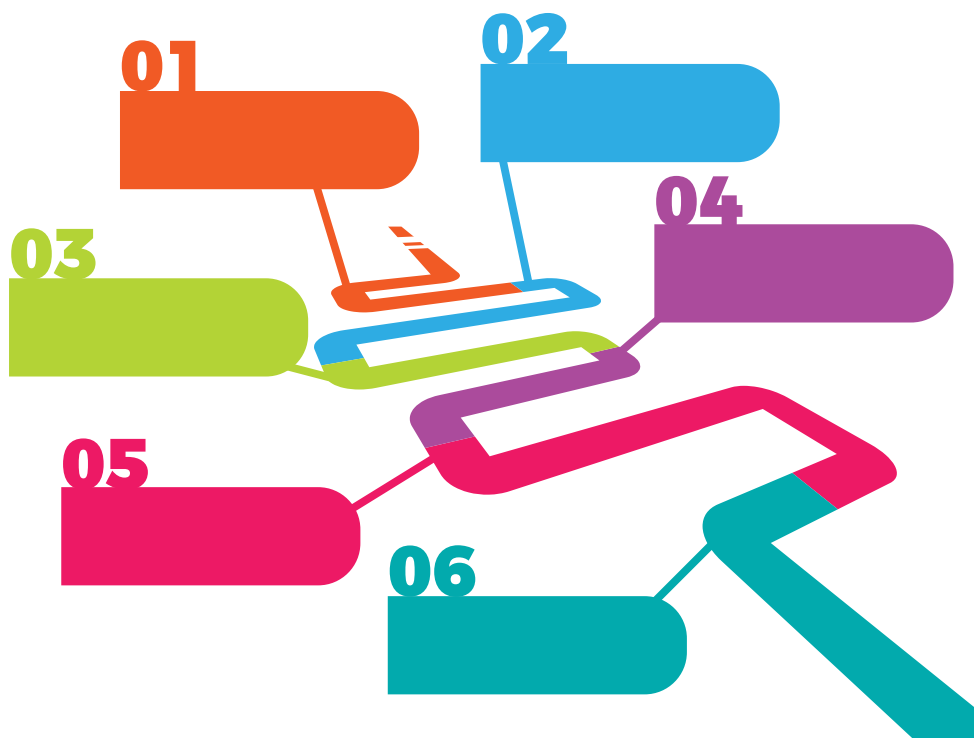


Step by Step

to participate in the

OAS!



RIGHT HERE
RIGHT NOW



Latin American and
Caribbean Women's Health
Network - LACWHN

01

What you should know about the OAS

The Organization of American States is the oldest regional body in the world, whose origin dates back to the First International Conference of American States, held in Washington, D.C., from October 1889 to April 1890. In this meeting, it was agreed to create the International Union of American Republics and began to weave a network of provisions and institutions that would come to be known as the "inter-American system," the oldest international institutional system.

Organs of the OAS

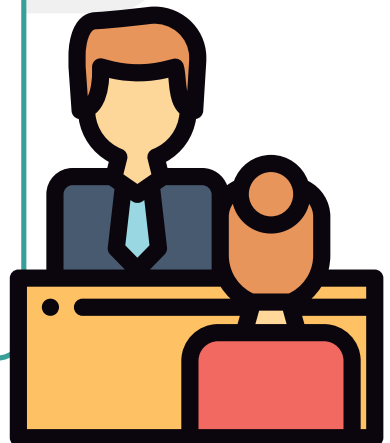
- The general assembly.
- The Consultation of Ministers of Foreign Affairs Meeting.
- The Councils (the Permanent Council, the Inter-American Council for Integral Development).
- The Inter-American Juridical Committee.
- The Inter-American Commission on Human Rights.
- The General Secretariat.
- The Specialized Conferences.
- The Specialized Organizations, and other entities established by the General Assembly.

01 OAS General Assembly

The General Assembly is the supreme organ of the Organization of American States. It is an intergovernmental political body that meets annually, usually in June, over three days, to evaluate the results of the organization's activities and promote hemispheric issues.

02 What are the functions of the General Assembly?

- 1-** To define the policies and mandates of the OAS, as well as the structure and functions of its organs.
- 2-** To elect the members of the decentralized and autonomous organizations of the OAS, such as the Inter-American Commission on Human Rights -CIDH-, the Court-IDH, the Inter-American Juridical Committee and the Justice Center of the Americas, among others.
- 3-** To approve inter-state resolutions after the discussions and negotiations on the topics on the agenda.



03

How civil society can participate?

In 1999, the Permanent Council of the OAS adopted the "Guidelines for the Participation of Civil Society Organizations in OAS Activities", ([CP/RES. 759 \(1217/99\)](#)) establish the Register of Organizations of the Society Civil in the OAS. The Registration facilitates the information and experiences exchange.

04



Pre-registration!

- **Civil Society Organizations**, regardless of whether or not they have consultative status with the OAS, must be registered as Civil Society. If they wish to attend the sessions of the General Assembly, they should send a letter to the Secretary General, with a copy to the Department of International Affairs, requesting the right to observe the procedures under the category of "Special Guest".



- **Organizations with consultative status** should direct the letter indicating their interest in participating, the name of the organization, the name of the meeting in which they wish to participate and the name of up to two representatives to attend that meeting. The request must be sent by e-mail, together with the Report of activities of the organization, corresponding to the year of presentation of the attached report. Documents sent by a link or a "cloud" are not accepted.
- **Organizations that don't have a registration with the OAS** must additionally attach the following documents to the request: Constitutive act, Statutes, Institutional mission, Report of the organization's activities corresponding to the year of the request.
- **Accreditations.** The General Secretariat must present a list of the organizations that have sent their request to the Permanent Council for approval, at least 30 days before the General Assembly. Also, the organizations included in this list must be authorized by the host country. Once approved by the Permanent Council of the OAS, representatives of civil society organizations receive notification from the General Secretariat.

At that moment, they must complete the corresponding accreditation form, which is available on the official website of the OAS General Assembly, under the category of "Civil Society Organization", which serves as the basis for the printing and delivery of their accreditation.



What does civil society participate?

- Participate in public meetings of the Permanent Council, the Inter-American Council for Integral Development (CIDI) and its subsidiary bodies.
- Review through a written document, related to the topic of the meeting of the Permanent Council and CIDI.
- Access the drafts of resolutions and/or resolutions adopted by the General Assembly and make observations of them.
- Receive the resolutions adopted at the annual meeting of the OAS General Assembly.
- Participate in meetings of the Permanent Council, CIDI and its political bodies that are closed to the public with the permission of the President of the meeting.
- Obtain the specialized documents of the meetings of the working groups and the specialized groups of the Permanent Council or CIDI. With prior authorization, CSOs can present a declaration and distribute to the Member States to consider the matter to be discussed.
- Description of the Specific Fund to Fund the Participation of CSOs in OAS Activities and in the Summits of the Americas Process.



