

It is the unity of all in the solidarity of the common manifestation that will allow the creation of the new and divine world upon the Earth. Each will bring his part, but no part will be complete except as a power in the solidarity of the whole.

Sri Aurobindo

Residents' Assembly Service Mandate 2025

The Residents' Assembly Service (RAS) is a service of the Residents' Assembly. The role of the RAS is to empower the Auroville residents by providing a platform for them to be heard, and to support the Residents' Assembly in fulfilling its functions, as detailed in the Auroville Foundation Act 1988.

The Residents' Assembly shall appoint or remove members of the RAS via the ratified method given in the RAS Policy below.

The RAS performs all functions attributed to it by the Residents' Assembly to provide a service for information, communication and coordination that enables well informed collective decisions to be made by implementing processes ratified by the Residents' Assembly.

The RAS is directly answerable to the Residents' Assembly alone and is independent of the working groups and services and upholds an unbiased stand. The Auroville Council works in close collaboration with the RAS without interfering with its work.

The RAS collects, archives, organizes, and records all documents related to the Residents' Assembly participatory processes such as selection processes, decision making processes, petitions relating to a decision-making process, etc. In particular the work of the RAS is (but not limited to) the following:

1. Convene the community's decision-making processes, assisting those initiating them with organizing the events, giving impartial guidance without interfering with the content.
2. Assist in the organization of selection processes as defined in the relevant policies.
3. Assist residents in finding the appropriate forums, media, working groups, facilitators to address their concerns and questions.
4. Assist the community and/or the Auroville Council in their participative work and studies of the functioning of the Residents' Assembly.
5. Assist in data collection and/or analysis relevant to the functioning of the RA (surveys, proposals and feedback etc.).

6. Assist the Residents' Assembly in their communication with the working groups.
7. Assist the Working Groups in their communications with the Residents' Assembly such as sharing announcements and meeting reports in a timely manner.
8. Assist and facilitate new processes or events which support the RA's functioning, as required.
9. May organize and facilitate General Meetings for the residents, regardless of whether decisions are to be taken or not according to their capacity and availability

RAS Policy

- 1) The RAS is constituted by 3 and up to 5 members in its team by the ratified method below. If the number of members falls below 3, the group may continue to function, but all efforts must be made to find additional members, as soon as possible.
- 2) Selection process for members:
 - The Auroville Council makes a call to the community mentioning the criteria for appointment.
 - The Council and Working Committee of the Residents' Assembly (WCom), and existing RAS members together interview the applicants and make a selection from the applications received. The Council and WCom make a joint decision.
 - Those selected are announced to the community for a 2-week feedback period. Any adverse feedback received is reviewed. The applicant(s) are interviewed again by the Council and WCom for a final decision.
- 3) The majority of RAS members should preferably be residents for at least 5 years.
- 4) RAS members and resource persons must not be members of any major working group.
- 5) There will be a 3-month trial period for new members.
- 6) The term of membership is 3 years, however at the end of the 3-year term, the member may be re-selected by the approved selection process (see Point 2 above).
- 7) The RAS may call additional resource persons as needed (ref. point 4).
- 8) RAS members should give 1 month's notice before resignation.
- 9) In case of resignation or ending of a member's term, a new member may be appointed at any time by the ratified method as described in Point 2.
- 10) If the majority of RAS members believe someone is not following the mandate or causing disharmony, the matter will be referred to the Council to

take steps under the Conflict Resolution Policy. If this fails, the Council and WCom will decide on further action.

- 11) The RAS may arrange translation as needed during meetings and for communications in which it is involved.
- 12) The RAS meets with the Working Groups regularly and with other groups as required for information sharing and to discuss relevant topics.
- 13) The RAS has regular meetings with the Auroville Council to evaluate the effectiveness of processes, meetings, including facilitation and logistics.