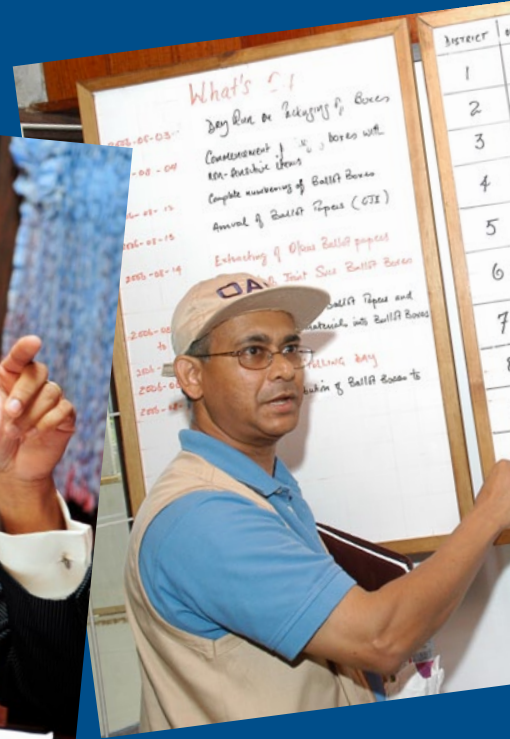




Organization of
American States

Assistant Secretary General, Ambassador Albert Ramdin 2005-2015



Working towards the development
of the Americas:

A focus on People,
Peace and Prosperity



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American States

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Ambassador Albert Ramdin
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*Ambassador Albert Ramdin
Assistant Secretary General, Organization of American States*

Executive Summary

On June 7, 2005, Ambassador Albert Ramdin was elected Assistant Secretary General of the Organization of American States. He was unanimously re-elected to serve a second five-year term on March 24, 2010.

As Assistant Secretary General of the Organization of American States, Ambassador Ramdin has consistently promoted the fair and equal representation of all 34 member countries of the hemispheric organization. Ambassador Ramdin's vision for the OAS in 2005 was to enhance the *raison d'être* of the OAS by promoting greater efficiency, effectiveness, and responsiveness. Since his election, Assistant Secretary General Ramdin has worked tirelessly with the Secretary General and Member States to restructure, to develop new coordinating mechanisms and policies and to generate tangible results in the areas directly under his purview as well as all other areas of the General Secretariat. Upon his election, he embarked on an ambitious process of raising the profile and transforming the role of the ASG into a new, reinvigorated and proactive one which can play a significant part in achieving a number of goals.

Assistant Secretary General Ramdin's comprehensive knowledge of the Inter-American system, of the OAS and hemispheric relations has been the basis for his success as an Inter-American leader. His vision for the Hemisphere is premised on the importance of collaborative action which is captured in the theme "People, Peace and Prosperity". He believes deeply that secure, peaceful, and healthy democracies are enabled by sound economies in which all citizens have a stake. He has worked hard, therefore, to deliver programs and provide opportunities to all member states with the objective of generating sustainable employment, and ultimately improving the quality of life for citizens of all countries.

To this end, the Assistant Secretary General was able to make significant contributions to all four pillars of the Organization. His accomplishments are a product of his unique leadership style and his strong belief in the power of team-building, by working with all the key areas of the Secretariat. He initiated his term by extending his unconditional support to the Office of the Secretary General. Throughout his two terms, the ASG demonstrated an ability to work at all levels of the Organization and on a variety of issues from internal management and personnel matters to the most sensitive political and policy issues of the day.

The Assistant Secretary General has the responsibility for guiding the work of the Permanent Council of the Organization. The Organization has benefitted from the leadership and diplomatic skill of the Assistant Secretary General who has managed on several occasions the

*"I believe that
our organization
has to focus
on three Ps—
People, Peace,
and Prosperity"*

discussion of sensitive issues among Member States and has guided them to envisage solutions and proposals to avert potential conflict.

Under the leadership of Ambassador Ramdin, the Office of the ASG brought to the forefront of the OAS agenda new areas of priority such as youth development, education, development, natural disaster management, and role of civil society in peace and conflict. Internally, he diligently pursued the utilization of innovative mechanisms to improve the quality and efficiency of services provided to member states and brought the organization closer to being technologically and administratively efficient.

“...through collaboration and collective action, we can more effectively confront the greatest challenges affecting the Americas.”

In response to his pledge to member states of Central America and the Caribbean sub-regions, Assistant Secretary General Ramdin became a political champion for small states within the Organization. He has ensured, for example, that Haiti and the Caribbean states remain a high priority on the OAS Agenda. In Haiti, which was devastated by an earthquake in 2010, he played a leading role in ensuring active support and coordinated assistance to the people of Haiti and consecutive Haitian governments. For over a decade, he has been in the forefront of negotiations with Haiti’s leaders on behalf of the international community in times of crisis. As the political focal point for Haiti within the Organization, ASG Ramdin facilitated international assistance tailored to Haiti’s needs, which eventually culminated in the creation of an Inter-American Program for Haiti. This was a unique mechanism which was founded out of collaboration between the donor community and all Inter-American agencies.

Within the General Secretariat of the Organization, Ambassador Ramdin has spearheaded efforts to create the OAS Private Sector Forum to promote dialogue between the public and private sectors of the Hemisphere. The aim of the Forum was to improve the conditions for investment, competitiveness, job creation, and social cohesion while ensuring the effective delivery of the benefits of democracy to the people of the Americas. In 2011, Assistant Secretary General Ramdin delivered on his pledge to Heads of Government from Central America and the Caribbean to strengthen trade relations between the two regions, in the wake of the global economic slowdown. For the first time, he brought together top CEOs from Central America and the Caribbean to discuss business opportunities and challenges between both regions. This initiative has resulted in the instituting of annual meetings on policy issues, business, trade and investment between the two regions. In 2012, he convened the Second Meeting of CEOs in Port of Spain, Trinidad and Tobago which brought together over 60 top business executives and Ministers of Trade from both regions. The Ministers agreed on a series of measures which they believed would move their countries to fully realize the potential for the development of Pan-Caribbean businesses.

Ambassador Ramdin’s work in the Hemisphere has also served to revitalize the Organization’s goal to create synergies and build partnerships with other international and regional organizations, including the European Union, United Nations, CARICOM, SICA and others. In the area of security, Ambassador Ramdin has worked closely with the United Nations and the wider security community to build political awareness of the importance of implementing

“Through the process of constructive consultation and modernization, we intend to improve our delivery capacity, as well as the political functions of the Organization.”

United Nations Security Council Resolution 1540, a mandate for all countries, including the Americas, to combat the spread of biological, chemical and nuclear weapons to terrorist’s organizations. In the area of governance, he has advocated for more inclusive forms of government and has created opportunities to share the Organization’s long-standing experience and expertise in the areas of democratic consolidation, peace-making and peace-building, and election observation.

In the area of social development, the Assistant Secretary General was consistently active in supporting the empowerment of women, youth leaders, and children. To this end, he established an inter-regional educational alliance network of academic institutions in the Caribbean and Central America. He created also the Inter-departmental Group on Youth, which focuses on developing a strategy to effectively incorporate youth issues into the OAS agenda. In relation to disaster management, he not only worked with the Committee on Hemisphere Security to improve natural disaster response, but was also instrumental in building partnerships with other relevant Inter-American entities.

Assistant Secretary General Ramdin, in keeping with the requests of member states for a more efficient Organization has championed several initiatives within the General Secretariat. In 2010, he initiated a process of “greening” the institution. This initiative together with other such schemes has allowed the Secretariat to become more sensitive to the use of energy and other resources. Paper consumption, for example, has fallen by over 95 percent since 2010.

In an effort to broaden and improve the outreach capacity and to bring the Organization closer to the people that it is intended to serve, the Assistant Secretary instituted a series of measure that were intended to modernize and improve the coordination and management of OAS Country Offices in Member States. On the policy level, he convened the first meeting at Headquarters that brought together all OAS Representatives in the member states. The central purpose was to strengthen the linkages between Headquarters and the field network and to develop a coherent policy direction for all country offices. Through the Coordinating Office, he established a more efficient management system with greater utilization of available technology. The communication, budgeting, procurement and physical infrastructure of Country Offices have demonstrated marked improvement. The Assistant Secretary General continues to hold the view that the Country Offices are an important part of the General Secretariat and add value to the work of our organization.

Ambassador Albert Ramdin as he approaches the end of his tenure as Assistant Secretary General of the Organization of American States is now more than ever a strong believer in the potential and promise of the Inter American System and the critical role of this Organization. The OAS is often seriously challenged by the lack of financial resources to carry out its many mandates but it, nevertheless, remains relevant to the contemporary challenges and carries the hopes and aspirations of millions of people in the hemisphere who long for a better life for themselves and their children. The OAS if it remains true to the vision of its founding fathers can lead the hemisphere to embrace joint action and to achieve “People, Peace and Prosperity”.

“I see the OAS as a unique and common vehicle for resolving differences and setting shared goals that promote democracy, respect for the rule of law, social justice, economic development, security, and human rights.”



Development, Democracy, Human Rights, and Security

Development

Education

As the region of the Americas began repositioning itself to be more competitive in the global community, Ambassador Ramdin brought the issue of education to the top of the OAS agenda. He advocated that education must be prioritized as an essential cornerstone of sustainable development. The approach he took focused on the particular needs of the region or the countries at their various stages of development. Moreover, he believed that the OAS needed to pay more attention to the issue of at-risk youth, promoting training and mentoring programs as well as entrepreneurship. Specifically, ASG Ramdin advocated goals of greater investment in women and youth in 2010. He believed that channeling more attention to these two groups would eradicate the cycle of the intergenerational transmission of poverty. Thus, the Assistant Secretary General worked diligently to achieve his goals, with his accomplishments regarding youth in particular made from 2012 to the present. With the support of the OAS, he strove toward the objective of strengthening the interregional educational network for sharing knowledge, expertise, and bilingual training. These alliances were critical to forming a unit of new leaders in the Americas who would benefit from these cross-cultural educational experiences.

“We must prioritize education as an essential cornerstone of sustainable development.”

“As our Hemisphere repositions itself to be competitive in a global community, I believe the OAS must assign greater political priority to the development agenda.”

Natural Disasters

The OAS plays an important facilitating role in leveraging and coordinating relief assistance in the immediate aftermath of natural disasters. It also plays a crucial role in accompanying governments during these times of crisis to ensure the continuity of governance and the rule of law. For this reason, from the beginning of his term in 2005, ASG Ramdin placed considerable emphasis on the issue of natural disaster response and mitigation. He worked actively with the Inter-American institutions, namely, the Inter-American Development Bank, the Pan American Health Organization, the Inter-American Institute for Cooperation on Agriculture, the Inter-American Defense Board, and affiliated entities, to improve relief and response mechanisms, as well as risk management and vulnerability reduction. Through ASG Ramdin’s leadership, the Group of Friends on Natural Disaster Mitigation and Climate Change was created to enable Inter-American institutions and permanent missions to share their best practices and discuss opportunities for streamlining mitigation and climate-change efforts.

“The loss of human life and community livelihood resulting from unpredictable natural phenomena points to the urgent need to develop policies, strategies, and procedures, at the national and regional levels, that will aid in the prevention and mitigation of the consequences of natural disasters.”

Strong relations with the Government and people of Haiti together with their distress and despair in coping with the serious tragedy caused by the earthquake encouraged Ambassador Ramdin in his efforts to enhance disaster relief and immediate response along with long-term development. The work of the ASG emphasized the importance of the OAS and of political leadership.

Noncommunicable Diseases

The health and well-being of our citizens are at the heart of the OAS agenda of rights and equity. That is why the Assistant Secretary General, in collaboration with the Pan American Health Organization and the Government of Trinidad and Tobago, launched the first-ever Inter-American Task Force on Noncommunicable Diseases (NCDs) to tackle the leading causes of death in the Americas. Noncommunicable diseases are the cause of an alarming 80 percent of deaths in the countries of the Americas. NCDs principally comprise cardiovascular diseases (CVDs), cancers, diabetes, and chronic respiratory diseases.

Recognizing the enormous human and economic impact of NCDs and the need for a multisectoral, multi-partner approach, Ambassador Ramdin called on the main international and regional organizations to increase collaboration. He also highlighted the need to reduce the incidence of NCDs and to support countries in the Americas in the prevention and control of these chronic diseases and their related risk factors.

The Task Force was launched on June 17, 2015, at OAS headquarters with the participation of the heads of the OAS, PAHO, and the IDB and of health authorities from the Americas, permanent representatives to the OAS, and private and public health institutions. The Task Force consists of the Pan American Health Organization (PAHO); the Organization of American States (OAS) and its Inter-American Commission of Women (CIM), and the Inter-American Children's Institute (IIN), the Inter-American Institute for Cooperation on Agriculture (IICA), the Inter-American Development Bank (IDB), the Economic Commission for Latin America and the Caribbean (ECLAC), and the World Bank.

Assistant Secretary General Ramdin along with PAHO Director Carissa Etienne and the Permanent Representative of Trinidad and Tobago to the OAS began to raise awareness about the impact of NCDs by organizing the high level meeting "Non-Communicable Diseases (NCDs) in the Americas: Awareness, Access, Action," held at OAS headquarters on September 30, 2014. The meeting took place on the sidelines of the week-long PAHO Directing Council meetings and brought together stakeholders from the healthcare industry, educators, medical groups, representatives of OAS member states, and other groups.

During the launching meeting of the Task Force in 2015 and the high-level meeting in 2014, health authorities and representatives from the permanent missions to the OAS discussed policy and practical mechanisms as well as best practices to raise awareness and address the prevalence of NCDs in the Americas.

The Americas played a pivotal role in placing the NCD agenda on the world stage. The 2011 High Level Meeting on prevention and control of NCDs

"The OAS and PAHO's work on NCDs is a demonstration of our partnership, and commitment to this issue, at a wider political and social level. We acknowledge that tackling NCDs requires a multi-pronged approach and discussions among all stakeholder groups are crucial if we are to achieve sustainable results."

resulted in a political declaration in which the countries committed to steps to tackle this global epidemic. Most recently, the outcome document adopted by the United Nations General Assembly in resolution A/RES/68/300 reaffirms the commitments of the 2011 Political Declaration.

Public-Private Partnerships

The private sector plays an important role in driving economic, sustainable, and inclusive growth. Assistant Secretary General Ramdin became a strong advocate of private-sector participation in OAS policy dialogues, programs, and meetings. He spearheaded efforts for the creation of the OAS Private Sector Forum to promote dialogue between the public and private sectors with a view to improving conditions for investment, productivity, job creation, and social cohesion and to ensure effective delivery of the benefits of democracy to the people of the Americas.

In 2011, Assistant Secretary General Ramdin delivered on his pledge to heads of government from Central America and the Caribbean to strengthen trade relations between the two regions, in light of the global economic slowdown. For the first time in 2011, he convened the annual meeting of SICA-CARICOM CEOs, in the context of the meeting of the heads of state of Central America and the Caribbean, to facilitate dialogue and promote business, trade, and investment opportunities. Top CEOs and trade ministers from Central America and the Caribbean tackled the challenges to increased trade and investment between the two regions. As a result, companies from these regions agreed on measures to fully realize the potential for the development of Pan-Caribbean businesses. The annual meetings of SICA-CARICOM CEOs were held in El Salvador, Trinidad and Tobago, the Dominican Republic, and Guatemala.

Many other efforts, for example, forums such as "Economic Prospects and Challenges for Central America and the Caribbean in the Global Economy" (2011) and publications including "Relations between CARICOM and Central America and the Dominican Republic: A Window of Opportunity for Trade and Investment" (2012), were established to analyze and understand the potential for opportunities in trade, investment, and economic partnerships within the region.

Recognizing that democracy may not be strong if the citizens of the Americas are struggling against unemployment, layoffs, low wages, or food insecurity, Assistant Secretary General Ramdin promoted public-private dialogue to create conditions for economic growth and for combating poverty. He organized the first meeting of top CEOs with members of the Permanent Council on November 20, 2013. That meeting was attended by Michael Lee Chin, Chairman of Portland Holdings Canada and Jamaica; Samuel Urrutia, president of the Business Council of Latin America (CEAL); Stanley Motta, President of Copa Holdings and President of Motta Internacional of Panama; Carlos Bulgheroni, Chairman of Bidas Corporation in Argentina; Carlos Añaños, Board Member and President for Asia of AJE, Peru; Roberto Zamora, Lafise CEO and Chairman of the Zamora Terán Foundation in Nicaragua; Ingo Plöger, President of the Business Council of Latin America (CEAL) Brazil

"In order to ensure effective PPPs, it is necessary for companies to connect with governments, nonprofit organizations, and civil society to shape their business strategies in ways that encourage its sustainable and profitable growth, contributing in turn to solve social problems."

and President of IP Desenvolvimento Empresarial e Institucional Ltda.; Ross Anderson, Vice President of Scotia Bank, Canada; Jodi Bond, Vice President for the Americas of the United States Chamber of Commerce; and Diego de la Torre, President of La Viga, Peru, and Chairman of the United Nations Global Compact.

CEOs and OAS member states highlighted the need for a more permanent public-private dialogue while recognizing that economic well-being can not be the exclusive responsibility of states. These discussions served as an input for the preparatory process of the CEO Summit held in Panama in April 2015. During this dialogue, the private sector and the permanent representatives agreed on the need to work hand in hand for the stability and welfare of the peoples of the Hemisphere.

Democracy

Ambassador Ramdin has long advocated the importance of safeguarding the democratic principles, values, and work of the OAS. He strongly believes that democracy should not only focus on free and fair elections but also need to promote transparency and accountability. Through his work in elections and democratic institution building, he developed and promoted what he called “next-generation measures” to strengthen and deepen democracy. He worked arduously to support OAS programs such as civil registry as a means of strengthening and modernizing state institutions. He has stated that modernization and deepening of our democracies are essential and that these next generation measures will be necessary to maintain and build on gains achieved. He called for new measures to incorporate human rights as a fundamental part of the education and governance framework. In numerous forums he proposed seeking new approaches to the modernization of political systems and parties and to the exchange of best practices. Finally he called for next generation measures that emphasize integral development as a fundamental part of democratic strengthening.

Throughout his tenure, he worked to support OAS efforts to develop more effective use of new technologies to promote greater citizen participation, as an important element of next generation measures.

Electoral observation

The Assistant Secretary General served as Chief of Mission in four electoral observations missions (Grenada, 2008; Guyana, 2006; Panama, 2006; and Saint Vincent and the Grenadines, 2005) and worked to support countless other missions in both the Caribbean and Central America. Based on his experience, he drew the member states’ attention to some of the most pressing technical and political challenges facing member states in the area of electoral reform. He published a lengthy chapter, titled Democratizing Latin America: The Role of Electoral Observation, published by the International Organisation of La Francophonie in August 2010.

“I believe it is time to begin talking about the “next-generation measures” to strengthen democracy and governance.”

Over the past 10 years, ASG Ramdin presented a series of policy recommendations to the General Secretariat for improving the role and impact of OAS electoral missions. He focused on the importance of systematic, efficient electoral procedures to identify best practices and to promote the exchange of information regarding electoral observation. He supported the need to establish a permanent and stable mechanism to finance OAS Electoral Observation Missions. He stressed the importance of longer-term timelines for electoral observation to allow for more comprehensive missions that could focus on the overall quality of an electoral process from a broader perspective.

The ASG advocated contextualizing electoral observation to the realities on the ground, ensuring a comprehensive understanding of the social, political, and local dynamics of the country concerned and the impact of elections on it. Finally, he emphasized the role of the OAS in assisting in capacity building and institutional strengthening of electoral institutions as part of the overall assistance provided to the member government.

Many of these policy recommendations were adopted by the Department of Electoral Cooperation and Observation. The Department has now established the practice of longer timelines for observation missions, when possible. Ambassador Ramdin’s involvement demonstrates the political commitment and level of importance the OAS lends to democracy and electoral observation.

Quiet diplomacy

The Assistant Secretary General advocated for stronger engagement with countries seeking assistance to address critical situations of conflict and proposed that the SG or ASG engage proactively and employ quiet diplomacy as an effective tool for assisting member states to resolve disputes before they evolve into larger conflicts. He led by example and supported the belief that the elected officials of this Organization had a responsibility and an obligation to engage governments and the broad spectrum of actors within the framework of existing instruments to address situations of political tension or diplomatic differences between states. In 2009, Ambassador Ramdin worked with member states and the international community on the delicate breakdown of governance in Honduras. He insisted that a process of engagement was essential if the OAS was to be fully responsive to the political bodies to enable informed decisions to be made in situations of challenge or crisis.

Peace-building and conflict resolution

In 2009, the Office of the Assistant Secretary General initiated—and since then has continued to develop—a successful partnership with the Global Partnership for the Prevention of Armed Conflict (GPPAC) and the Regional Coordinator for Economic and Social Research (CRIES)—to forge a closer relationship with key civil society organizations involved in “Strengthening the Role of Regional International Organizations and Civil Society working towards Global Peace and Security for Development.” Through the leadership of the Assistant Secretary General, the partnership has been successful in that it has led to the establishment of an international steering group working

“The structures of democracy must be continuously reinforced by resolve and by concrete actions that translate into economic development, opportunities for employment and education, human rights protection, responsible citizenship, good governance, human security, and political freedoms.”

“I believe that we should employ quiet diplomacy as an effective tool for assisting Member States to resolve disputes before they evolve into larger conflicts.”

toward peace and security and has brought together representatives of 13 Regional Intergovernmental Organizations (RIGOs), civil society organizations (CSOs), private-sector representatives, and think tanks worldwide to exchange experiences and best practices on an annual basis. The outcome of this partnership reflects the vision of ASG Ramdin regarding the importance of developing strategic partnerships and innovative cooperation among different stakeholders to achieve greater peace, stability, and prosperity around the world. The exchanges, reports, and lessons learned have constituted a unique and important contribution to the global peace-building architecture by creating a steering group for further exchanges and establishing a community of practice and knowledge-sharing.

Haiti

Assistant Secretary General Ramdin has led OAS efforts to support Haiti since 2005 and has worked closely with all stakeholders to advance a Haitian-led development agenda.

In 2005, ASG Ramdin reestablished the OAS Group of Friends of Haiti. His efforts as Chair of the Group led to increased dialogue, cooperation, and coordination among member states, Inter-American agencies, international organizations, civil society, and the private sector. He has worked to fulfill the Hemisphere's commitment by providing concrete support to improving resource mobilization, matching international assistance with the priorities of the Haitian government and people, and maintaining international support for Haiti.

In an effort to streamline OAS support to Haiti, ASG Ramdin created the Haiti Task Force. As Chair of the Task Force, an internal mechanism, ASG Ramdin spearheaded efforts to align OAS activities with Haitian development priorities. His leadership of the Task Force facilitated increased cooperation among OAS departments working in Haiti and the development of new activities.

For the past ten years, ASG Ramdin's efforts as Chair of the Group of Friends of Haiti and the Haiti Task Force have led to increased structured collaboration among all Inter-American agencies and donors providing support to that country.

ASG Ramdin has facilitated engagement and dialogue among national and international stakeholders and has actively emphasized the search for compromise and the need for broad inclusiveness. Through his leadership, the OAS was able to forge mutual trust relationships with all stakeholders, including political representatives, civil society, and vulnerable groups.

ASG Ramdin's efforts, particularly after the devastating earthquake in 2010, led to increased coordination of aid and other support to the country by member states, Inter-American agencies, and other stakeholders. Through his leadership, political support and technical assistance were streamlined to ensure efficient implementation of critical programs like the Civil Registry.

Through his private charity initiative, "The Spirits of the Americas," ASG Ramdin raised hundreds of thousands of dollars to benefit vulnerable groups in Haiti, including women and at-risk youth.

"Haiti has to remain high on the political agenda of this organization and it is our obligation to continue advocating internationally for the need of the Haitian people."

Human Rights

In 2005, ASG Ramdin called for greater cooperation and dialogue with the Inter-American Court of Human Rights and the Inter-American Commission on Human Rights and judicial branches of national governments of member states. Ambassador Ramdin also stressed the fundamental belief that human rights are based on the highest possible principle: the dignity of man. The inalienability of this principle admits no exceptions and, unless it is fully adhered to, any other progress attained by a community becomes less meaningful. Thus he called on member states to attach greater priority to the issue of universalization of the Inter-American human rights instruments, looking first at the American Convention on Human Rights. His vision from the very beginning of his tenure was that the OAS needed to provide leadership in the debate on the underlying forces that cause the social injustice, protest, and instability that threaten democracy. Therefore, he strongly advocated that human development must also be part of our human rights agenda. His belief has been that basics like food, shelter, health, and education are necessary for people to exercise their rights. If human rights are not fully respected, no other progress matters. He also recognized that our region is still characterized by widespread socioeconomic inequality and that poverty rates remain unacceptably high, from any perspective. The region's democratic processes should therefore be further consolidated and deepened.

During his tenure, ASG Ramdin regularly spoke about the contributions of the organs of the Inter-American human rights system in bringing attention to women, children, minorities, indigenous peoples, migrant workers, and others—including the recently added rights of lesbian, gay, bisexual, and transgender persons—as a significant achievement in ensuring that exclusion and discrimination are reduced and eventually eliminated.

In 2007, Ambassador Ramdin was invited to form part of an OAS Assessment Mission to Suriname in which the OAS was invited to observe the legal proceedings regarding the alleged 1982 executions. The Office of the ASG offered its good offices and worked with the Inter-American Commission on Human Rights (IACHR) and the Secretariat for Political Affairs in preparing for the information-gathering mission.

In 2009, the ASG visited the Inter-American Institute for Human Rights (IHR) and held consultations with its authorities. Those discussions led to collaboration between the IHR and the OAS Department of Education and to the development of projects of mutual interest.

Youth

Since taking office, ASG Ramdin has called on member states to focus greater attention on the question of youth. As the youth issue became a global priority, the ASG began developing a mechanism by which OAS member states could engage actively in supporting youth development throughout the Americas. In 2007, Ambassador Ramdin assumed the role of Chair of the Interdepartmental Working Group on Youth (IWGY). The Assistant Secretary General's principal goal for the IWGY was that, in the absence of a specific organizational department

"I hold the fundamental belief that the protection and promotion of human rights is non-negotiable."

for youth, the IWGY would regularly bring together the various departments of the OAS with existing youth projects and activities to share knowledge and information and, where possible, link common activities on youth.

The Office of the ASG was the first to host a Youth Symposium with the support of the Permanent Mission of Antigua and Barbuda on September 19 and 20, 2007. That symposium culminated in a special meeting of the Permanent Council in which the OAS began a dialogue with the youth of the Hemisphere. As a result of the symposium and the special meeting of the Permanent Council, the youth issue was injected into the political dialogue of the OAS.

To synergize the Organization's approach to youth, the Assistant Secretary General held an internal dialogue with experts from the OAS General Secretariat to promote increased knowledge, interaction, and dialogue with a view to bringing about a crosscutting "youth focus" within the programs and actions of the OAS.

With the 2008 General Assembly in Medellín focusing on the topic of youth, Ambassador Ramdin was able to achieve several milestones such as the designation of an OAS Focal Point on Youth and the development of an OAS Strategy Paper on Youth.

In 2009, with the support of the Summits Secretariat, the National Secretariat for the Summit of the Americas (Trinidad and Tobago), and the Young Americas Business Trust through the Second Young Americas Forum, Ambassador Ramdin was able to have youth included as a social actor at the Fifth Summit of the Americas in Port of Spain, Trinidad. As a result, youth became recognized as a key social actor within the Inter-American system.

In late 2010, with the collaboration of the OAS General Secretariat, he presented the Strategy on Youth to the Permanent Council, outlining the distinctive approach of the OAS to the topic of youth in comparison to other organizations in the Inter-American system.

Ambassador Ramdin considered it crucial for High Authorities on Youth and young people to engage on a more regular basis and therefore he institutionalized the Youth Conference of the Americas. Between 2012 and 2014, the Conference brought together government and youth representatives as well as civil society and private-sector representatives to address the themes of democracy, entrepreneurship, education, and youth migration.

Finally, in January 2013, and in light of Ambassador Ramdin's leadership on the issue of youth, the Model OAS General Assembly (MOAS) program was transferred to the Office of the Assistant Secretary General. The purpose of MOAS is to promote democratic values among the youth of the Hemisphere through a simulation exercise of the main political bodies of the OAS. One of Ambassador Ramdin's main achievements in relation to this program was the organization of the 33rd MOAS for universities of the Hemisphere in Saint Kitts and Nevis, in March 2015. This was the first ever MOAS for universities held in a CARICOM country. As such, it generated so much interest among the Caribbean universities that it became an official MOAS for universities, which was to be held once a year alongside the model for Latin American universities.

"In many of our countries, youth represent the majority of the population. They are today's work force and tomorrow's leaders. Yet, there is a disturbing trend emerging of disaffected youth who operate outside the mainstream of the development paradigm and This is an unacceptable phenomenon!"

Between January 2012 and June 2014, under his leadership, there have been six MOAS for universities in the Hemisphere; two MOAS for high schools; two national MOAS in Colombia, and one in the Dominican Republic, as well as seven MOAS for OAS interns, for a total of 4,000 participating students from throughout the region.

Young Americas Business Trust (YABT)

In support of the efforts of the Young Americas Business Trust to promote youth entrepreneurship and economic inclusion, the ASG forged stronger cooperation with the YABT and created an opportunity for the YABT to exchange ideas with Directors of the OAS Offices in the Member States in January 2006. The YABT was encouraged to expand its collaboration with OAS Country Offices and permission was granted for the OAS Jamaica Office to be the stage for a pilot program to enhance joint cooperation on common development issues. This program was implemented with the objective of replicating the model throughout the Hemisphere, providing business and entrepreneurship opportunities for young people in the Americas.

"We must maintain our commitment to the fight against illegal drugs, human and arms trafficking; organized crime and terrorism. I also believe that we should pay greater attention to the growing challenge of crime and violence which threatens the security of our citizens."

Security

United Nations Security Council 1540

Beginning in 2006, the Office of the Assistant Secretary General of the Organization of American States (OAS) joined the United States Government and civil society groups seeking a new innovative regional model to implement United Nations Security Council resolution 1540 (UNSCR 1540). With the support and collaboration of key donors and NGOs committed to this issue, the ASG played an instrumental role in putting into place regional coordination strategies led by two UNSCR 1540 Regional Coordinators in the Caribbean and Central America. The subregional coordination model for UNSCR 1540 not only achieved results on the ground but was viewed in other regions as an innovative approach to securing regional buy-in and ownership—critical components to the full implementation of UNSCR 1540. Under the leadership and guidance of the ASG, the OAS successfully negotiated a proposal for the establishment of an OAS Regional Coordinator, a post that would be tasked with assisting member states in identifying priorities for implementing resolution 1540 and supporting member states' development of national action plans for the implementation of resolution 1540.

In the area of public security, the ASG led efforts in the development of a Central American Program for At-Risk Youth, with the support of the OAS Trust of the Americas and the OAS Department of Multidimensional Security in collaboration with the SICA Secretariat. The ASG's office also assisted in organizing a subregional seminar on Terrorism Financing, an effort by two OAS units, CICTE and CICAD, acting in concert, together with the General Secretariats of SICA and CARICOM and in collaboration with UNODC (United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime), held in Port of Spain, Trinidad and Tobago, in 2010.



Inter-American Relations, Public Outreach, and Country Offices

Inter-American Institute for Cooperation on Agriculture (IICA)

The Assistant Secretary General intensified collaboration with IICA as a critical partner in advancing a comprehensive development agenda for the Americas that took into account urban and rural economies, innovative technological and strategic approaches to a new agriculture, and opportunity creation for marginalized and underserved communities. The importance of this partnership was reflected in the participation of the Assistant Secretary General in the Meeting of Agriculture Ministers in October 2006, marking the first time that the elected leadership of the OAS participated in an agriculture ministerial. On March 30, 2006, the OAS and IICA signed a cooperation agreement renewing their commitment to support countries in the Hemisphere in their efforts toward integration, cooperation, and participation in the global economy.

The IICA partnership was active and valuable in other ways. In March 2006, the OASG collaborated with IICA, the Pan American Health Organization (PAHO), and other organizations in holding a briefing for permanent representatives and a press conference on the avian influenza and pandemic on March 31, 2006. Both activities helped to inform the countries of the Americas about the possibility of an avian influenza outbreak and to prepare them for it.

“Each institution that forms part of the inter-American system must focus on its core strengths, but this should not obviate the need for enhanced cooperation and improved coordination.”

Pan American Development Foundation (PADF)

Having identified the PADF as an important partner on issues of economic development and resource leveraging, the Assistant Secretary General spearheaded cooperation between the OAS and PADF on disaster-relief management and other activities. In doing so, the OAS was able to:

- Orchestrate a joint response to assisting flood victims in Suriname (May 2006) and coordinate disaster response in Bolivia (March 2006) and in Ecuador (April 2006) after flooding and landslides.
- Provide policy guidance for development projects on the Haiti-Dominican Republic border.
- Engage in consultations with PADF on strategies to leverage private sector resources to develop sustainable disaster-management mechanisms.

CARICOM-SICA relations

Ambassador Ramdin has been a longstanding advocate of subregional collaboration and integration. He has played an invaluable role in promoting closer cooperation between Caribbean and Central American regional blocs in the political, economic, and sociocultural areas through the CARICOM and SICA secretariats. In 2007, ASG Ramdin was invited by the SICA Secretariat in El Salvador to initiate a process of enhanced cooperation between the

“I believe a more effective and productive OAS requires a more inclusive approach... as well as promoting greater communication and coordination of activities and approaches between the Organization and civil society, the private sectors and permanent observers.”

two secretariats. He also supported a regional project seminar on training in “Logical Framework” in 2009. Ramdin facilitated collaboration between the units of the two secretariats in charge of Summit-process follow-up, conducive to methodological exchanges. Additionally, he facilitated enhanced technical cooperation, reciprocal participation in activities, and information exchange among the various departments of the two secretariats in areas such as security, energy, and sustainable development. As a result, he established a coordination mechanism at both the policy and political level between the two secretariats.

Public Outreach

Demonstrating his commitment to communicating the vision, mission, mandates, and successful programs of the OAS to the people of the Americas, the Assistant Secretary General instituted several public-outreach programs. He addressed a wide range of audiences, including international and regional organizations, civil society, the private sector, universities, think tanks, and youth groups. Additionally, he gave more than 60 speeches on issues of development, governance, and security. The ASG initiated a monthly radio broadcast hosted by the Voice of the OAS with live link-ups to radio stations in several countries. Monthly broadcasts were usually implemented in conjunction with permanent representatives. Interviews, which were broadcast live to local radio stations in member states, were geared towards affording the peoples of the Americas an opportunity to hear from the political leadership and their own diplomatic representatives about programs being conducted by the Organization and how they benefited the population.

During his tenure, Ambassador Ramdin gave dozens of interviews to media outlets in more than 20 countries, including monthly radio broadcasts that linked up to radio stations in several countries. Ambassador Ramdin’s public-outreach strategy promoted the work of the OAS to the peoples of the Americas.

Diaspora Outreach

The Office of the Assistant Secretary General made progressive efforts in uniting member states of the OAS in establishing partnerships between diasporas, governments, and private-sector members. The main platforms for establishing such partnerships were via the recognition of, and conferences on, diasporas.

In 2012, the Assistant Secretary General supported two diaspora conferences: the Diaspora of El Salvador conference in San Salvador, El Salvador, and the Global Haitian Diaspora conference at OAS headquarters in Washington, D.C. These parties all worked on identifying the strengths, needs, and weaknesses of diasporas. Their work specifically concentrated on strengthening intellectual, financial, educational, professional, civic, and charitable contributions to ensure that post-secondary students possess the skills and qualifications needed to enter the labor market in the twenty-first century economy.

Through these organized events, the Assistant Secretary General was able to highlight the significance of the Caribbean diaspora to the community and the U.S economy.

“The Diaspora phenomenon is an important part of any country’s history, present and future. Indeed, migration is as old as mankind and, as you all know, migration has been a fundamental part of Caribbean life for centuries.”

On February 10 and 11, 2010, the ASG traveled to Panama City, and signed two major agreements: one between the OAS and IFARHU (the Panamanian Institute for the Training and Development of Human Resources) and one with the Universidad Santamaría la Antigua (USMA), in both cases to assist Panamanian entities in their sustained efforts to improve local human resources.

The ASG facilitated talks that led to the proposal to establish a regional logistical center for training and research in Panama that would service the Caribbean as well as Central Americans and interested South Americans.

Strengthening Cooperation with International, Regional, and Subregional Organizations

During his tenure, Ambassador Ramdin worked to place greater emphasis on the role of multilateralism, building new partnerships with regional and international institutions and with permanent observers. The Assistant Secretary General strengthened ties with a wide range of organizations, including the United Nations, the Association of Caribbean States (ACS), the Caribbean Community (CARICOM), the Inter-American Development Bank (IDB), and the Organization of Eastern Caribbean States (OECS), as well as with OAS-affiliated organizations such as the Inter-American Institute for Cooperation on Agriculture (IICA) and the Pan American Development Foundation (PADF).

Through the ASG, the OAS increased levels of cooperation with the UN Secretariat for Cooperation with Regional Organizations, the Security Council, the United Nations Development Fund (UNDP), and the UN Department of Political Affairs.

In October 2005, the ASG made a presentation to the UN Security Council on the role of the OAS in “Conflict Management and Post-Conflict Stabilization: Its Experiences and Challenges,” emphasizing the need for regular engagement to maximize cooperation and take advantage of the comparative advantages of different organizations in conflict prevention and peace-building.

In 2005, Ambassador Ramdin took part in a series of discussions with counterparts in regional and subregional organizations on democratic governance and conflict prevention. Throughout his two terms, he advocated more systematic exchanges between regional organizations and the United Nations. Within his own office, ASG Ramdin instituted a policy of annual visits to the United Nations and related agencies. One specific outcome of these visits was an agreement to establish periodic exchanges between regional organizations and the UN to monitor developments in international peace and security. Organizations further agreed to establish a steering committee to direct the work of the newly created secretariat for enhancing cooperation between regional organizations and the UN on issues of peace, security, and development.

The Office of the Assistant Secretary General also engaged in sustained policy dialogue with various institutions on issues ranging from quiet diplomacy and humanitarian policy in conflict situations to combating trafficking in persons, violence prevention, and the elimination of organized juvenile crime. The

“With this active engagement we can create a constructive and important platform for executing mandates of the Summit of Americas, in a more coordinated manner.”

institutions that participated in these dialogues included the International Committee of the Red Cross, the Pan American Development Foundation, the Inter-American Coalition for the Prevention of Violence (IACPV), Human Rights International (HRI), the Pan American Health Organization (PAHO), the United States Agency for International Development (USAID), the United States Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC), the World Bank (WB), and the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization (UNESCO).

The ASG raised the level of cooperation between the International Committee of the Red Cross and the OAS by establishing a forum for high-level dialogue between the two institutions and deepening the existing agreement between them.

Celebration of Spirits of the Americas

One of the many achievements of the Office of the Assistant Secretary General was promoting the spirit of brotherhood and unity in diversity through the annual event: “Spirits of the Americas.” Since 2006, this event has brought together the ambassadors of the member states of the OAS, accredited members of Washington’s diplomatic community, high officials of international organizations, members of think tanks, and members of the United States Congress to give recognition to the projects carried out by the OAS within the region. A crucial aspect of this conference was to incentivize support in the form of donations for vulnerable communities throughout the region, through the camaraderie that this event promotes. Following this annual tradition, each year aid was provided to various causes.

Cultural Centers

The Organization’s cultural and educational centers—the Art Museum of the Americas and the Columbus Memorial Library—benefited from a revival of support and interest within and outside the Organization through the leadership of the OASG.

The ASG led important management discussions on the revival of the cultural centers, and a series of consultations with delegations led to the establishment of a group of “Friends of the Library,” made up of permanent representatives. Over the course of the year, the Office of the ASG contributed ideas to the “Friends,” who met several times and crafted a plan for new activities and partnerships. Several countries pledged contributions of rare books and at least three countries have already made official donations to the Library.

Under the leadership of the Office of the ASG, the Art Museum of the Americas drafted a new business plan, developed a public relations strategy and a fundraising campaign, and refurbished existing facilities. Efforts were made to acquire works of art from Caribbean countries and Canada, which were either underrepresented or not represented at all in the Museum’s permanent collection at the time. Additionally, meetings with the previously dormant Friends of the Museum group have reenergized both supporters and staff to create a new direction for the Museum and establish it as an art destination center for the Americas.

“...culture is what makes us unique while bringing us together as a community, a region, and a hemisphere.”

In recent times, the ASG worked closely with member states to expand the Organization’s global outreach. The Columbus Memorial Library’s participation in the World Digital Library has opened up a new line of communication, making the important deliberations, decisions, and history of the OAS more readily available to millions of people who regularly access this site.

OAS Country Offices

ASG Ramdin firmly believed that the OAS Country Offices must play an important role in the Organization’s outreach efforts. In this regard, the Office of the ASG office focused on strengthening the OAS’s representational profile. This revitalization process began in 2006 with a bringing together of all OAS Representatives to exchange information, develop a coherent strategy, and provide policy direction. This was the first meeting of its kind in over 18 years.

The Assistant Secretary General also welcomed the opportunity to assume management and oversight of these Offices. The ASG was able to accomplish a series of important management and administrative improvements and goals which included:

A proposal to the CAAP on “Improving Efficiencies in the OAS Country Offices” made on May 8, 2006, in which he outlined his vision to increase the relevance of the offices in the member states and improve efficiency and cost-effectiveness.

At a follow-up meeting with the CAAP in July 2006, the Assistant Secretary General outlined his “Strategic Management Model” for enhancing the efficiency and management of the OAS Country Offices. He also introduced plans to “increase productivity in the OAS Country Offices.” In addition, a comprehensive evaluation of the work, roles, and functions of OAS Country Offices was initiated in 2005 with the aim of improving the strategic management of the Offices, a process expected to take approximately 24 months. During his tenure, the Assistant Secretary General hosted the only Meeting of Directors of OAS Offices in Member States in Washington, D.C., to exchange ideas and promote interaction between headquarters staff and the Directors of the Offices. The ASG proposed that this exchange become a policy practice within the Organization. The Assistant Secretary General further expressed the importance of giving definitional and conceptual clarity to the Offices and recommended a change in the title of the Offices and of the Directors. As of June 2006, the Offices have been referred to as “OAS Country Offices” and the Directors as “OAS Representatives.” Under the leadership of the Office of the Assistant Secretary General, the OAS Country Offices were revitalized and redefined as important technical and political representation units of the Secretariat. In 2012 Ambassador Ramdin made a presentation to the Permanent Council in which he stressed the value of the Country Offices. He underscored their role in providing reliable information, promoting technical cooperation, facilitating development, providing assistance in crisis situations, and, of particular importance, in sensitizing local populations to the value and work of the Organization.

“I see an enhanced role for national offices... to provide reliable information, promote technical cooperation, and facilitate development and democracy.”



The General Assembly, the Meeting of Consultation, the Permanent Council, and Subsidiary Organs

Statutory responsibilities as Secretary to the Permanent Council

As Secretary to the Permanent Council, the Assistant Secretary General advised and worked closely with the permanent representatives to the OAS in moving forward the Permanent Council's agenda. In collaboration with the Chairs of the Permanent Council, the ASG worked to bring topical issues to the attention of the Permanent Council and was instrumental in organizing meetings that addressed avian influenza, gender, natural disaster reduction and risk mitigation, and development, among other issues.

Ambassador Ramdin initiated a process to reevaluate, restructure, and redefine certain areas and activities traditionally within his purview, including the management of the Permanent Council, the management of the General Assembly, and the functioning and direction of the OAS Country Offices.

During Ambassador Ramdin's tenure, four Meetings of Consultation of Ministers of Foreign Affairs, 10 regular sessions of the General Assembly, and 17 special sessions of the General Assembly were held. The Permanent Council held 299 regular meetings, 161 special meetings, and 67 protocolary meetings between 2005 and 2015.

Heads of State and Government to address the Permanent Council

ASG Ramdin received a number of heads of state and government who addressed the Permanent Council, as well as ministers of foreign affairs and secretaries of state. The heads of state and government hosted by the Permanent Council during this time were: Barbados, Bolivia (3), Chile (3), Colombia (2), Costa Rica (2), the Dominican Republic, El Salvador (2), Guatemala (2), Grenada, Guyana (2), Haiti (4), Honduras (4), Jamaica (2), Nicaragua (2), Panama, Paraguay (2), Peru (2), Saint Kitts and Nevis, Trinidad and Tobago (3), Uruguay (2), and the United Nations Secretary-General.

Meeting of Consultation of Ministers of Foreign Affairs

The Meeting of Consultation of Ministers of Foreign Affairs is held to consider problems of an urgent nature and of common interest to the American states and to serve as the Organ of Consultation. The Assistant Secretary General acts as secretary to the Meeting of Consultation of Ministers of Foreign Affairs when the rules of the Meeting so provide. The following four meetings were held during the 10 years that Ambassador Albert Ramdin was Assistant Secretary General:

On March 17, 2008, the foreign ministers of the Hemisphere gathered in Washington, D.C., to examine the events that had occurred on Saturday, March 1, of that year in Sucumbios Province, Ecuador. The ministers resolved, inter

“By strengthening the culture of cooperation, communication, and transparency, and by encouraging more efficient use of resources within the Organization, the OAS will help to create ownership at all levels within member states.”

alia, to reject the incursion by Colombian military forces and police personnel into the territory of Ecuador, in the Province of Sucumbíos, on March 1, 2008, carried out without the knowledge or prior consent of the Government of Ecuador, since it was a clear violation of Articles 19 and 21 of the OAS Charter. (RC.25/RES. 1/08 rev. 1, “Resolution of the Twenty-fifth Meeting of Consultation of Ministers of Foreign Affairs”)

On December 7, 2010, having analyzed the situation between Costa Rica and Nicaragua and taking into account the “Report by the Secretary General of the OAS on His Visit to Costa Rica and Nicaragua,” presented to the Permanent Council on November 9 of that year, the ministers of foreign affairs resolved “[a]s a confidence-building measure, to call upon the parties to implement, simultaneously and without delay, the recommendations adopted through resolution CP/RES. 978 (1777/10), ‘Situation in the Border Area between Costa Rica and Nicaragua,’ of November 12, 2010,” which recommended that the parties “[i]mmediately resume the talks on aspects concerning the demarcation of the boundary line done to date, in accordance with the treaties and decisions in force.” (RC.26/RES.1/10, “Resolution on the Situation between Costa Rica and Nicaragua”)

On August 24, 2012, the ministers of foreign affairs addressed the situation between Ecuador and the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland regarding the inviolability under international law of the diplomatic premises of Ecuador in the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland. Having analyzed the matter, the foreign ministers reiterated the full validity of the principles enshrined in international law, such as respect for sovereignty, faithful compliance with international treaties, peaceful settlement of disputes, peaceful coexistence among states, and rejection of the threat or use of force to settle disputes. (RC.27/RES. 1/12 rev. 3, “Resolution of the Twenty-seventh Meeting of Consultation of Ministers of Foreign Affairs”)

On July 3, 2014, after listening to the Government of Argentina regarding that country’s position on the restructuring of its sovereign debt, the ministers of foreign affairs declared that it was essential for the stability and predictability of the international financial architecture to ensure that agreements reached between debtors and creditors in the context of sovereign debt-restructuring processes were respected by allowing that payment flows are distributed to cooperative creditors in accordance with the agreement reached with them in the process of consensual readjustment of the debt. (RC.28/DEC. 1/14 rev. 1, “Declaration in Support of the Position of Argentina on Its Sovereign Debt Restructuring”)

“In my view, the OAS can do more, and should do so in a more cost-effective, pragmatic, and timely manner.”

General Assembly

Reflecting his commitment to ensure that the General Assemblies responded effectively to the needs of member states, the Assistant Secretary General initiated a number of strategies to improve planning and execution as well as to promote efficiencies in cost, time, and human resource management. To achieve the desired outcome, the ASG:

- Adopted a strategy of inclusiveness in the planning process, initiating “Task Force Meetings” in preparation for the thirty-sixth regular session of the General Assembly. This approach served to streamline and rationalize the process;
- Implemented a new process to provide improved logistical and advisory support for the Chair, thereby facilitating the work of the General Committee;
- Expanded the time allotted for the Private Dialogue, thereby providing a unique opportunity for the foreign ministers to delve into priority issues;
- Developed “audit” instruments for analysis and assessment designed to feed into a post-GA evaluation process aimed at continuous improvement of planning and execution of upcoming General Assembly sessions;
- Engaged in pre-GA consultations with member states regarding the hosting of future session of the General Assembly.

“The Secretariat will also have to promote synergies in-house to eliminate duplication and waste.”

General Assembly Resolutions 2006-2015

Some of the key resolutions and declarations achieved during the last 10 years, which were primarily formulated, negotiated and approved within the framework of the Permanent Council and elevated to the General Assembly:

2006

- Thirty-second special session of the General Assembly: On March 15, 2006, the General Assembly resolved to establish the Inter-American Defense Board (IADB) as an “entity” of the Organization under Article 53 of the OAS Charter.
- Thirty-sixth regular session: On June 6, 2016, the General Assembly declared [AG/DEC. 50 (XXXVI-O/06)] the decade from 2006 to 2016 to be the Decade of the Americas for the Rights and Dignity of Persons with Disabilities, with the theme: “Equality, Dignity, and Participation.” That action by the General Assembly has resulted in extensive work in this regard by the OAS, its General Secretariat, and the Permanent Council.

2007

- Thirty-seventh regular session: On June 5, 2007, the General Assembly resolved, through its resolution AG/RES. 2334 (XXXVII-O/07), to welcome the adoption of the Hemispheric Plan of Action against Transnational Organized Crime, the principal purpose of which is to promote application by member states of the OAS of the United Nations Convention against Transnational Organized Crime (Palermo Convention) and the protocols thereto.

2008

- Thirty-fifth special session: On March 26, 2008, the General Assembly resolved to approve the establishment of the following dependencies in the General Secretariat: the Secretariat for Legal Affairs and the Secretariat for External Relations.
- Thirty-eighth regular session: On June 3, 2008, the General Assembly resolved, through its resolution AG/RES. 2435 (XXXVIII-O/08), to express for the first time concern about acts of violence and related human rights violations committed against individuals because of their sexual orientation and gender identity.

2009

- Thirty-ninth regular session: On June 3, 2009, the General Assembly resolved, through its resolution AG/RES. 2438 (XXXIX-O/09), that Resolution VI, adopted on January 31, 1962, at the Eighth Meeting of Consultation of Ministers of Foreign Affairs, which excluded the Government of Cuba from its participation in the Inter-American system, ceased to have effect and that the participation of the Republic of Cuba in the OAS would be the result of a process of dialogue initiated at the request of the Government of Cuba, and in accordance with the practices, purposes, and principles of the OAS.
- At the same session, the General Assembly resolved, on June 4, 2009, through its resolution AG/RES. 2491 (XXXIX-O/09), to urge the member states to adopt the necessary measures at all levels to comply with the provisions laid down by the World Health Organization (WHO) and the Pan American Health Organization (PAHO), contained in the International Health Regulations and other norms agreed to regarding actions to plan for and respond to a pandemic influenza, in order to prevent the spread of the influenza A (H1N1) virus.
- Thirty-seventh special session: On July 4, 2009, the General Assembly resolved to suspend the Honduran State from the exercise of its right to participate in the Organization of American

States, in accordance with Article 21 of the Inter-American Democratic Charter. The suspension took effect immediately.

2010

- Thirty-ninth special session: On March 24, 2010, the General Assembly resolved to reelect the Secretary General of the OAS, José Miguel Insulza, and the Assistant Secretary General, Ambassador Albert Ramdin.
- Fortieth regular session: On June 8, 2010, the General Assembly resolved, through its resolution AG/RES. 2557 (XL-O/10) and in the wake of the January 12, 2010, massive earthquake in Haiti, to support reconstruction in accordance with the Action Plan presented by the Government of Haiti at the New York Donors' Conference and the principles adopted at the Montreal Conference, within the OAS mandates in Haiti.
- At the same session, the General Assembly resolved, through its resolution AG/RES. 2588 (XL-O/10), to continue and augment the efforts made through the OAS to counteract the adverse impacts of climate change, strengthen the climate change adaptation capabilities of the states and of populations and ecosystems vulnerable to climate change, and enhance our efforts to mitigate greenhouse gas emissions.

2011

- Forty-first special session: On June 1, 2011, the General Assembly resolved to lift, with immediate effect, the suspension of the Honduran State's right to participate in the Organization of American States.
- Forty-first regular session: On June 7, 2011, the General Assembly resolved, through its resolution AG/RES. 2626 (XLI-O/11), to welcome the International Conference in Support of the Central American Security Strategy to be held in Guatemala City, Guatemala, on June 22 and 23, 2011.

2012

- Forty-second regular session: On June 4, 2012, the General Assembly resolved, through its resolution AG/RES. 2699 (XLII-O/12), after a long period of negotiations engaging the joint efforts of the Permanent Council and the Inter-American Council for Integral Development, to adopt the Social Charter of the Americas; and through its resolution AG/RES. 2738 (XLII-O/12), it resolved to establish, as a matter of priority, the Committee on Migration Issues (CAM) as a permanent committee of the Inter-American Council for Integral Development (CIDI) of the Organization of American States (OAS). The CAM was to function as the principal forum in the Organization charged with migration issues.

- At the same session, the General Assembly resolved, through its resolution AG/RES. 2757 (XLII-O/12), to invite the member states and permanent observers to take active measures to reduce excessive food price volatility and, through its resolution AG/RES. 2760 (XLII-O/12), to invite member states, in keeping with their national realities, to continue working to ensure access to safe drinking water and sanitation services for present and future generations.

2013

- Forty-fourth special session: On March 22, 2013, the General Assembly received the documents resulting from the process of reflection on the workings of the Inter-American Commission on Human Rights with a view to strengthening the Inter-American human rights system, which were the fruit of the hard work carried out by the Permanent Council and the Inter-American Commission on Human Rights, with the participation of civil society organizations, since mid-2011.
- Forty-third regular session: On June 6, 2013, the General Assembly decided, in its declaration AG/DEC. 73 (XLIII-O/13) corr. 1, "Declaration of Antigua Guatemala 'for a Comprehensive Policy against the World Drug Problem in the Americas,'" to initiate a process of consultation, taking into account the contents of the present declaration, the general debate in the plenary, the resolutions and mandates about this matter approved in the current regular session, as well as the "Report on the Drug Problem in the Americas" presented by the Secretary General, and, on the basis of the results obtained from these processes, it instructed the Permanent Council to call for a special session of the General Assembly to be held no later than 2014.
- At the same regular session, the General Assembly, after a difficult and protracted period of negotiations in the OAS Permanent Council, resolved, through its resolutions AG/RES. 2804 (XLIII-O/13) and AG/RES. 2805 (XLIII-O/13), to adopt the Inter-American Convention against All Forms of Discrimination and Intolerance and the Inter-American Convention against Racism, Racial Discrimination, and Related Forms of Intolerance.
- Also during that regular session, the General Assembly resolved, through its resolution AG/RES. 2802 (XLIII-O/13), to reaffirm its commitment to the promotion and protection of all human rights of people vulnerable to, living with, or affected by HIV/AIDS, in accordance with the provisions of the "Political Declaration on HIV and AIDS: Intensifying Our Efforts to Eliminate HIV and AIDS" (A/RES/65/277) (2011).

2014

- Forty-fourth regular session: On June 5, 2014, the General Assembly resolved, through its resolution AG/RES. 2829 (XLIV-O/14), to reaffirm its condemnation of all forms of torture and other cruel, inhuman, or degrading treatment or punishment, which are and shall remain prohibited at any time and in any place whatsoever and can thus never be justified, and to reiterate the need to respect international human rights law, Inter-American law, and international humanitarian law; through its resolution AG/RES. 2856 (XLIV-O/14), it resolved to express its support for the peace process in Colombia; and, through its resolution AG/RES. 2862 (XLIV-O/14), it resolved to consolidate the Americas as a zone of peace based on respect for the principles and provisions of international law, including the international instruments to which the member states are parties, and the principles and purposes of the United Nations Charter and of the Charter of the Organization of American States.
- Forty-sixth special session: On September 19, 2014, the General Assembly resolved to reaffirm the importance of hemispheric and international cooperation to jointly tackle the world drug problem by promoting and strengthening comprehensive policies and, where appropriate, the modernization and professionalization of government institutions.
- Forty-seventh special session: On September 12, 2014, the General Assembly resolved, following protracted negotiations in the Permanent Council, to adopt the Strategic Objectives for institution-building, for administration, and for each of the pillars defined in the vision statement of the Organization: Democracy, human rights, integral development, and multidimensional security.

2015

- Forty-ninth special session: On March 18, 2015, the General Assembly resolved to elect Luis Almagro as the new Secretary General of the OAS and Ambassador Néstor Mendez as the new Assistant Secretary General of the Organization.
- Forty-fifth regular session: On June 16, 2015, the General Assembly, following a difficult and protracted period of negotiations in the OAS Permanent Council, resolved, through its resolution AG/RES. 2875 (XLV-O/15), to adopt the Inter-American Convention on Protecting the Human Rights of Older Persons. Similarly, after an intense period of negotiations engaging the joint efforts of the Permanent Council and the Inter-American Council for Integral Development, it adopted the Plan of Action of the Social Charter of the Americas.

- At the same regular session, the General Assembly resolved to confer on the Permanent Council the powers it needs so that, pursuant to Article 4 of the General Standards, it can authorize the necessary adjustments to the organizational structure of the General Secretariat in order to align it with the strategic vision of the Organization.



ASG 2009 CSIS Forum

Member States



ASG handover of funds to Trinite Music School

- Antigua and Barbuda
- Argentina
- Bahamas
- Barbados
- Belize
- Bolivia
- Brazil
- Canada
- Chile
- Colombia
- Costa Rica
- Cuba
- Dominica
- Dominican Republic
- Ecuador
- El Salvador
- Grenada
- Guatemala
- Guyana
- Haiti
- Honduras
- Jamaica
- Mexico
- Nicaragua
- Panama
- Paraguay
- Peru
- Saint Kitts and Nevis
- Saint Lucia
- Saint Vincent and the Grenadines
- Suriname
- Trinidad and Tobago
- Uruguay
- United States
- Venezuela

¹ On June 3, 2009, the Ministers of Foreign Affairs of the Americas adopted Resolution AG/RES.2438 (XXXIX-0/09) which resolves that the 1962 Resolution that excluded the Government of Cuba from its participation in the Inter-American system, ceases to have effect in the Organization of American States (OAS). The 2009 resolution states that the participation of the Republic of Cuba in the OAS will be the result of a process of dialogue initiated at the request of the Government of Cuba, and in accordance with the practices, purposes, and principles of the OAS.



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