defense Board (IADB)

7. Determination of the place and date for the forty-fourth regular session

8. Election of officers of organs, agencies, and entities of the Organization
   a. Three members of the Inter-American Commission on Human Rights
   b. Three members of the Inter-American Juridical Committee
   c. Two members of the Justice Studies Center of the Americas
   d. One member of the Administrative Tribunal of the OAS
   e. One member of the Board of External Auditors to Examine the Accounts of the General Secretariat

9. The Question of the Malvinas Islands

10. Social Charter of the Americas: Renewal of the Hemispheric Commitment to Fight Poverty in the Region

11. Promotion and Strengthening of Democracy: Follow-up to the Inter-American Democratic Charter

12. Excessive Commodity Price Volatility and its Implications for Food Security and Sustainable Development in the Americas

13. Free Trade and Investment in the Hemisphere

14. Use of Telecommunications/Information and Communication Technologies to Create an Integrating Information Society
15. Strengthening the activities of the Inter-American Program of Judicial Facilitators

16. Prevention and Eradication of Commercial Sexual Exploitation and Smuggling of and Trafficking in Minors

17. Promotion of Women’s Human Rights and Gender Equity and Equality and Strengthening of the Inter-American Commission of Women


19. Network for Consumer Safety and Health and Inter-American Rapid Product Safety Warning System

20. Recognition and Promotion of the Rights of People of African Descent in the Americas

21. Adoption of Progress Indicators for Measuring Rights Under the Protocol of San Salvador


23. Human rights defenders: Support for Individuals, Groups, and Organizations of Civil Society Working to Promote and Protect Human Rights in the Americas

24. Internally Displaced Persons

25. Persons who have disappeared and assistance to members of their families

26. Draft Legally-Binding Inter-American Instruments against Racism and Racial Discrimination and against All Forms of Discrimination and Intolerance

27. Follow-up to the Inter-American Program for Universal Civil Registry and the “Right to Identity”

28. Strengthening the activities of the Justice Studies Center of the Americas

29. Human Rights, Sexual Orientation, and Gender Identity


31. Inter-American Program for the Development of International Law

32. Draft American Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples

33. Right to the Truth

34. Protection of the Human Rights of Older Persons

35. Access to Public Information and Protection of Personal Data

36. Promotion of the International Criminal Court

37. Follow-up on the Inter-American Convention against Corruption and on the Inter-American Program for Cooperation in the Fight against Corruption

38. Support for the Committee for the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Persons with Disabilities and Its Technical Secretariat
39. Education on Human Rights in Formal Education in the Americas

40. Program of Action for the Decade of the Americas for the Rights and Dignity of Persons with Disabilities (2006-2016) and support for its Technical Secretariat

41. Meeting of Ministers of Justice or Other Ministers or Attorneys General of the Americas

42. Protection of Asylum Seekers and Refugees in the Americas

43. Observations and Recommendations on the Annual Report of the Inter-American Court of Human Rights

44. Advancing Hemispheric Security: A Multidimensional Approach

45. Increasing and Strengthening the Participation of Civil Society and Social Actors in the Activities of the Organization of American States and in the Summits of the Americas Process

46. Support for and Follow-up to the Summits of the Americas Process

47. Financing of the 2014 Program-Budget of the Organization

48. Celebration of the Fiftieth Anniversary of the Inter-American Conference of Ministers of Labor and Holding of the XVIII Conference

49. Inter-American Program on Education in Democratic Values and Practices

50. Support for the work of the Caribbean Sea Commission.

51. Investing in Human Capital for Development

52. Promoting Integrated Water Resource Management in the Americas

53. Convocation of the Eighth Regular Meeting of the Inter-American Committee on Ports

54. Report of the XX Inter-American Congress of Ministers and High-Level Authorities of Tourism and Holding of the XXI Inter-American Congress of Ministers and High-Level Authorities of Tourism

55. Promotion of Social Responsibility in the Hemisphere

56. Inter-American Competitiveness Network

57. Micro, Small and Medium-sized Enterprises

58. Strengthening the Discussion of Migration Issues in the Organization of American States

59. Draft Omnibus Resolution on the Strengthening of CIDI and Cooperation

60. Progress in accountability, effectiveness, efficiency, and results in the OAS

61. Consideration of the regulations for footnotes

63. Effective Public Management Strengthening and Innovation Initiative in the Americas

64. Observations and Recommendations on the Annual Report of the Inter-American Commission on Human Rights

65. Promotion of and Respect for International Humanitarian Law

66. Study of the Rights and the Care of Persons under Any Form of Detention or Imprisonment

67. Protecting Human Rights and Fundamental Freedoms while Countering Terrorism

68. Prevention and Reduction of Statelessness and Protection of Stateless Persons in the Americas

69. The Human Rights of All Migrant Workers and of Their Families

70. TOPIC I: Promotion of international law

71. TOPIC II: Organs, Agencies, and Entities of the OAS whose annual reports are considered by the CAJP

72. TOPIC III: Inter-American Instruments, Mechanisms, and Programs under the purview of the CAJP

73. TOPIC IV: Promotion and protection of human rights

74. TOPIC V: Strengthening the Inter-American Human Rights System (IAHRS)
SCHEDULE
FOR THE 43RD REGULAR SESSION
OF THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY

SATURDAY, JUNE 1
08:30  Private Sector Forum  Place: Guatemala City, Hotel Camino Real - Salón Los Lagos

SUNDAY, JUNE 2
10:00  TIC Américas 2013 -YABT  Place: La Antigua, Hotel Soleil - Salón Los Volcanes

MONDAY, JUNE 3
09:00  TIC Américas 2013 -YABT – Awards Ceremony  Place: La Antigua, Hotel Soleil - Salón Los Volcanes
10:00  Dialogue with the Secretary General and the Assistant Secretary General with Civil Society  Place: La Antigua, Hotel Casa Santo Domingo – Salón Mayor
12:30  Press Conference hosted by the Minister of Foreign Affairs of Guatemala, the Secretary General, and the Assistant Secretary General  Place: La Antigua, Hotel Casa Santo Domingo – Salón Teatro
15:15  Roundtable Discussion “Women and Drugs in the Americas: A Diagnosis in the Making”  Place: La Antigua, Spanish Cooperation Training Center

TUESDAY, JUNE 4
09:00  Dialogue of the Heads of Delegation, the Secretary General, and the Assistant Secretary General with representatives of civil society, labor unions, private sector, and other social actors  Place: La Antigua, Hotel Casa Santo Domingo – Salón Mayor
14:30  Dialogue of the Heads of Delegation, the Secretary General, and the Assistant Secretary General with Heads of Delegation of permanent observer countries  Place: La Antigua, Hotel Casa Santo Domingo - Salón Mayor
18:30  INAUGURAL SESSION  Place: La Antigua, Hotel Finca Filadelfia

Hours in Local Time
WEDNESDAY, JUNE 5

8:30 First PLENARY SESSION
Place: La Antigua, Hotel Casa Santo Domingo - Salón Plaza del Atrio

9:30 Second PLENARY SESSION
Place: La Antigua, Hotel Casa Santo Domingo - Salón Plaza del Atrio

9:30 First meeting of the GENERAL COMMITTEE
Place: La Antigua, Hotel Casa Santo Domingo - Salón Mayor

12:15 Official photograph of the Heads of Delegation
Place: La Antigua, Hotel Casa Santo Domingo - Chapel

14:30 Second meeting of the GENERAL COMMITTEE
Place: La Antigua, Hotel Casa Santo Domingo – Salón Mayor

15:00 Private meeting of Heads of Delegation with the Secretary General and the Assistant Secretary General
Place: La Antigua, Ruinas de San José El Viejo

19:30 Reception hosted by the Secretary General and the Assistant Secretary General
Place: La Antigua, Hotel Camino Real - Salón La Conquista

THURSDAY, JUNE 6

8:30 Meeting of the Summit Implementation Review Group (SIRG)
Place: La Antigua, Hotel Casa Santo Domingo – Salón Plaza del Atrio

9:00 Third meeting of the GENERAL COMMITTEE
Place: La Antigua, Hotel Casa Santo Domingo – Salón Mayor

9:30 Third PLENARY SESSION
Place: La Antigua, Hotel Casa Santo Domingo - Salón Plaza del Atrio

15:00 Fourth PLENARY SESSION
Place: La Antigua, Hotel Casa Santo Domingo - Salón Plaza del Atrio

20:00 CLOSING SESSION
Place: La Antigua, Hotel Casa Santo Domingo - Salón Plaza del Atrio

20:30 Closing Press Conference
Place: La Antigua, Hotel Casa Santo Domingo – Salón Teatro
42 General Assembly in Cochabamba, Bolivia (2012)
41 General Assembly in San Salvador, El Salvador (2011)
40 General Assembly in Lima, Peru (2010)
39 General Assembly in San Pedro Sula, Honduras (2009)
38 General Assembly in Medellín, Colombia (2008)
37 General Assembly in Panama City, Panama (2007)
36 General Assembly in Santo Domingo, Dominican Republic (2006)
35 General Assembly in Fort Lauderdale, Florida, USA (2005)
34 General Assembly in Quito, Ecuador (2004)
33 General Assembly in Santiago, Chile (2003)
32 General Assembly in Bridgetown, Barbados (2002)
31 General Assembly in San José, Costa Rica (2001)
30 General Assembly in Windsor, Canada (2000)
29 General Assembly in Guatemala City, Guatemala (1999)
28 General Assembly in Caracas, Venezuela (1998)
27 General Assembly in Lima, Peru (1997)
26 General Assembly in Panama City, Panama (1996)
25 General Assembly in Montrouis, Haiti (1995)
24 General Assembly in Belém Do Pará, Brazil (1994)