

## 70<sup>TH</sup> ANNIVERSARY OF THE ORGANIZATION OF AMERICAN STATES (OAS)



*The Organization of American States (OAS) Barbados Country Office joins with the member states of the Organization in celebrating the 70<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of the OAS. This bulletin attempts to capture where the Organization has travelled in relation to Barbados.*



OAS Secretary General, His Excellency Luis Almagro



OAS Assistant Secretary General, Ambassador Nestor Mendez

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## MESSAGE FROM THE OAS BARBADOS COUNTRY REPRESENTATIVE

April 2018 marked the commencement of a yearlong celebration by the Organization of American States (OAS) to commemorate its **70<sup>th</sup> Anniversary**. The Organization and the member states have committed themselves to organize a series of events at Headquarters in Washington DC to celebrate and to reflect on the road thus travelled. The OAS has had over the seventy-year period several major accomplishments that have broken new ground and have had significant impact on the lives of the people of the Hemisphere. Similarly, like all international bodies, we have had difficult periods where member states have questioned our relevance and utility. I believe, wholeheartedly, that despite these challenges, the Organization has soldiered on and has managed to remain vibrant and relevant.



Francis A. McBarnette,  
Representative, OAS  
Barbados Office

On a personal note, as a Country Representative, I have been fortunate to serve with the OAS in the field network (Grenada, St Vincent & the Grenadines and Barbados) and to be a witness to our work and activities in the member states. I have been privileged also to participate in Electoral Observation Missions (EOMs) in Grenada, St Vincent & the Grenadines, Antigua and Barbuda, and Guyana. The field is for me, where **“the rubber hits the road”** and where we experience in real time what influences the daily lives of common people. It is always satisfying to work on a project that will bring change; to hear someone relate their experience after returning from a conference or workshop; or to see the joy of a candidate who has received a scholarship.

As we celebrate and reflect over the year, I am convinced that the Organization and the member states will strive to fulfil the vision and aspirations of Simon Bolivar and the founding fathers who envisioned a continent united and working for peace, progress and prosperity.

As we look to the future, I am reminded that **“Human progress is neither automatic nor inevitable... Every step toward the goal of justice requires sacrifice, suffering, and struggle”**.

I wish to join with the many voices across our vast and diverse continent, that is the Americas, to express my best wishes to this hemispheric experiment that is the OAS, and to the continuing efforts to build the future that our people deserve.



- The Strategic Vision approved by the member states sets the guiding principles for the OAS.
- The Strategic Plan serves as a roadmap to put the Vision into operation.
- Integrated-Programs are the means to implement the plan.

The Organization of American States (OAS) is building a strong foundation for the future, combining a [Strategic Vision](#) that refocuses its work with a [Strategic Plan](#) to achieve that vision, and the tool to implement that plan in [“Integrated-Programs.”](#)

# SHORT HISTORY OF THE ORGANIZATION OF AMERICAN STATES

The Organization of American States (OAS) is the world's oldest regional organization and it is the natural forum for Hemispheric dialogue on political, social, educational, cultural, scientific and technological matters in the western Hemisphere. The Inter-American System that we know today traces its origin to the Venezuelan visionary Simon Bolivar who advocated for a united continent. A series of International American Conferences and assemblies stretching back to 1889 culminated in 1948 in the Organization of American States.

The OAS Charter was adopted at the Ninth International Conference of American States in Bogotá, Colombia on April 30, 1948. The OAS Charter reaffirmed the fundamental rights and duties of states, proclaimed the goals of the new organization, and established its organs and agencies. The 1948 OAS Charter has been amended four times:

- by the 1967 Protocol of Buenos Aires, which went into effect in February 1970;



**OAS Building, Washington D.C., USA**

- by the 1967 Protocol of Buenos Aires, which went into effect in February 1970;
- by the 1985 Protocol of Cartagena de Indias which took effect in November 1988;
- by the 1993 Protocol of Managua, which took effect in March 1996; and
- by the 1992 Protocol of Washington which took effect in September 1997.

These amendments to the Charter have established further the structure of the Secretariat and have served to define areas where the Organization should concentrate its efforts.

Significant milestones in the history of the OAS since the signing of the Charter have included the following:

- 1959: Inter-American Commission on

Human Rights (IACHR) created.

- 1959: Inter-American Development Bank (IDB) created.
- 1961: Charter of Punta del Este signed, launching the Alliance for Progress.
- 1969: American Convention on Human Rights signed (in force since 1978).
- 1970: OAS General Assembly established as the Organization's supreme decision-making body.
- 1979: Inter-American Court of Human Rights created.
- 1991: Adoption of Resolution 1080, which requires the Secretary General to convene the Permanent Council within ten days of a coup d'état in any member country.
- 1994: First Summit of the Americas (Miami),
- 2001: Inter-American Democratic Charter adopted.
- 2009: OAS revokes 1962 suspension of Cuba.

## SPECIALIZED ORGANIZATIONS OF THE OAS:

Six specialized Organizations, established by multilateral agreements and having functions with respect to technical matters of common interest to the member states, are part of the OAS:

- Pan American Health Organization (PAHO) – founded 1902
- Inter-American Children’s Institute (IIN) – founded 1927
- Inter-American Commission of Women (CIM) – founded 1928
- Pan American Institute of Geography and History (PAIGH) – founded 1928
- Inter-American Indian Institute (IIL) – founded 1940
- Inter-American Institute for Cooperation on Agriculture (IICA) – founded 1942

## SECRETARIES GENERAL:

- Alberto Lleras Camargo (Colombia) 1948-1954 🇨🇴
- Carlos Davila (Chile) 1954-1955 (Died in Office) 🇨🇱
- Jose Mora (Uruguay) 1956-1968 🇺🇾
- Galo Plaza (Ecuador) 1968-1975 🇪🇨
- Alejandro Orfila (Argentina) 1975- 1984 🇦🇷
- João Clemente Baena Soares (Brazil) 1984-1994 🇧🇷
- Cesar Gaviria (Colombia) 1994- 2004 🇨🇴
- Miguel Angel Rodriguez (Costa Rica) 2004 🇨🇷
- Luigi R. Einaudi (acting) United States of America) 2004-2005 🇺🇸
- José Miguel Insulza (Chile) 2005-2015 🇨🇱
- Luis Almagro (Uruguay) 2015 to present 🇺🇾

## ASSISTANT SECRETARIES GENERAL:

- William Manger (United States) (1948–1958) 🇺🇸
- William Sanders (United States) (1958–1968) 🇺🇸
- M. Rafael Urquía (El Salvador) (1968–1975) 🇸🇻
- Jorge Luis Zelaya Coronado (Guatemala) (1975–1980) 🇬🇹
- Val T. McComie (Barbados) (1980–1990) 🇧🇧
- Christopher R. Thomas (Trinidad and Tobago) (1990–2000) 🇹🇹
- Luigi R. Einaudi (United States) (2000 – July 2005) 🇺🇸
- Albert Ramdin (Suriname) (19 July 2005– 2015) 🇸🇷
- Nestor Mendez (Belize) (July 17, 2015 to Present) 🇧🇪

## OAS Country Offices in the Member States



The Coordinating Office of the **Offices in the Member States** invites you to visit their site: <http://www.oas.org/en/about/offices.asp>

You will be able to receive updates, find out who they are and learn out about projects, programs, internships, and scholarships in each office.

# BARBADOS AND THE ORGANIZATION OF AMERICAN STATES



Staff of the OAS Barbados Office

In the 1960's the countries of the English-Speaking Caribbean began to gain their independence from colonial powers and there was a steady process to integrate themselves into the international community. Barbados gained its independence in 1967 and became a member state of the OAS in 1969 to accompany Jamaica and Trinidad and Tobago that had joined the Organization earlier.

The Government of Barbados, in accordance with the practice, signed a Headquarters Agreement with the OAS on 25<sup>th</sup> June 1969 to establish a Country Office in this member state. The objective of the establishment of the Country Office was to ensure that Barbados would become fully integrated into the Organization and would enjoy the benefits of membership. Cameron Tudor, Foreign Minister of Barbados and Galo Plaza, Secretary General of the OAS signed the Agreement to establish the Office.

The OAS Barbados Office has had four Country Representatives (formerly Directors) since its establishment. These Country Representatives were:

- Sarah Miller (USA)
- Muriel Bourne, a.i.(Barbados)
- Wendell Goodin ( Jamaica) and
- Francis A. McBarnette (Trinidad & Tobago) - present



Wendell Goodin

The OAS Country Office has been located in several places since its establishment in 1969:

- 1977 – Diocesan House, St. Michael's Row, Bridgetown
- 1983 – Sturdee House, Bank Hall, St. Michael
- 1986 – Kay's House, Roebuck Street, St. Michael
- The OAS Country Office since 2009 has been located at "Windmark" Harts Gap, Hastings, Christ Church.



Ambassador Selwin Hart

Since its independence in 1966, the Government of Barbados had also established an Embassy to the United States of America and a Permanent Mission to the OAS in Washington, D.C. It is located at 2144 Wyoming Avenue, N.W., Washington, D.C. The Mission is currently headed by Ambassador Selwin Charles Hart who was appointed in November 1, 2016.

## Ambassadors of Barbados to the OAS since independence are:

- Hilton Augustus Vaughan December 1, 1967
- Valerie Theodore Mc Comie September 1, 1968
- Cecil Beaumont Williams June 25, 1974

- Maurice A. King January 28, 1976
- Oliver Hamlet Jackman May 13, 1977
- Charles A. T. Skeete February 4, 1981
- Peter Douglas Laurie November 15, 1983
- Sir William Randolph Douglas April 7, 1987
- Dr. Rudi Valentine Webster November 5, 1991
- Dr. Sir Courtney N. Blackman, February 8, 1995
- Michael Ian King October 10, 2000
- John Ernest Beale January 29, 2009
- Selwin Charles Hart November 21, 2016

## **PROJECTS AND ACTIVITIES OVER THE YEARS**

The OAS Barbados Country Office opened its doors on 21 June 1969 and has since facilitated technical cooperation and collaboration in a number of areas to support the development efforts of Barbados. The strength of the OAS to facilitate the economic and social development of its individual Member States lies in its ability to pool the knowledge and experience of its membership to create innovative solutions to developmental challenges. This approach recognizes that all member states, regardless of their size and resource endowments, have valuable lessons and experiences to share. Barbados has also been able to improve the quality of its human resource by utilizing the academic scholarships and professional development awards offered by the OAS. Nationals of Barbados have received academic scholarships and professional development awards to a value of approximately Bds\$3,841,834 in the period 2006 to 2017.

### **Project Highlights:**

- Monitoring and Evaluation System for Ministry of Social Care
- Barbados Drug Treatment Court
- Barbados Drug Information Network
- Secondary School Drug Prevalence Survey
- Tour Guide Training Project for Historic Bridgetown and its Garrison
- Small Business Network of the Americas
- Regional Evaluation of Saltwater Intrusion of Coastal Aquifers on Caribbean Islands
- Incorporating Just In Time Lecture Technology for Long Distance Education
- Strengthening the Capabilities of Caribbean Professionals and Micro-entrepreneurs through the Use of Modern Information & Communication Technology
- Barbados Tourism Awareness and Involvement Programme
- Beach Management Plan
- Slave Route Signage Project
- Capacity Building in Youth for Sustainable Land Management
- Assessment of the Effects of Drainage Wells (Suck Wells) and Karst Sink Holes on the Groundwater Quality of Barbados

## Regional and Inter-American Meetings and Workshops held in Barbados:

- Regional Forum: Towards Concrete Solutions for Addressing Youth Employment in the Caribbean. December 6, 2017
- 92<sup>nd</sup> Regular Meeting of the Directing Council of the Inter-American Children's Institute (IIN). September 19, 2017.
- Initiative to Establish an Asset Recovery Inter-Agency Network (ARIN) in the Caribbean. November 15&16, 2017.
- Inter-American Conference of Ministers of Labour. September 17, 2014.
- Inter-American Congress of Ministers and High level Authorities of Tourism. September 3 & 4, 2014.
- Training Workshop Building Democratic Classrooms in the Caribbean: A Professional Development Opportunity for Educators to Promote Coexistence & Social Integration among Children & Youth, October 29 to November 1, 2013.
- Certificate Training Workshops for the Small Business Development Centre (SBDC) Model, August 21 & 22, 2013.
- Sub-Regional Workshop on Drug Information Networks (DINS), May 29 & 30, 2013.
- Regional Forum: Strengthening Regulations of Political Parties and Political Financing Systems in the Caribbean. May 8 & 9, 2013.
- Seminar on the Investigation of the Sales of Drugs over the Internet, April 16-19, 2012
- OAS-OTN TWG Working Group Meeting on Services & Investment, March 21-25, 2011 & September 12-16, 2011.
- Sub-Regional Workshop on Cooperation: The Caribbean Chapter, September 21-22, 2010
- Puente Programme in the Caribbean, Phase II, July 26-30, 2010.

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### Project Highlight



Project Name: "Provisions: Organic, Hydroponic, and Hybrid System growing for Caribbean Schools and Model for Local Caribbean Entrepreneurship"  
OAS/FEMCIDI Contribution: USD \$150,000      Period of Execution: May 2014- August 2016  
Participating Countries: Barbados, Haiti, Trinidad & Tobago, Guyana, USA (Florida)

## TESTIMONIALS



**Cynthia Barrow-Giles**  
Senior Lecturer: Political Science  
UWI, Cave Hill Campus, Barbados

The OAS has demonstrated in the last seventy years that it remains one of a few hemispheric and international organisations which is committed to expansion, defense and consolidation of democratic governance in the hemisphere and is of special relevance to the Caribbean. Not only has the organisation emphasised human rights as a natural and basic right of all, but it has led the fight for the elimination of all forms of discrimination and continues to be a champion for marginal groups throughout the hemisphere.

While the OAS may be best known in its role as a promoter and defender of electoral integrity, the organisation has also served to quell conflicts through diplomatic means across the hemisphere.

It has been my pleasure and my privilege to work with the OAS in its flagship role throughout the Commonwealth Caribbean. It is a role which has brought more focus on the enhancement of democratic rights and the strengthening of democratic institutions throughout the region.



**Peter Laurie, Former Ambassador of Barbados to the United States of America and to the OAS**

I wish to congratulate the OAS on its 70<sup>th</sup> Anniversary. For me, if the OAS did not exist it would be necessary to create it.

As the only hemispheric political Organization whose membership includes the 35 independent nations of the hemisphere, of which 34 are active, the OAS' contribution across its historical trajectory is undeniable. The scope of its work has focused on its 4 main pillars of Human Rights, Democracy, Security, and Development, elements critical to enduring peace, harmonious living, and the bases of human growth and development and corresponding social progress at the micro and macro level.

The OAS has remained at the vanguard of confronting the gamut of traditional, new and emerging challenges which touch upon these pillars, among them issues of discrimination and marginalization, free and fair elections, transnational organized crime, poverty and income inequality, access to quality education and adequate healthcare, as well as migration, renewable energy, and climate change. In advancing progress on all these fronts, it has facilitated the space for dialogue and consensus building among its membership, and has proven itself responsive to the needs of the peoples of the Americas.



**Ambassador Jacinth Henry-Martin, Senior Advisor to the Assistant Secretary General, Coordinator of Offices in the Member States**



**Hugh Riley, Secretary General Caribbean Tourism Organization**

The CTO commends the proud legacy of the OAS, the world's oldest regional organization, and notes the significant contribution made over the past seven decades in fostering co-operation and dialogue among the states and nations in the Western Hemisphere.

There is a long history of collaboration between the CTO and the OAS in the area of Caribbean tourism development. Our technical collaboration has yielded capacity-building tools, policy instruments and mitigation strategies and solutions to a range of sustainability challenges. The CTO looks forward to continuing its partnership with the OAS and deepening cooperation to work together toward attainment of our mutual goals of seeking the sustainability and growth of Caribbean tourism and by extension the social and economic development of the Caribbean Region and its people.