

Statement Regarding Federal Secretary

In response to social media commentary regarding the position of ACDS Federal Secretary, the Federal Executive is releasing this statement.

1. The Federal Secretary has advised the President that, due to personal health issues, he is temporarily unable to carry out the duties of the position.
2. To be clear, the Federal Secretary has not resigned from his position. Vacancies in the office of an Office Bearer are dealt with in Clause 20 of the ACDS Constitution. This current situation does not create a vacancy as defined.
3. In response to the Federal Secretary being temporarily unable to carry out his duties, the Federal Executive have determined to do the following:
 - A. Put in place interim arrangements to ensure that the proper administration of the affairs of the ACDS take place.
 - (i) Allow the Federal Secretary the equivalent of sick leave to address his health issues. This is provided for in Clause 14 of the ACDS Constitution – Powers of the Council; specifically, Clause 14.1(c) *“has power to perform all such acts and do all such things as appear to the Council to be necessary or desirable for the proper management of the affairs of the ACDS”*
 - (ii) Confirm the request of the Federal Secretary that the Assistant Federal Secretary carry out all activities necessary to allow the administrative functions of the ACDS to be maintained. The position of Assistant Federal Secretary is created in the ACDS By-Laws Clause 14.6, *“Federal Council approve the formation of a new Federal Council Appointment to be known as Assistant Secretary and Federal Council authorizes the Federal Secretary to delegate such matters as thought fit to the Assistant Secretary”*
Clause 16.11 may also apply in this situation as it allows *“the Council to co-opt any person, whether or not a Member of the ACDS, to assist the Council in relation to any matter and any such person may attend meetings of the Council but may not vote thereat.”*
 - B. These arrangements will be regularly reviewed by Federal Council to ensure that the ACDS Federal Council remains compliant with all provisions of the ACDS Constitution and By-Laws.

Members will be informed of any changes to these arrangements.