

**DECISION No. 419**

**REGULATION FOR OBSERVERS TO THE MEETINGS  
OF THE LATIN AMERICAN COUNCIL**

**THE LATIN AMERICAN COUNCIL,**

**HAVING CONSIDERED:**

The convenience of establishing rules and criteria for the admission and participation of observers in the meetings of the Latin American Council,

**DECIDES:**

**Sole Article:** To approve the Regulations for Observers to the Meetings of the Latin American Council, attached hereto.

## **RULES OF PROCEDURE FOR OBSERVERS TO MEETINGS OF THE LATIN AMERICAN COUNCIL**

**First:** The Latin American Council may grant, by consensus, at the beginning of its Preparatory Meeting, Permanent Observer or Special Observer status to those bodies that request it, in accordance.

**Second:** The following may be designated as Permanent Observers to the Latin American Council:

- a) Sovereign States of Latin America and the Caribbean that are not yet members of SELA;
- b) Action Committees and Permanent Committees of SELA;
- c) International organisations and other entities created by Member States as a result of programs initiated by them within the framework of SELA;
- d) Inter-governmental organisations dedicated to cooperation or integration in Latin America and the Caribbean or in any of its subregions, and
- e) Organisations belonging to the United Nations System or to the Inter-American System.

**Third:** Permanent Observers shall not require an invitation in order to attend the Regular Meetings of the Latin American Council

**Fourth:** The following may be designated as Special Observers:

- a) Intergovernmental organisations whose aims are similar to the purpose and objectives of SELA
- b) Cooperation bodies of countries that carry out programmes in cooperation with SELA which have been duly approved by the Latin American Council.
- c) Non-governmental organisations which, in the judgement of the Latin American Council, can make an important contribution to SELA programs.

**Fifth:** Special Observers may be invited to participate in a specific meeting of the Latin American Council when the matters to be considered in it are directly related to their purposes and objectives, or when the Member States consider their participation to be useful.

The Permanent Secretariat shall submit to the Member States, sufficiently in advance, a list of the Special Observers that it intends to invite, on its own initiative or on that of any Member State, to a meeting of the Latin American Council. The Permanent Secretariat shall refrain from inviting any given Observer if so requested by any Member State within fifteen days of the submission of the list.

The Permanent Secretariat shall establish the necessary mechanisms for Special Observers to cover the costs resulting from their participation.

**Sixth:** Permanent and Special Observers may attend public plenary sessions. They may attend private meetings or commission or working group meetings only when invited to do so.

**Seventh:** Permanent or Special Observers shall have no vote. They may take the floor only when authorized to do so by the Chairman of the Council. The Chairman may give the floor an Observers when, in his judgement, his or her intervention is of interest for the Council and that sufficient time is available.

Notwithstanding the preceding paragraph, Latin American and Caribbean States that have Observer status under Paragraph a), of the Second Rule, however, may request the floor at any moment during a session.

**Eighth:** Observers are required to confirm attendance to a Regular Meeting at least one month in advance. Only those Observers that have given timely confirmation of their attendance will be guaranteed reserved seats and all documents prepared for the meeting.

**Ninth:** Any organisation requesting Observer status shall address its request in writing to the Permanent Secretariat at least three months in advance of a Regular Meeting, and provide information on its activities that are directly related to the purposes and objectives of SELA. The Permanent Secretariat shall inform the Member States of these requests upon their receipt.

**Tenth:** The Permanent Secretariat shall invite to other meetings held under the auspices of SELA any Observers that, in his judgement, may make a significant contribution to the meeting in question.

**Transitory Provision:** At its next Regular Meeting, the Council shall review the list of current Observers for the purpose of eliminating those that no longer exist, those that do not fulfil the requirements established by these Rules, and those that have had no interaction with SELA, and classify those remaining on the list in their corresponding category, on the basis of a report to be submitted to this end by the Permanent Secretariat.