

UNITED STATES PERMANENT MISSION TO THE  
ORGANIZATION OF AMERICAN STATES  
DEPARTMENT OF STATE  
WASHINGTON, D.C. 20520

No. 10-B

The United States Mission to the Organization of American States presents its compliments to the Organization of American States Secretariat and the Permanent Missions and has the honor to remind them of the policies for the use of chancery premises for social events.

In accordance with international law, Permanent Mission premises must not be used in any manner incompatible with diplomatic functions. The United States Government interprets this provision to mean that Mission premises, including the residence of the Permanent Representative, may not be leased or rented for social events or used for functions that are not related to the conduct of diplomatic functions.

If a Permanent Mission wishes to use all or a portion of its property for a purpose that is incompatible with its existing status as a diplomatic facility, the mission must first request approval from the Department of State's Office of Foreign Missions (OFM) for the proposed change of use. The consequence of such an approval will be the loss of both inviolability and any existing authorization for an exemption of real estate taxes for the portion of the property used or intended to be used for commercial activities, which include hosting wedding receptions or other private functions for a fee.

Permanent Mission to the  
Organization of American States,

Washington, D.C. February 20, 2015



The United States Mission recognizes, however, that the use of chancery premises for social events organized in support of charitable causes is well-established and furthers the promotion of friendly relations between states. The decision whether to host such events is entirely within the discretion of the Permanent Representative. Any fees charged in connection with these events should be limited to the cost incurred by the mission as host and not intended to make a profit.

The Permanent Missions to the Organization of American States may contact OFM at 202-895-3500, option 5, or [OFMProperty@state.gov](mailto:OFMProperty@state.gov) regarding this matter.

The United States Mission to the Organization of American States avails itself of this opportunity to renew to the Permanent Missions to the Organization of American States and the Secretariat of the Organization of American States the assurances of its highest consideration.