

CP/RES. 1055 (2036/15)

STRUCTURE OF THE GENERAL SECRETARIAT

(Adopted by the Permanent Council at its meeting on September 30, 2015)

THE PERMANENT COUNCIL OF THE ORGANIZATION OF AMERICAN STATES,  
CONSIDERING:

That the General Assembly, at its forty-fourth regular session, held in Asunción, Paraguay, through resolution AG/RES. 2814 (XLIV-O/14) adopted the declaration on the Strategic Vision of the Organization, stating as follows:

*“The Organization of American States is the hemispheric political forum inclusive of all the countries of the Americas, committed to the strengthening of democracy, the promotion and protection of human rights, the advancement of integral development and the fostering of multidimensional security, all equal and interdependent, with justice and social inclusion, for the benefit of the peoples of the Americas;”*

That through resolution AG/RES. 1 (XLVII-E/14) rev. 1, entitled “Guidelines and Objectives of the Strategic Vision of the Organization of American States,” the General Assembly adopted the strategic objectives of the OAS for institution-building, for administration, and for each of the pillars identified in the vision statement of the Organization;

That, by resolution AG/RES. 2876 (XLV-O/15), “Modernization and Reorganization of the General Secretariat in accordance with the Strategic Vision for the Organization and for Strengthening the Inter-American System,” the General Assembly conferred 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, instructed the Secretary General to submit to the Permanent Council, no later than July 31, 2015, any changes that in his view need to be made to the structure of the General Secretariat and the rationale behind them; and empowered the Council to authorize any transfers of resources between chapters of the program-budget of the Organization for 2015 that are needed to put those changes to the structure of the General Secretariat into effect, without thereby exceeding the authorized overall Regular Fund budget ceiling for 2015,

That, on July 27, 2015, the Secretary General submitted to the Permanent Council his “Restructuring Proposal for the General Secretariat,” document CP/doc.5138/15;

That the Permanent Council has held a series of meetings to consider and analyze the Secretary General’s proposal, having reached consensus on the structure reflected in the appendix to this resolution;

That Article 109 of the OAS Charter establishes that “[t]he Secretary General shall direct the General Secretariat, be the legal representative thereof, and, notwithstanding the provisions of Article 91.b, be responsible to the General Assembly for the proper fulfillment of the obligations and functions of the General Secretariat”;

That, pursuant to Article 113 of the OAS Charter, “[t]he Secretary General shall: a) Establish such offices of the General Secretariat as are necessary to accomplish its purposes; and b) Determine the number of officers and employees of the General Secretariat, appoint them, regulate their powers and duties, and fix their remuneration. The Secretary General shall exercise this authority in accordance with such general standards and budgetary provisions as may be established by the General Assembly”;

That, in accordance with Article 4 of the General Standards, “[t]he General Secretariat shall be composed of the executive secretariats, secretariats at the assistant secretary level, departments, offices, and other technical or administrative dependencies already existing or that the Secretary General may establish in accordance with the provisions of Article 113 of the Charter. The Secretary General must obtain the express approval of the General Assembly to establish new secretariats or other dependencies with similar attributes and of similar importance, or to abolish already existing ones”; and

That, in accordance with Article 12(d) of the General Standards “[i]t is the responsibility of the Secretary General ... [t]o redistribute the functions of existing dependencies, incorporating some into others or dividing or subdividing them, whenever necessary for the greater efficiency of the services and better execution of the programs, provided that no increase in the expenditures budgeted for those services or programs is involved,”

## RESOLVES

1. To approve the changes to the structure of the General Secretariat that establish the Secretariat for Access to Rights and Equity, the Secretariat for Hemispheric Affairs, and the Strategic Counsel for Organizational Development and Management for Results; renames the Secretariat for Political Affairs as the Secretariat for Strengthening Democracy; and abolishes the Secretariat for External Relations. Appended hereto are the organizational chart of the new structure of the General Secretariat (Appendix 1) and a list of the organs, agencies and entities of the Organization, as envisaged by Article 53 of its Charter (Appendix 2).

2. To authorize the Secretary General to make the necessary transfers of resources between chapters of the program-budget of the Organization for 2015 to put into effect the changes to the structure of the General Secretariat referred to in this resolution. The structure hereby approved shall not exceed the overall budget level approved by the General Assembly for 2015.

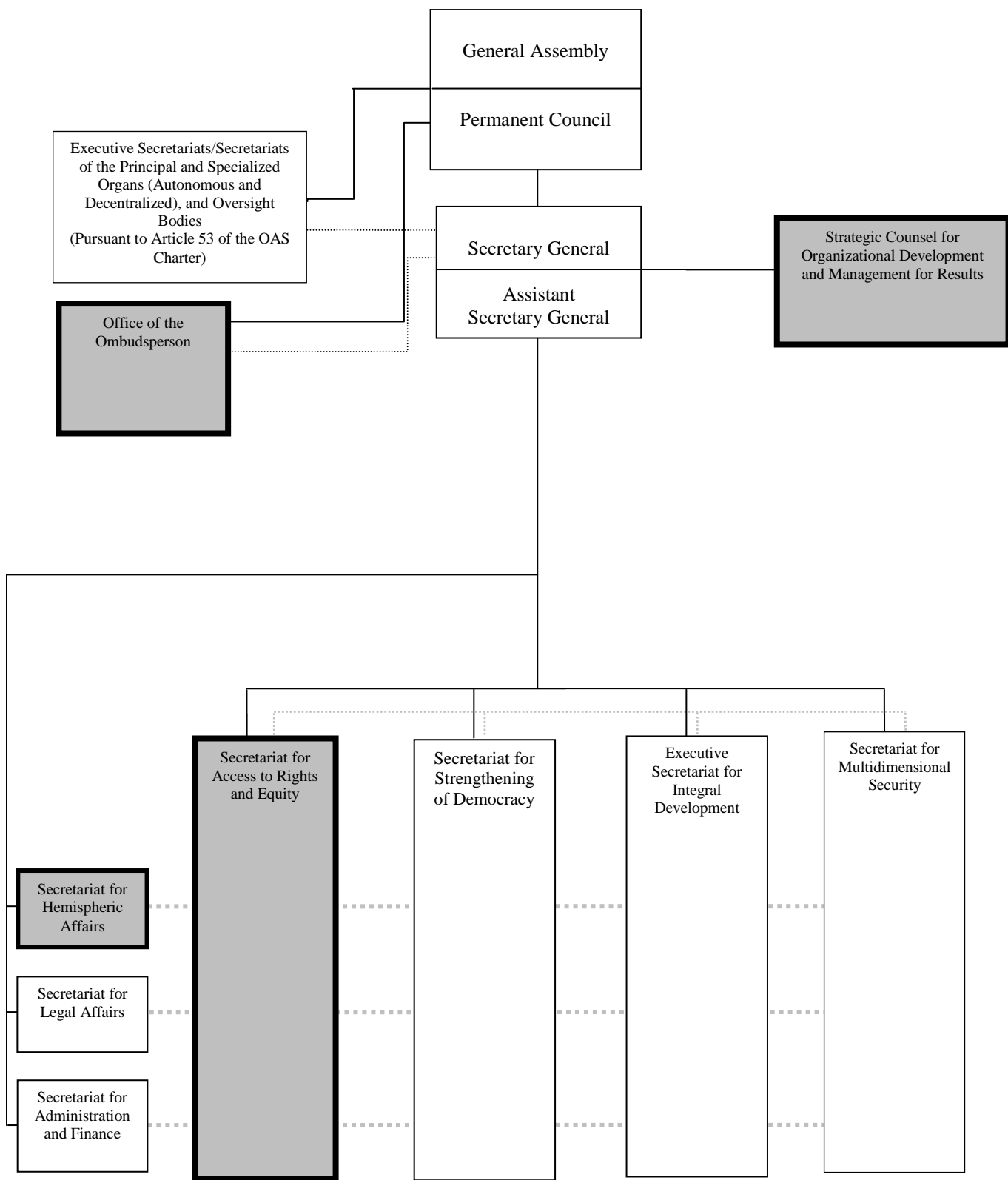
3. To instruct the Committee on Administrative and Budgetary Affairs and the General Secretariat to reflect the structure approved by this resolution in the draft program-budget for 2016 to be referred to the General Assembly for adoption, using as reference documents CP/INF. 7223/15 rev. 1 and CP/doc. 5138/15 rev. 1, among others, as well as the deliberations and inputs of member states.

4. To instruct the Ad Hoc Working Group on the Strategic Vision of the OAS to define the objectives, guidelines, and thematic areas of the Secretariats, as stipulated in the Strategic Vision and Strategic Objectives, the Charter, and other standards of the Organization. Its results will be submitted, through the Permanent Council, to the General Assembly at its fiftieth special session.

5. To report to the General Assembly at its special session in October 2015 on the implementation of this resolution.



Appendix 1  
Structure of the General Secretariat



## Appendix 2

### List of Organs, Entities, and Agencies, as envisaged by Article 53 the Charter of the Organization

The Organization of American States accomplishes its purposes by means of:

- (a) The General Assembly;
- (b) The Meeting of Consultation of Ministers of Foreign Affairs;
- (c) The Councils;
- (d) The Inter-American Juridical Committee;
- (e) The Inter-American Commission on Human Rights;
- (f) The General Secretariat;
- (g) The Specialized Conferences; and
- (h) The Specialized Organizations.

There may be established, in addition to those provided for in the Charter and in accordance with the provisions thereof, such subsidiary organs, agencies, and other entities as are considered necessary.

The Councils:

- Permanent Council
- Inter-American Council for Integral Development (CIDI)

The Inter-American Specialized Organizations:

- Pan American Health Organization (PAHO)
- Inter-American Children's Institute (IIN)
- Inter-American Commission of Women (CIM)
- Pan American Institute of Geography and History (PAIGH)
- Inter-American Indian Institute (III)
- Inter-American Institute for Cooperation on Agriculture (IICA)

Subsidiary Organs, Agencies, and Other Entities;

- Inter-American Drug Abuse Control Commission (CICAD)
- Inter-American Telecommunication Commission (CITEL)
- Inter-American Committee against Terrorism (CICTE)
- Committee to Coordinate Cooperation Programs of the Inter-American System
- Inter-American Committee on Natural Disaster Reduction (IACNDR)
- Justice Studies Center of the Americas
- Inter-American Defense Board (IADB):
- Administrative Tribunal (TRIBAD)
- The Inter-American Court of Human Rights;
- Retirement and Pension Committee of the OAS
- Board of External Auditors