



**PRESENTATION OF THE ACTIVITIES WITH CIVIL SOCIETY AND OTHER SOCIAL ACTORS IN THE
FRAMEWORK OF THE 47TH 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 47th regular session of the OAS General Assembly will take place on June 19-21, 2017 in Cancun, Quintana Roo, Mexico.
- The central theme of the General Assembly will be **“Strengthening Dialogue and Concerted Action for Prosperity”**.

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 Monday, June 19, 2017 in the city of Cancun, in the framework of the 47th 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.



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 a different format from the one used in previous General Assemblies, and will include all actors.

- The **objective of the event is to foster an open and proposal geared dialogue** between civil society, the Member States and the OAS General Secretariat.
- For the first time, participants (Representatives of Member States, of the General Secretariat, of Civil Society and Social Actors) will be seated at the same table.
- The Dialogue will be divided into **the following three segments:**
 - 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 Monday, June 19 in the Convention Center of the Moon Palace Arena. The event will begin at 9:00 am and will end at 1:30 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.
- The reports of each segment will be distributed to the Delegations prior to the Intergovernmental Panels of the General Assembly.



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- 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 47th 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 June 5, 2017 at the latest.** The information must be submitted via email at civilsociety@oas.org with a copy to 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. **The central themes of its intervention.**
 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 40 spaces for interventions by Coalitions during the Dialogue, 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. If there are less than 40 coalitions, the speaker's time for each intervention will be proportionately increased.
- **On Friday, June 9, 2017**, 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.
- **By Thursday, June 15 at the latest**, the 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 with a copy to oassocideadcivil@gmail.com. A longer version of the presentation can also be included to the official website of the 47th General Assembly for dissemination.
- On Sunday, June 18, an Informative Meeting will be held from 1-3pm at the Convention Center of the Moon Palace Arena, to clarify any doubts and facilitate the activities of the Dialogue.
- It is hoped that each coalition will 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.



METHODOLOGY CALENDAR

Deadline	Activity
Monday June 5, 2017	The CSO present the information regarding their coalitions to the OAS General Secretariat.
Friday Junio 9, 2017	The OAS General Secretariat issues the final list of coalitions and the speakers' time for the interventions.
Thursday, June 15 2017	The coalitions present the text of their presentations in the Dialogue to the OAS General Secretariat.
Sunday, June 18, 2017	Informative Meeting at the Convention Center of the Moon Palace arena Time: 1-3 pm

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

- The participants commit to respect the diversity of opinions and to refrain from actions that may incite verbal or physical violence or the breakdown of order in the activities of civil society or of the General Assembly.
- At all times, the participants must uphold an environment based on respect, conducive to an inclusive space, free from all forms of discrimination. Without prejudice to freedom of expression, any form of harassment at the venues of the General Assembly will be regarded as unacceptable conduct.
- During the work of the 47th OAS General Assembly, participants must refrain from aggressive behavior in meetings, fora, conversations and dialogues. This includes interrupting the speaker, shouting, booing, whistling, or using any expression impeding the peaceful and orderly conduct of the meeting.
- In cases of violations to these rules of conduct and participation, the organizers of the 47th OAS General Assembly reserve the right to decide whether the participants can remain in the General Assembly, possibly invite them to leave and suspend their right to continue participating, as well as consider adopting measures to safeguard the principles of pluralism, respect and freedom of expression that guide the work of the OAS.