



SUMMIT IMPLEMENTATION REVIEW GROUP (SIRG)  
Second Regular Meeting of 2009  
February 9-13, 2009  
Rubén Dario Room  
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SECOND INTER-AMERICAN AFRO-DESCENDANTS' FORUM:  
PARTICIPATION AND ADVOCACY OF AFRO-DESCENDANTS IN THE FIFTH SUMMIT OF  
THE AMERICAS: SECURING OUR CITIZENS' FUTURE BY PROMOTING HUMAN  
PROSPERITY, ENERGY SECURITY AND ENVIRONMENTAL SUSTAINABILITY

SANTO DOMINGO DECLARATION  
JANUARY 17, 2009

On January 15 and 16, 2009, 56 representatives of Latin American and Caribbean Afro descendant organisations participated in a Forum: "Participation and Advocacy of the Afro descendant in the V Summit of the Americas: Securing our Citizens' Future by Promoting Human Prosperity, Energy Security and Environmental Sustainability." The event was sponsored by Global Rights, an institutional capacity building organisation, and the Haitian-Dominican Encounter Network Jacques Viau, with the support from the Summits of the Americas Secretariat of the Organisation of American States and the Inter-American Foundation.

1. That Member States commit themselves to combat racism, discrimination and intolerance; and that member states include in their discussions the groups that have been traditionally discriminated against and excluded from Human Prosperity in the Americas; we are talking about Afro descendant communities; indigenous peoples; Roma; women, youth and children; people with a different sexual orientation or gender identity, migrants, refugees, stateless people, religious minorities; people with disabilities, among others.
2. That Member States implement public policies and programs that will improve the educational and health systems in an integral and inclusive way, with quality; in order to ensure the reduction of poverty and guarantee human prosperity for all in the Americas;
3. That Member States take actions that contribute to sustainable development and the reduction of global warming, linking energy policies with the socioeconomic development of Afro descendant communities and indigenous peoples;
4. That Member States take into account the Millennium Development Goals; eradicate extreme poverty and hunger; Achieve universal primary education; promote gender equality and empower women; reduce child mortality; improve maternal health; combat HIV/AIDS,

malaria and other diseases; ensure environmental sustainability and Develop a global partnership initiative;

5. That Member States speed up the approval process of the draft Inter-American Convention Against Racism and All forms of Discrimination and Intolerance, currently under discussion by the Committee of Juridical and Political Affairs of the OAS;
6. That Member states fulfil their commitment to support the work of the Special Rapporteur of the Rights of Persons of African Descent and Racial Discrimination of the Inter-American Commission on Human Rights;
7. That Member States encourage and strengthen actions that promote development that is compatible with the cultural identity and sense of belonging of Afro descendant communities and indigenous peoples;
8. That Member States establish policies and programmes that promote the values of democracy, inclusion and the visibility of Afro descendants and other groups as essential components in the planning of OAS activities;
9. That Member States establish mechanisms and political space for dialogue between governments and civil society through an ad hoc Civil Society Consultative Council in the Summits of the Americas Secretariat, in charged with the ongoing monitoring and evaluation of progress on Summit mandates;
10. That Member States create The Afro descendants Inter-American Institute, in charged with coordinating the research needed to help improve the economic and social conditions of Afro descendants in the hemisphere.