

**GENERAL ASSEMBLY**



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Item 33 on the agenda

**ROLE AND PARAMETERS FOR PERSONS WHO EXERCISE THE FUNCTIONS OF THE  
SECRETARY GENERAL AND THE ASSISTANT SECRETARY GENERAL OF THE OAS**

(Adopted at the first plenary session, held on June 27, 2024)

THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY,

CONSIDERING any elections of persons for the positions of Secretary General and Assistant Secretary General;

RECOGNIZING the important role that must be played by the General Secretariat of the OAS in support of the efforts of the member states, individually and collectively, to promote and implement the principles and objectives of the OAS;

REAFFIRMING the norms established in Chapter XVI (The General Secretariat) of the Charter of the Organization of American States, in particular the functions of the General Secretariat established in Articles 107 to 113 and Article 118; and

REAFFIRMING ALSO the legal framework applicable to the exercise of the functions of the Secretary General and Assistant Secretary General, which encompasses the “General Standards to Govern the Operations of the General Secretariat”, the OAS Staff Rules and the Code of Ethics,

RESOLVES:

1. To reaffirm Article 118 of the OAS Charter which states: “In the performance of their duties, the Secretary General and the personnel of the Secretariat shall not seek or receive instructions from any government or from any authority outside the organization, and shall refrain from any action that may be incompatible with their positions as international officers responsible only to the Organization”.

2. To emphasize that persons who exercise the functions of Secretary General and Assistant Secretary General must conduct themselves and fulfill their duties, guided by the “General Standards to Govern the Operations of the General Secretariat of The Organization of American States”, the Staff Rules and Regulations, the Code of Ethics, and take into consideration the pertinent decisions of the OAS Administrative Tribunal.

3. To urge persons elected to these posts to be mindful of the resolutions, declarations, and recommendations issued by the General Assembly in making public statements.

4. To reaffirm Resolution AG/RES. 2103 (XXXV-O/05) adopted on June 7, 2005, which stated:

(A) “that those who serve as Secretary General and Assistant Secretary General of the Organization should commit to fulfilling the purposes proclaimed in the OAS Charter and diligently performing the functions established in said Charter, in other Inter-American treaties and agreements, and by the General Assembly”; “recommended that, when sponsoring candidates for the positions of Secretary General and Assistant Secretary General, member states exercise due diligence, to ensure that the candidates meet the highest standards of personal integrity, professional ability, and respect for democracy and democratic institutions, as well as for the defense and promotion of human rights;” and

(B) resolved “to instruct the Permanent Council to invite the candidates put forward by member states for the positions of Secretary General and Assistant Secretary General to give a public presentation to this Organization prior to the elections, in order to describe in greater detail their proposals and the initiatives they would undertake should they be elected”; and “that this Resolution shall not impair the authority of member states, established in Articles 73 and 74 of the Rules of Procedure of the General Assembly, to present candidates for the positions of Secretary General and Assistant Secretary General until the day of the corresponding election”.

5. To reaffirm Article 120 of the Charter, which states that “in selecting the personnel of the General Secretariat, first consideration shall be given to efficiency, competence, and integrity; but at the same time, in the recruitment of personnel of all ranks, importance shall be given to the necessity of obtaining as wide a geographic representation as possible”.

6. To urge the persons candidates for the positions of Secretary General and Assistant Secretary General to make a public commitment to work for an increasingly effective, legitimate, sustainable, and representative OAS, seeking to maintain open channels of dialogue with all relevant actors in the conduct of the work of the General Secretariat, and to comply with the highest ethical standards associated with their roles.

7. To encourage Member States, during elections for the persons who will exercise the functions of Secretary General and Assistant Secretary General, to consider that, while women account for approximately 50% of the population of The Americas, the position of Secretary General has never been occupied by a woman. Similarly, the post has never been held by a person of African descent or an indigenous person; nor has the position of Assistant Secretary General ever been held by a woman.