Upon the appointment of the Secretary General the Partner State from which he or she is appointed forfeits the post of Deputy Secretary General.

Thereafter, the Deputy Secretaries General are appointed by the Summit on recommendation of the Council and on a rotational basis.

The Deputy Secretaries General are charged with deputizing for the Secretary General and performing such other duties as may be prescribed by the Council.

Each Deputy Secretary General serves a three-year term, renewable once.

Currently there are four Deputy Secretaries General:

- DSG Finance and Administration
- DSG Planning and Infrastructure
- DSG Political Federation
- DSG Productive and Social Sectors