
Students should be able to: state the functions of:

a. OECS Secretariat

b. CARICOM Secretariat

c. Conference of Heads of Government

Function the Organisation of Eastern Caribbean States (QECS) Secretariat

The OECS is administered by the central Secretariat located in St Lucia. The Secretariat is headed by the director general, who is responsible to the authority.

The Organisation of Eastern Caribbean States (OECS) is an economic union comprising ten islands located in the Eastern Caribbean that:

- Promote the unification of economic and trade policies between its member-states.
- It is dedicated to economic integration and harmony among independent and non-independent Eastern Caribbean states.
- Protecting the legal and human rights of citizens and states.
- Promoting the good governance of independent and non-independent Eastern Caribbean states.
- In the event of a natural disaster affecting states, distributing liability and responsibility for recovery.

Function of the CARICOM Secretariat

The CARICOM Secretariat is the principal administrative organ of the Community. This headed by the secretary general who is the chief executive officer of the Community. The executive management of the organisation consists of the offices of the secretary general, deputy secretary general, and general counsel, and the Directorates of Foreign and Community Relations, Human and Social Development and Trade and Economic Integration. The executive management is responsible for the strategic management and direction of the organisation.

The main functions of the Secretariat are to:

- initiate and develop proposals for consideration and decision by the relevant organs
- initiate, organise and conduct studies
- provide services to member states on Community-related matters
- service meetings of the organs and bodies of the Community and take appropriate follow-up action on decisions taken -
- collect, store and disseminate relevant information to member states
- assist Community organs in the development and implementation of proposals and programmes
- mobilise resources from donor agencies to assist in the implementation of Community programmes
- prepare the draft work programme and budget of the Secretariat for examination by the Budget Committee
- provide, on request, technical assistance to the national authorities

to facilitate implementation of
Community decisions

- conduct as mandated, fact-finding assignments in member states.

Function of the Conference of Heads of Government.

The Conference of Heads of Government consists of heads of government of the member states. Other designated ministers or persons may represent a head of government at any meeting of the conference.

The conference is the supreme organ of the Community and determines and provides policy direction for the Community. It is the final authority for the conclusion of treaties on behalf of the Community and for the entering into relationships between the Community and international organisations and states, except where otherwise provided by the revised Treaty of Chaguaramas.

The conference may:

- take decisions in order to establish the financial arrangements necessary to defray the expenses of the Community
- establish such organs or bodies as it considers necessary for the achievement of the objectives of the Community
- issue policy directives of a general or special character to other organs and bodies of the Community
- consider and resolve disputes between member states, notwithstanding any other provisions of the revised treaty
- consult with entities within the Caribbean region or with other organisations.