

**No. 8048**

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**COSTA RICA, EL SALVADOR, GUATEMALA,  
HONDURAS and NICARAGUA**

**Charter of the Organization of Central American States  
(OCAS). Signed at Panama City, on 12 December 1962**

*Official text: Spanish.*

*Registered on 24 January 1966 by the Organization of Central American States, acting on behalf of the Contracting Parties, in accordance with article 25 of the Charter of the Organization of Central American States.*

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**COSTA RICA, EL SALVADOR, GUATEMALA,  
HONDURAS et NICARAGUA**

**Charte de l'Organisation des États d'Amérique centrale  
(ODECA). Signée à Panama, le 12 décembre 1962**

*Texte officiel espagnol.*

*Enregistrée le 24 janvier 1966 par l'Organisation des États d'Amérique centrale agissant au nom des Parties contractantes, conformément à l'article 25 de la Charte de l'Organisation des États d'Amérique centrale.*

## [TRANSLATION — TRADUCTION]

No. 8048. CHARTER<sup>1</sup> OF THE ORGANIZATION OF CENTRAL AMERICAN STATES (OCAS). SIGNED AT PANAMA CITY, ON 12 DECEMBER 1962

The Governments of Costa Rica, Nicaragua, Honduras, El Salvador and Guatemala,

Considering :

That it is necessary to provide the five States with a more effective instrument by establishing organs which will ensure their economic and social progress, remove the barriers which divide them, bring about steady improvement in the living conditions of their peoples, ensure industrial stability and growth, and strengthen Central American solidarity,

Therefore :

The above-mentioned Governments have decided to replace the Charter signed at San Salvador, in the Republic of El Salvador, on 14 October 1951 by the following Charter of the Organization of Central American States :

## PURPOSES

*Article 1*

Costa Rica, Nicaragua, Honduras, El Salvador and Guatemala constitute an economic and political community which aspires to achieve the integration of Central America. It is for this purpose that the Organization of Central American States (OCAS) has been established.

## ORGANS

*Article 2*

The following organs shall be established in order to give effect to the purposes of the Organization of Central American States :

<sup>1</sup> Came into force on 30 March 1965, the date on which the instruments of ratification of the five Member States of the Organization of Central American States had been deposited in accordance with article 29. The instruments were deposited with the Secretary-General of the Organization of Central American States on the following dates :

Guatemala . . . . .	29 July	1963
El Salvador . . . . .	23 August	1963
Honduras . . . . .	23 August	1963
Nicaragua . . . . .	19 November	1963
Costa Rica . . . . .	30 March	1965

- (a) The Meeting of Heads of State ;
- (b) The Conference of Ministers for Foreign Affairs ;
- (c) The Executive Council ;
- (d) The Legislative Council ;
- (e) The Central American Court of Justice ;
- (f) The Central American Economic Council ;
- (g) The Cultural and Educational Council ; and
- (h) The Central American Defence Council.

### *Article 3*

The Meeting of Heads of State shall be the supreme organ of the Organization.

The Conference of Ministers for Foreign Affairs shall be the principal organ.

The Executive Council shall be the permanent organ of the Organization. It shall have its seat in the city of San Salvador.

## THE PRINCIPAL ORGAN

### *Article 4*

The Conference of Ministers for Foreign Affairs shall meet in regular session once a year and in special session whenever not less than three of their number deem it necessary.

### *Article 5*

In the Conference of Ministers for Foreign Affairs, each Member State shall have only one vote.

Decisions on questions of substance shall be adopted unanimously. Where doubt exists whether a question is one of substance or of procedure, the matter shall be settled by unanimous vote.

### *Article 6*

The Conference of Ministers for Foreign Affairs may establish such subsidiary organs as it deems appropriate for the study of various problems.

The seats of the various subsidiary organs shall be chosen on the basis of equitable geographical distribution and in accordance with the needs which have led to the establishment of the said organs.

## THE EXECUTIVE COUNCIL

*Article 7*

The Executive Council shall be composed of the Ministers for Foreign Affairs or their specially authorized representatives. It shall be responsible for the legal representation of the Organization.

*Article 8*

The Executive Council shall be presided over by one of its members. The Presidency shall rotate each year among the States Members of the Organization. The Council shall hold regular meetings once a week and shall hold special meetings when convoked by the President.

*Article 9*

The Executive Council shall be responsible for directing and co-ordinating the policy of the Organization with a view to the accomplishment of its purposes.

The Council shall appoint a Secretary and the necessary staff in order to ensure the proper functioning of the administrative services. It shall for that purpose adopt appropriate rules defining their obligations.

The Council shall be the channel of communication between the organs and Member States.

## THE LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL

*Article 10*

The Legislative Council shall be composed of three representatives of the legislative authority of each Member State.

The Council shall give advice and act as an organ of consultation in legislative matters. It shall also study the possibility of unifying the legislation of the Central American States.

*Article 11*

The Council shall, in accordance with its own rules, establish such working committees as it deems appropriate.

*Article 12*

The Legislative Council shall meet in regular session each year, starting on 15 September, and in special session whenever it is convoked by the Executive Council at the request of at least two Governments of Member States.