

V SUMMIT OF THE AMERICAS PREPARATORY PROCESS

Private Sector Subregional Consultations

March, 2009



**II HEMISPHERIC
PRIVATE
SECTOR FORUM**
II ENCUENTRO
HEMISFÉRICO
DEL SECTOR
PRIVADO

'09

V SUMMIT OF THE AMERICAS
V CUMBRE DE LAS AMÉRICAS





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Private Sector Subregional Consultations

March, 2009

**Department of Trade and Tourism of the Executive Secretariat for Integral
Development, Organization of American States**

This process of consultations with the private sector was made possible with the financial support of the United States Government and the organization Private Sector of the Americas.

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Introduction

The Organization of American States General Secretariat, through its Department of Trade and Tourism (DTT) and the Summits of the Americas Secretariat, in coordination with the Trinidad and Tobago National Secretariat for the V Summit, organized a series of consultations with the private sector with a view to promoting its participation in the V Summit process¹.

In 2006, OAS Member States adopted the General Assembly Resolution 2244 “Promotion of Private Sector Participation in OAS Activities”, which called for the continued dialogue with the private sector and strengthening the means of dialogue with that sector, at the national level, in OAS activities, and in the Summits of the Americas process. OAS Member States agreed to “continue supporting the dialogue with the Ministers of Foreign Affairs before the inaugural sessions of the OAS General Assembly and the Summits of the Americas, so that the private sector may make recommendations, including proposed initiatives related to the topic of the Assembly or Summit and directed at the member states and the OAS.”

The consultations with the private sector were organized through coordinators representing the institutional private sector structures within the integration groupings as well as regional business associations:

Caribbean

Caribbean Association of Industry and Commerce (CAIC)

Central America, Panama and the Dominican Republic

Federation of Chambers of Commerce of Central America (FECAMCO)

Southern Cone

Private Sector of the Americas and members of the business sector of the Economic-Social Consultative Forum of Mercosur (FCES)

North America

Council of the Americas

Andean Region

Andean Business Advisory Council

The following organizations also sent their recommendations: the Business Technical Advisory Committee on Labor Matters (CEATAL), the Latin American Business Council (CEAL), and the Latin American and Caribbean Association of Information Technology Entities (ALETI).

¹ This process of consultations with the private sector was made possible with the financial support of the United States Government and the organization Private Sector of the Americas.

The coordinators received the draft Declaration of Commitments of Port of Spain accompanied by a brief survey (see annexes 1 and 2) to guide the discussions and the recommendations within each subregion or organization.

This document includes the inputs from the following organizations:

- √ Federation of Chambers of Commerce of Central America (FECAMCO)
- √ Caribbean Association of Industry and Commerce (CAIC)
- √ Council of the Americas
- √ Latin American Business Council (CEAL)
- √ Business Technical Advisory Committee on Labor Matters (CEATAL)
- √ Latin American and Caribbean Association of Information Technology Entities (ALETI)
- √ The Andean Business Advisory Council
- √ Private Sector of the Americas and the business sector of the Economic-Social Consultative Forum of Mercosur

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SPEECH BY THE SPOKESMAN FOR THE PRIVATE SECTOR ON BEHALF OF THE
BUSINESS LEADERS OF THE ANDEAN, CARIBBEAN, CENTRAL AMERICAN,
SOUTHERN CONE AND NORTH AMERICAN REGIONS WHO MET ON DECEMBER 9,
2008
IN SAN SALVADOR, EL SALVADOR

(Presentation by Enrique Arturo de Obarrio to the SIRG, December 11, 2008)

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Thank you very much, Ambassador Rodríguez. Here with me today are Mrs. Carol Ayong, CEO of the Caribbean Association of Industry and Commerce (CAIC) and Dr. Juan José Frascini, the representative of the business group of the Mercosur Economic and Social Consultative Forum and of the Business Technical Advisory Committee on Labor Matters (CEATAL).

On behalf of all the representatives of the private sectors of the hemisphere, we would like to thank the National Summit Secretariat, the OAS and you for the opportunity to share with you a message from the business sector on the preparatory process for the Trinidad and Tobago Summit.

Two days ago, leaders of business groups from the Caribbean, Central America, Panama and the Dominican Republic, the Southern Cone, North America and the Andean Region met in San Salvador. We conducted a series of consultations with a view to channeling our contributions to the draft Declaration of the Fifth Summit, with support from the OAS General Secretariat and in coordination with the Trinidad and Tobago National Secretariat.

We are pleased to have this opportunity to formally deliver the initial contribution of the business sector. This is the result of consultations through coordinators representing the institutional structures of the private sector, in the framework of the integration processes and regional business associations. The document contains contributions from the following organizations:

CAIC, the Federation of Chambers of Commerce of Central America (FECAMCO), Council of the Americas, CEATAL and the Latin American Business Council (CEAL). Contributions from the Mercosur business sector and from the Andean region are currently being prepared.

Today, the world is going through an unprecedented economic and financial crisis, the magnitude and duration of which is cloaked in great uncertainty. This results in the loss of thousands of jobs and potential recessions in our countries and the dire consequences that this can have to the detriment of our peoples. It calls for transparent and committed management of all sectors and clear and stable legal systems to foster a favorable climate for business and local and foreign investments at both the local and international levels. Given this delicate situation, there must be no room for protectionism since it has been empirically proven that in times of crisis, protectionism stifles development. Therefore, we ask that the Declaration of the Fifth Summit promote borders that remain open to the trade of goods and services as an effective tool for development.

We are convinced that, from this crisis, if we set ourselves to it and learn how to work together toward a common goal, we can create opportunities by opening new roads. To do this, we must be willing to create, innovate and change.

The private sector is here to communicate our most emphatic and decided commitment to working hand in hand with governments and civil society to move our economies forward, and the Trinidad and Tobago Summit offers a great opportunity for us, together, to lay out the most realistic and practical map to attain human prosperity, energy security and environmental sustainability in the Americas.

In order to face the financial and economic crisis and existing major social pressures, the region needs a vision of long-term development to generate wealth and employment. To reach this goal, and for it to have a social overtone, it is crucial to have a broad and authentic, constructive, effective and institutionalized social dialogue that promotes a climate of trust among governments, businessmen and workers; one that, with the contribution and participation of organized civil society, contributes to prioritizing, harmonizing and achieving consensus on different challenges that are common to us; one that ensures social peace, wellbeing for all and the sustainable development of businesses.

As for human prosperity, we believe that it is essential to recognize that quality education is the foundation for citizenship, to ensure greater opportunities and proper human and social development. Educational policies and professional training must respond to the needs of the markets and include, as a priority, employability and the development of a business spirit. The Trinidad and Tobago Declaration must address this need in an innovative manner, stressing the important role of public-private alliances, supported by academic institutions and NGOs, in the design and implementation of training programs that ensure the competitiveness of our labor force.

Equally important is the development of entrepreneurship and micro, small and medium-sized enterprises (MSEs) as the driving force for the growth of our economies and the source of employment so necessary for prosperity. The Declaration of the Fifth Summit must reflect the promotion of legal frameworks that help reduce illegal and informal economies, thus becoming a part of the formal sector of the economy is less difficult and more attractive as a tool for overcoming social inequalities. We urge the reduction of the costs and time required for setting up and doing business, the need to promote innovative mechanisms that facilitate public-private alliances to offer financing for MSEs, as well as incentives to incorporate them into the value chain.

With regard to energy, we urge the development of a medium- and long-term comprehensive strategy for cooperation among countries, international organizations, civil society and the private sector to promote energy integration and the development of alternative sources of energy, taking advantage of successful experiences.

Time is of the essence. We must increase efforts to reduce our dependence on oil and promote the use of clean energies, including using environmental certificates that provide market value for the use of this type of energy.

The private sector must, and is willing, to play a key role in environmental sustainability. To do this, governments must develop a framework of comprehensive policies and necessary regulations; it is important to ensure that all businesses operate in such a way that those committed to environmental protection are not at a disadvantage compared to those that do not have the same commitment. We must promote the value of natural resources and develop natural resource markets at the regional level, as is the case with carbon credits, for which our hemisphere has a great potential.

These are some of the specific recommendations you will find in the document containing the contributions of the private sector that we have submitted to you.

In conclusion, allow us to emphasize the important role of public-private alliances in achieving the objectives of the Summit, as a way to bridge the gaps between the mandates of the Summit and its implementation; but a public-private alliance must include all social actors and must be founded on genuine efforts for social cohesion in order to face the principal challenges in a joint and concerted effort that can lead us to what must be our common destiny.

Based on all of the above, we commit ourselves, prior to the Summit, to begin to identify and foster greater coordination of public-private alliances that can support the implementation of specific goals that contribute to human prosperity, energy security and environmental sustainability. In order to follow up on this proposal, we will work with the organizations "Private Sector of the Americas," "Forum Empresa," and "CEAL." We see the need to create a monitoring and evaluation mechanism that enables us to make these commitments a reality over time, in a way that goes beyond short-term leaderships in the different sectors, with a view to ensuring continuity in implementing the proposed and agreed to initiatives.

In closing, we are convinced, honored friends at the head table and distinguished representatives of the Member States, that the FIFTH SUMMIT OF THE AMERICAS must be a forum for concrete proposals aimed at achieving the objectives of human prosperity, energy security and environmental sustainability, with open minds, willing to change and work together, without prejudices or ideologies. Otherwise, we shall not have met the mission that concerns all of those present here today: "TO SOLVE THE PROBLEMS OF OUR PEOPLE FOR A BETTER AMERICA."

**CONSULTATIONS
CENTRAL AMERICA
FECAMCO**

Recommendations of the Federation of Chambers of Commerce of Central America (FECAMCO)

President: Carlos Federspiel

TOPIC 1: Promoting Human Prosperity

- **What are the most important challenges the Americas face to promote human prosperity?** Human prosperity is a long-term process and is achieved by generating employment. In this sense, it is necessary to have greater access to education, use of new technologies and training in technical areas. It is also necessary to promote policies that foster gender equality and decent employment, and to eradicate the worst forms of child labor.
It is necessary to strengthen Corporate Social Responsibility (CSR) by increasing the number of businesses that espouse CSR as a way to improve their businesses.
- **What must be the goals of our governments and the private sector regarding:**
 - A. Decent employment:** Promote the compliance with Chapter 16 of the Central America Free Trade Agreement (CAFTA), which promotes the compliance with the legislation of each of the countries. Promote that companies increasingly guarantee the right of pregnant women to labor stability and the payment of benefits. On the other hand, it is very important for our region to eradicate the worst forms of child labor.
 - B. Health, well-being and nutrition:** promote the establishment of programs in the region, such as “Solidarity Network,” which makes it possible to take aid to population groups who have been duly identified as in need; enhance the efficiency of the health system; increase the number of nutrition programs; prevent and eradicate diseases such as dengue, yellow fever, cholera and tuberculosis. It is necessary to foster good, healthy food and provide access to such food in order to improve the nutrition of the people and their intellectual capabilities.
 - C. Access to quality education:** The state must seek to broaden its education efforts to include areas that still do not have schools or institutes; private sector businesses can provide support with equipment to improve access to technology for more students and promote flexible working hours so that people can study.
The ministers of education in the region must create a culture that fosters the proper use of inventions for cultural, education and scientific purposes, promote technical careers, lower the rate of illiteracy and foster other languages important for international trade: English, French, Mandarin. All of this will, in the medium- and long-term, create a population that is highly qualified to access better paid and more stable employment.
 - D. Eliminate inequity and promote social cohesion:** In order to eliminate inequity, it is necessary to strengthen the rule of law for the quick enforcement

of justice. It is also important to increase academic levels and invest more in the area of agriculture to allow the population to access better paying employment. The private sector must provide more and better sources of employment that contribute to the quality of life of the citizens in order to eradicate inequalities.

With the rule of law, more employment and better-qualified employees, it becomes more important for governments to create conditions that promote the formalization of businesses; this will enable people to have life insurance, pension funds and social assistance.

E. Promote innovation and entrepreneurship:

Governments must foster respect for intellectual property by promoting innovation in educational institutions.

One way to promote innovation is by fostering alliances between different university laboratories in the region, which will contribute to the exchange of knowledge. The ministers of education of the region must play a major role in facilitating alliances among colleges, universities and businesses.

Governments must earmark more resources in their budgets for research and development.

F. Business Environment: It is necessary to create legal frameworks that will enable entrepreneurs to compete on equal footing and invest in the region, simplify processes and procedures to establish businesses.

Once the necessary conditions are established, the private sector must make effective use of these conditions and generate more investment that contributes to the economic growth of the countries.

The government and businesses must propose and effectively use the alternative dispute settlement mechanisms that already exist in the region, such as arbitration, mediation and conciliation and those established in bilateral and multilateral agreements.

- **What must the private sector commit to in order to reach these goals?**
 1. Implement Corporate Social Responsibility in a larger number of companies.
 2. Promote environmental responsibility
 3. Efficient energy management
 4. Generate good-will commitments and agreements between the public and private sectors.
- **What is the role of public-private alliances in reaching these goals?**

Generate proactive awareness about innovation and the new challenges facing goods and services in international trade by increasing the level of technology in businesses to make them more competitive and enable them to improve their services.
- **What must the timeframe be for reaching these goals?**

The timeframe must focus on two levels: medium term and long term, and redirect them in accordance with world trade trends and the economic and social situation of the countries.

TOPIC 2: Energy Security

- **What are the most important energy security challenges faced by the Americas?** Encourage the use of renewable energy such as solar, wind, geothermal and hydroelectric that will reduce dependence on hydrocarbon-based energy and cut the cost of energy.
- **What must the goals of our governments and the private sector be with regard to:**
 - A. Energy efficiency and conservation:** “The most expensive energy is the energy we don’t have.” Therefore, saved energy is the most economical and sustainable energy resource.
The efficient use of energy helps guarantee a greater supply, and minimize the environmental impact with clear benefits for the region. Thus, the goal is to foster a culture of rational use of energy that makes it possible to save energy. This must be done as soon as possible.
 - B. Energy Diversification:** Upgrade the legal frameworks that enable the use of renewable energy (wind, solar, geothermal and hydroelectric) in line with economic growth and an increase in the use of energy.
 - C. Solutions of clean energy:** Change dependency on the hydrocarbon energy model to this type of clean energy since it generates cheaper energy with its corresponding positive impact on the environment.
Dependence on hydrocarbon energy will be better addressed if there is political will to make the change to clean energy solutions by granting incentives to private capital to invest in it, through fiscal incentives or mechanisms that ensure the purchase of the energy.
Governments and private enterprise must work together with universities in the countries to promote technical academic capacities related to these technologies.
 - D. Energy cooperation and integration:** Central America is working on the SIEPAC project that consists of supporting the formation and progressive consolidation of a regional energy market (*Mercado Eléctrico Regional-MER*), by creating and establishing appropriate legal, institutional and technical mechanisms that facilitate the participation of the private sector in developing other energy generation sources. It also proposes the building of an energy interconnection infrastructure (transmission lines, compensation equipment and substations) that allows electric energy exchange between MER participants.
 - E. Safe access to energy supply for all:** Once this is achieved, the goal for the government is to increase the production of electric energy, strengthen institutions responsible for supervising the energy sector and improving regulatory frameworks that make it possible to increase energy production (coal-based energy, natural gas energy). Businesses must make efficient use of energy and, in this way, take full advantage of it.

F. Others: Promote lines of credit that support investment in renewable energy and fiscal incentives for businesses.

- **What must the private sector commit to in order to reach these goals?**
 1. Efficient and rational use of energy resources.
 2. Increase the efforts of businesses to create awareness among users for the rational use of energy.
- **What must the timeframe for reaching these goals be?**

The goals must be met in the medium- and long-term, seeking to adapt them to the growing demand for electric energy in the region.

TOPIC 3: Environmental Sustainability

- **What are the important environmental sustainability challenges faced by the Americas?**

The most relevant challenges are directly associated with agricultural activity since the appearance of biofuels puts the existing biodiversity at risk. The strong market pressure on the availability of foods could generate increased pressure on natural resources since our emerging economies increasingly demand more food, with the corresponding increase in the use of idle land for agricultural purposes, and the destruction of habitats and species.

Another challenge is linked to climate change; that is, we must consider new and better ways to generate cleaner energy that does not degrade the quality of our environment and promotes environmental conservation. It is therefore necessary for governments to undertake actions that include risk management, land management and more explicit strategies to conserve biodiversity and natural resources.

- **What must the goals of our governments and the private sector be with regard to:**
 - A. Preparation for natural disasters:** Have emergency and mitigation plans for these situations since having a risk management plan that focuses particularly on prevention will give governments better tools to deal with these phenomena, thus avoiding not only the loss of human lives but also the loss of natural habitats that are affected by these situations.
 - B. Climate Change:** Governments must focus on including climate change as a real variable in their operating plans, their finances and their social projects since until now this factor has not been included in these indicators. When this is achieved, it will be easier to attain the goals geared to economic activity because they will take into account the real value of the activities and, thus, future planning will be based on a solid foundation.
 - C. Environmental governance:** The legislation and regulations related to this topic are of vital importance since they clearly establish the rules to be followed, taking into account the country's environmental vision and mission. In this sense, the world economic situation also calls for the implementation of environmental

- protection measures that particularly regulate the trade sector as established in the chapters on the environment in trade agreements, such as CAFTA.
- D. Water resources:** foster citizen responsibility through environmental education to avoid the contamination of water resources, particularly surface waters.
- E. Biodiversity protection:** It is necessary to foster policies to establish protected areas in order to create sufficient areas to protect existing biodiversity. In this sense, efforts must be made to ensure the sustainability of these spaces since the lack of follow up and surveillance of these areas usually opens the doors for poaching, which leads to clandestine markets for selling protected species.
- F. Urban environmental management:** Borders between urban and rural areas are increasingly shrinking as cities grow and invade rural areas, destroying their ecosystems, generating numerous environmental problems that include everything from erosion and runoff to natural disasters such as floods. Thus, it is necessary to promote and enact laws for land management, particularly those that guarantee the real conservation of areas of biodiversity protection.
- **What must the private sector commit to in order to reach these goals?**
Generate new company visions that include a real concern for conserving the environment and natural resources and one that promotes actions that have a favorable impact on the environment.
 - **What is the role of public-private alliances in reaching these goals?**
These alliances must help consolidate those areas of action in which each of the participants promotes actions to protect the environment. These actions become opportunities to generate positive impacts.
 - **What must the timeframe be for reaching this goal?**
The search for these goals must begin as soon as possible so that they can be sustainable over time and show in greater results.

See Annex 3 for list of FECAMCO Members.

CONSULTATIONS CARIBBEAN CAIC

Recommendations of the Caribbean Association of Industry and Commerce (CAIC) CEO: Carol Ayoung

The information contained in this document was compiled based on responses received from the Caribbean private sector. The Caribbean Association of Industry and Commerce undertook the responsibility of conducting sub-regional consultations with the private sector.

ITEM 1: Promoting Human Prosperity

- 1. What are the greatest challenges in the Americas related to human prosperity?**
 - Crime
 - Natural disasters
 - Poor government leadership
 - Grave Technological divide
 - Current global financial crisis
 - Breaking the vicious cycle between economic growth in developing countries and the increased demand for energy which is consumed in an inefficient and environmentally unfriendly manner
 - Poverty
 - Contractual Literacy/Education

- 2. What should the goals of our governments and private sector be with regards to:**
 - **Decent employment**
 - Implement effective Industrial Relations practices / ratify ILO conventions
 - Maximize the percent of the population that is employable and has access to employment. Education, training and on-the-job skills development is essential
 - Sustainable employment via productive work with the opportunity/facilitation to train/retrain or further study thereby creating some degree of social mobility

 - **Health, wellness and nutrition**
 - Improve management and delivery of health services
 - Increase awareness in health education
 - To promote mental health and a healthy lifestyle, which would permeate into a healthy work ethic thereby generating greater levels of productivity and sustainability for all

- **Access to quality education**
 - Recruit and adequately train all current and new teachers according to the needs of the 21st century
 - Provide greater access to education via scholarships etc.
 - Integrate IT into the curriculum at all levels in the education system
 - Ensure that all children receive education up to high school diplomas
 - Ensure that anyone who wants to attain a tertiary education should have access to institutions to do so
 - Free education, inclusive of tertiary education, must include the life skills necessary for survival in the field of work; discipline, self respect; healthy lifestyle etc. It may be note worthy to open up education services in our region, such that other international institutions can offer educational options. Competition can breed a high degree of efficiency in our present schooling system. Scholarship programs must be enhanced, both the private sector and public sector must provide such with built in mechanisms to have these trained individuals return and offer their services to the country.

- **Overcoming inequity and promoting social cohesion**
 - Draft and implement and enforce necessary Equality Legislation
 - Embrace diversity in the workplace
 - Provide opportunities for disadvantaged or disenfranchised to improve their station in life
 - Outlaw all forms of discrimination
 - This is a difficult ask, especially given this country's plural society. One is tempted to argue that this may never be totally eliminated or eradicated. The goal could therefore be preemptive in nature: - a no tolerance policy to any and all forms of discrimination via the necessary mechanisms, legislation etc. Education is also a key in addressing this perennial problem.

- **Fostering innovation and entrepreneurship**
 - Increase public and private participation in research, development and innovation activities
 - Recognize and reward institutions on a national level for innovation and entrepreneurship
 - Facilitation in the form of investing in education (science and technology), science fairs
 - Revisiting the curriculum in the school system. Mentorship and entrepreneurship training in the work force

- Sponsorships and scholarships for budding entrepreneurs so that ideas can become reality and imagination and dreams can be fulfilled
 - **Business climate**
 - Improve transparency and accountability policies and operations
 - Introduce fiscal and other policies that will provide the development of SMEs (Single Market Economies)
 - Foster ethical and competitive practices
 - Gear towards productivity with the public, private and labor constituencies recognizing the importance of collaborating on this topic to achieve national competitiveness
 - This is a general area that requires revisiting the productivity issue. It is important as a nation that productivity levels are maintained for the very least. It is important to create an enabling environment that would foster this growth and development. This speaks to trade facilitation issues, address crime and other social ill effects that impact on the business climate. Education again is the key.
- 3. What should the private sector commit to doing towards achieving these goals?**
- Where necessary, provide funding, advice and or expertise.
 - Commit to doing its part to provide On the Job Training (OJT) and other forms of training, promote wellness and provide the facilities and opportunities for doing so
 - Make investments and promote entrepreneurship with their companies and conduct business in an ethical manner
 - The private sector should partner with the Government, not necessarily exclusively in the area of providing funds, however, job placement, mentorship programs, framing and influencing general business curriculum, providing scholarships and exchange programs with workers in the public sector.
- 4. What is the role of public-private partnerships in addressing these goals?**
- A fundamental role to ensure all stakeholders are involved...
 - Forge public-private partnerships for defining educational objectives that meet the needs for the workforce for the future. Partnership should also extend to laws/regulations and enforcement, as well as public institution functions that would support improved national productivity
 - Both parties have to be on board from the policy formulation stage to the implementation stage. What is lacking is that in most instances the private sector are only included in the

implementation and advocacy part of such programs. It is important that the private sector work together with the government to ensure that there is buy in and that both the accolades and criticisms, where applicable, are distributed evenly.

5. What should the timeframe be for achieving these goals?

- These goals are never fully achieved and it's not possible to set a timeframe for accomplishment. Timeframe of 1-2 years should be set for setting up working private-public groups that are collaborating and implementing initiatives to achieve these objectives.
- 5-10 yrs.

ITEM 2: Energy Security

➤ **What are the greatest challenges in the Americas related to energy security?**

- Cost
- Lack of research on alternative renewable sources
- Unchecked consumption creating a need for commodities which are mostly provided by countries with Petro-dictators whose strength is being increased by more and more consumption in the Americas
- The heavy dependence on non-renewable sources of energy (in particular oil) to meet energy demand
- The cost of energy.
- Rapidly increasing levels of consumption, particularly in the highly industrialized countries – this is not being matched by a commensurate increase in the supply of energy.

➤ **What should the goals of our governments and private sector be with regards to:**

1. Energy efficiency and conservation

- Introducing green technology
- Educating the public on energy conservation
- Reducing the import of foreign used vehicles
- Apply a version of Moore's Law that works in computing and networking technology. Every 2-3 years there should be technological leapfrog that improves efficiency by 25-50%.
- To progressively reduce dependence on non-renewable sources of energy.
- To increase productive efficiency in industries, e.g. progressively utilizing kilowatt hours of electricity in both the goods and services industries.

- To sufficiently educate our societies on the conservation of energy for future generations.
- The widespread utilization of metering systems to ensure that consumers are effectively charged for the use of energy (in particular, electricity) – to act as a deterrent against the over consumption of energy.

2. Energy diversification

- Promote research and development for alternative energy sources
- Reduce cost on solar electricity, CNG convert kits etc.
- 20% of consumption should come from Clean Energy generation in 15 years
- To derive a good balance between the uses of renewable versus non-renewable sources of energy.
- To incorporate the use of multiple renewable sources of energy for production and consumption, e.g. Barbados and the use of solar heating panels for water heating for domestic use – this is an example of identifying the most appropriate energy source to fill a specific need.
- To maximize on natural resources, converting all potential energy sources into reality, e.g. Caribbean region – maximize on the abundance of the solar resource and effectively convert this into solar energy for production and consumption
- To develop adequate and permanent Research and Development Facilities to ensure the maintenance of ongoing research into new sources of energy – facilitated by increase public and private sector expenditure and government creating the environment and conditions (setting up the technological infrastructure, institutions and human resources etc.

3. Clean energy solutions

- Same as B
- At least 25% of the National R&D budget for the next 10 years should be directed at Clean Energy Solutions
- To derive a good balance between the uses of renewable versus non-renewable sources of energy
- To progressively reduce the use of fossil fuels which have a deleterious effect on the environment
- To convert the abundance of industry and consumer waste into bio-mass energy
- To develop adequate and permanent Research and Development Facilities to ensure the maintenance of ongoing research into cleaner sources of energy.

4. Energy Cooperation and Integration

- Cooperation in the area of funding for R&D in countries that require financial support
- Greater cooperation in the area of information / knowledge exchange and transfer
- To engage in greater, more diverse trade in the area of energy, over and above the emphasis on the import/export of oil and natural gas, so that the less advanced countries of the Americas can have access to adequate, consistent supplies of energy
- The derivation of a good balance between the use of renewable versus non-renewable sources of energy across the Americas, facilitated by near-equal access to information / knowledge and R&D in the Americas.

5. Secure access to energy supplies for all

- Introduce the widespread use of solar and hydro energy sources
- Should be possible in 20 years as Clean Energy Solutions become prevalent and create less dependence on Oil, Gas and Coal
- To progressively reduce dependence on non-renewable sources of energy.
- The widespread utilization of metering systems to ensure that consumers are effectively charged for the use of energy (in particular, electricity) – to act as a deterrent against the over consumption of energy
- R&D.
- Increase funding for less developed countries.

➤ What should the private sector commit to doing towards achieving these goals?

- Investing in government initiatives
- Introduce energy saving technologies into their operations through their Corporate Responsibility practices
- Fund R&D, Innovate
- To play its role in the areas of Research, Development and Funding.
- To review and revise, where necessary, its production and hence profit targets as a response to the goal of energy efficiency and conservation.
- To lobby its respective governments for the creation of the conditions that will facilitate the movement towards accomplishing these goals.

➤ What is the role of public-private partnerships in addressing these goals?

- Public-private partnerships should create common research objectives
- Governments should create specific incentives to encourage R&D and manufacturing of Clean Energy generators and efficient energy consuming appliances and vehicles
- Creating the right conditions / environment.

- To ascertain the right energy mix as it pertains to each country – e.g. Guyana has an abundance of water which is a renewable resource and the appropriate geography to facilitate an energy mix that centres on hydro energy development
 - To ensure that the public is adequately educated.
- **What should the timeframe be for achieving these goals?**
- Incentives should be put in place immediately
 - Five to ten Years.

ITEM 3: Environmental Sustainability

1. What are the greatest challenges in the Americas related to environmental sustainability?

- Natural disasters
- Lack of proper Environmental Management Systems
- Deforestation
- Growth in use of fossil fuels leading to increasing green-house gas emissions
- The resultant extreme weather patterns that are emerging are further challenging the environment as heavy rainfalls are eroding soils required to protect forested areas
- In the LAC countries especially, there is a heavy dependence on natural resources that drives the economy. In many cases, it can be seen that usage of the natural resources is beyond its carrying capacity or consumptions exceed its regeneration. Tourism has been seen as one of the most significant sources of revenue for the Caribbean however natural resources are placed at risk due to the disturbances and lack of care in consumption/usage by tourists. It is essential that resources are used however its remains protected from degradation and in some cases, extinction
- Embracing a culture of sustainability in our actions is a challenge facing the globe especially in LDCs. It can be accomplished via a top-down approach whereby best practices are accepted and commitment is displayed by management in the private sector as well as by the Government regimes
- Technological deficiencies and the lack of funding to acquire these new innovations are significant barriers to development of economies in a sustainable manner. Movement towards a knowledge based system is essential to ensure more efficient usage of our resources or possibly the movement towards less polluting resources
- Poverty/inequitable distribution of funds is a major threat to sustainability due the incapability to avert malpractices to those which are environmentally acceptable due to the inputs required to shift to best practices. Especially in agriculture, unsustainable practices are employed in subsistence farming whereby the farmer produces crops for own use and seldom uses best practices due to focus on production without consideration of future impacts
- Energy production.

2. What should the goals of our governments and private sector be with regards to:**1. Natural disaster preparedness**

- More awareness initiatives
- Both private sector and government must realize that natural disasters are occurring more frequently and with greater force now than ever before in the planets history. Both parties have a responsibility to their employees and citizens to be prepared
- Creation of a national disaster/evacuation plan
- Risk and impact Assessments to determine the mitigation strategies to employ
- Conduct Vulnerability analysis to determine high risk areas and risks of recurrence.

2. Climate change

- Jointly formulate initiatives for reducing emissions of carbon and other harmful gases
- We need to recognize that we are at the source of the major climate change that we are seeing evolving before us. Together, government, private sector and civil society must focus on investments and incentives for pursuing alternate technologies for energy generation and changing consumption behaviours to eliminate unnecessary waste
- To utilize alternative forms of energy available in their country. Prepare necessary infrastructure/framework required to facilitate the conversion to alternative sources
- Implementation of Air, Water Pollution Legislation as well as the formation of an executive body responsible for the enforcement and monitoring of these laws
- Planning and execution of carbon reduction programmes. Carbon credit trading can be a feasible option in T&T due to the high level of pollution from the oil and gas industry which leaves much room for projects that will reduce the carbon emissions as well as accrue a monetary benefit through the acquisition of credits.

3. Environmental governance

- Establish effective agencies / bodies to govern environmental practices
- Introduce incentives for observing environmentally friendly practices
- We should seek to establish a common international set of laws and enforcement principles to govern environmental impact of our activities
- Establishment of regulatory/enforcement body of environmental standards. The Government must take this leading role in setting the standards as well as the executive arm responsible for enforcement

- Protocols and mandates established by international bodies such as the United Nations and the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC) must be conformed to by the Governments and the necessary framework (legislation, enforcement, monitoring) must be established.

4. Water resources

- Conservations programs for freshwater ecosystems. Establishment of water pollution legislation is crucial to monitor and take actions to protect water resources from industry and tourism.

5. Biodiversity protection

- We should set a common goal that no human activity should result in a further extinction of species on the planet
- Establishment of environmentally sensitive areas and species for protection from anthropogenic activities
- To introduce conservation programmes for forest preservation. Afforestation and Reforestation measures must be employed to ensure that natural resources and ecosystem protected and virtually untouched by humans.

6. Urban environmental management

- To ensure maximum potential of our lands, land use planning along with zoning of lands (e.g. agricultural, industrial) must be conducted.
- Policies for proper solid waste management, transport and storage.

3. What should the private sector commit to doing towards achieving these goals?

- Private sector should commit to investing in R&D and adopting new technologies and practices to demonstrate leadership in creating sustainable growth strategies
- Private sector must also lead in the adoption of technologies and applications to day-to-day life
- The private sector must be involved in CSR programmes at the organizational level to ensure there is a drive towards environmentally friendly practices through it employees and the operational processes
- A culture that promotes sustainability in our actions must be propagated by employers by ensuring best practices are employed as well as efficient use of our natural resources. Technological innovation can assist in maximizing the efficiency in utilizing resources
- Commitment by top management in the private sector is crucial to achieving these goals. Development of company policies as well as setting approved codes of practices that creates and enables an environment towards sustainability is essential to propagating a culture that promotes sustainability in our actions and conforming to industry best practice and environmental standards.

4. What is the role of public-private partnerships in addressing these goals?

- Private sector leadership would be considerably accelerated with the appropriate incentives and penalties from governments around the world. If governments can adopt similar measures, eliminating loop-holes of shifting operations to other countries, this will go a long way in guiding the private sector in the right direction
- PPP is essential for communicating goals to be met along with creating awareness of the need for sustainability in our actions. The plans must be communicated with the private sector to ensure that their business needs and profitability are not compromised in addressing the set goals
- The challenges and constraints to achieving these goals must be addressed by the Government to facilitate the process. PPP serves to create an understanding of what are the inhibitors to achieving these goals and what must be done to overcome these barriers and how the Government can assist. This seeks to ensure that change is done in the best interest of stakeholders
- A needs assessment and analysis of the private sector may need to be conducted to determine what their needs are to transform their businesses operations to be more sustainable.

5. What should the timeframe be for achieving these goals?

- These goals of having collaboration between governments in place and private sector companies working actively on solutions and changing their operations must be achieved within the next 5-10 years
- These goals must be addressed as soon as possible. Most of which should be completed/at least initiated by the year 2015.

SUMMARY
Item I: Promoting Human Prosperity

Priority	Goal	Action/Commitment	Responsible party	Timeframe for execution:
1.	Health, wellness and nutrition	Improve management and delivery of health services	Government	Short
1.	All people should have equal opportunities for furthering their prosperity	Make cheap, clean, reliable energy available to everyone	Governments to create the stability required for investment. Private Sector to create the innovations that would allow this to be possible	Next 10-20 Years
1.	Develop a framework for eradicating poverty	This should be of paramount importance that goes beyond the planning stage	ALL	Short term
1.	Sustainable employment via productive work with the opportunity/facilitation to train/re-train or further study thereby creating some degree of social mobility.	Private Sector use of their resources within reason via caravans, workshops, clinics, and media	Private Sector	3-5 years
2.	Access to quality education	Recruit and adequately train all current and new teachers according to the needs of the 21 st century.	Government & Private sector	Medium to long term
2.	Revisiting Education curriculum to make it more participatory and assessment mechanism not solely based on exams.	Joint committee to be established to develop this proposal	ALL	Medium to long term.
2.	To promote mental health and a healthy lifestyle, which would permeate into a healthy work-ethic thereby generating greater levels of productivity.	Public-Private partnerships must create policies that bring into focus viewpoints from both sides.	Government, civil, and private sectors	3-5 years

3.	Business climates	Improve transparency and accountability policies and operations. Introduce fiscal and other policies that will provide the development of SMEs	All of the above	Short-medium
3.	Building and fostering a competitive environment for the private sector to operate in such that jobs can be created.	Ensure that there are mechanisms in place to improve and build upon the regulatory bodies and border agencies to ensure trade is conducted efficiently and effectively across borders.	Government	Short to Medium term
3.	Free education must include the life skills necessary for survival in the field of work; discipline, self-respect; healthy lifestyle, and confidence. Although much of this responsibility is a function of the family, Government must not ignore that it has begun a trend of providing family support esp. given the numerous single parent families.	Public-Private partnerships must create policies that bring into focus viewpoints from both sides.	Government, civil, and private sectors	3-5 years
4.	This is difficult esp. given our plural society and could never be eliminated. The goal could therefore be responsive; a no tolerance policy to any and all forms of discrimination via the necessary mechanisms, legislation and regulatory bodies to ensure implementation.	Public-Private partnerships must create policies that bring into focus viewpoints from both sides.	Government, civil, and private sectors	6-9 years
5.	Facilitation (funding) of the many ideas that	Public-Private partnerships must create	Government, civil, and private sectors	6-9 years

6.	<p>T&T citizens create. Lack of funding is the major hindrance to the development of innovation and entrepreneurship.</p> <p>This is a broad topic; creation of an enabling environment requires economic policies that could stabilize the economy; bring about sustained development; and is largely supported by ICTs.</p>	<p>policies that bring into focus viewpoints from both sides.</p> <p>Public-Private partnerships must create policies that bring into focus viewpoints from both sides.</p>	Government, civil, and private sectors	6-9 years
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Item II: Energy Security

Priority	Goal	Action/Commitment	Responsible party	Timeframe for execution:
1.	Energy efficiency and conservation	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Introducing green technology Educating the public on energy conservation 	Government and Private sector	Medium – long term
1.	25% of energy generation should come from clean, non-fossil fuel sources	Government incentives for R&D. Government taxes on fossil fuel energy generation and consumption	All of the above	Short
1.	Developing alternative forms of energy so as to not rely solely on fossil fuels.	Invest in R&D. There are ideas being promoted, it is important to move from the conceptualization stage to the implementation stage.	Governments	Policy implementation within the next 2 years
1.	Energy efficient buildings, i.e. properly insulated buildings, to conserve energy/ reduce energy consumption	The T&T Chamber of Industry and Commerce is on an education drive to address implementation of goals	ALL	Medium term
1.	Energy efficient buildings, i.e. properly insulated buildings, to conserve energy/ reduce energy consumption	The T&T Chamber of Industry and Commerce is on an education drive to address implementation of goals	BSO/Private Sector	7-15 years

2.	Energy diversification	Promote research and development for alternative energy sources	Government and private	Medium to long term
2.	Education of society wrt conservation of energy for use by future generations.	Education/sensitization and advocacy roles	Government	Short to Medium term.
2.	Encourage R&D into Solar/Photovoltaic, Wind etc.	There must be Public-Private partnerships to undertake research projects and implementation strategies via economic cooperation	Government and Private Sector	7-15 years
3.	Secure access to energy supplies for all	Reduce cost on solar electricity, CNG convert kits etc.	Government	Short
		Reduce cost on solar electricity, CNG convert kits etc.	Government and Private	Short
3.	Development of Waste Management program and recycling	Much talk about this has taken place; it is time for action to be taken for the effective implementation of such.	Government	Short to Medium term

Item III: Environmental Sustainability

Priority	Goal	Action/Commitment	Responsible party	Timeframe for execution:
1.	Natural disaster preparedness	More awareness initiatives	All of the above	Short
1.	Development of CSR programs within the work environment that speak to the use of resources that facilitates environmental sustainability.	Education and seminars to inform users of resources.	Government and Private	Short to medium term.
1.	Government, via the media, regularly inform the public about disaster	There must be private sector consultations in the formulation and implementation of any	Government and Private Sector	3-5 years

	preparedness and management	aspect of an environmental policy		
2.	Environmental governance	Establish effective agencies / bodies to govern environmental practices	Government & private	Medium
2.	Implementation of a common set of laws governing greenhouse emissions, deforestation, biodiversity preservation	Global compact signed by all developed and rapidly emerging market countries	Governments	Within the next 5 years
2.	To have in place an effective monitoring mechanism that has teeth to efficiently address and enforce laws as they pertain to destruction of the environment	Drafting of legislation/regulation	Government	Short term
2.	Manufacturers should become energy efficient in the production process	There must be private sector consultations in the formulation and implementation of any aspect of an environmental policy	Government and Private Sector	3-5 years
3.	Via policies where the “polluter pays”; funding received should seek to inform the public on environmental management i.e. recycling, pollution, bio-diversity and the importance of the eco-system	There must be private sector consultations in the formulation and implementation of any aspect of an environmental policy	Government and Private Sector	3-5 years
4.	Education on the importance of bio-diversity; encourage nature hikes i.e. Asa Wright, Tobago Coral Reef	There must be private sector consultations in the formulation and implementation of any aspect of an environmental policy	Government and Private Sector	3-5 years

**CONSULTATIONS
NORTH AMERICA
Council of the Americas**



North America Recommendations

Compiled by

Council of the Americas

North America Private Sector Coordinator for the Fifth Summit of the Americas

Secure Financial Markets

- Institute a comprehensive financial recovery plan based on coordination among central banks, recapitalization, and stimulus packages as needed. Dialogue and cooperation among leaders is essential to hemispheric economic recovery.
- Avoid protectionism and maintain a firm commitment to keeping markets open to trade and investment.
- Create and implement mechanisms and safeguards to mitigate the effects of future financial crises.

Implement a Growth Agenda

- Establish consistent policy and regulatory frameworks reduce corruption, and guarantee transparency and the rule of law.
- Guarantee the sanctity of contracts and adopt effective dispute resolution procedures and enforcement.
- Develop a hemispheric framework for best practices in regional taxation, including tax treaties.
- Improve the investment climate through public services such as commercial courts, investment facilitation agencies, infrastructure projects, and efficient customs operations.
- Develop a hemispheric approach to workforce development, infrastructure improvement, and innovation to stimulate economic growth.

Strengthen Trade for Greater Prosperity

- Rebuild the hemispheric trade agenda with bilateral and multilateral trade agreements and work to finalize the World Trade Organization Doha development round.
- Develop a framework for economic cooperation—building on the “Pathways to Prosperity in the Americas” initiative—that establishes a clear path forward in expanding and integrating markets.
- Uphold commitments to existing trade agreements and work to deepen the trade and investment relationships that businesses rely on for growth in an ever-changing economic environment.
- Implement the World Customs Organization’s *Immediate Release Guidelines* to facilitate trade by increasing efficiency and encouraging strong public/private sector partnerships in customs processing.

Create Opportunity through Social Development

- Expand development assistance and foreign aid programs that work to create jobs, foster competition, and increase productivity. Engage in bilateral and multilateral development efforts and increase support for regional development institutions such as the Inter-American Development Bank.
- Reduce criminal activity in regions with high crime rates. Reducing crime rates and tackling corruption will increase investor confidence in a safe and secure work environment.
- Develop a world-class labor force through education and jobs skills training.
- Offer tax and other incentives for cooperation among civil society and the public and private sectors to promote social and economic development.
- Liberalize labor laws to encourage job creation in the formal economy.

Strengthen Cooperation on Energy and the Environment

- Develop a comprehensive, long-term strategy for cooperation among nations, international organizations, and the private sector on sustainable energy development by 2010 at the latest. This strategy should build on and reinvigorate action toward achieving prior Summit energy mandates.

- Develop actionable energy policies with appropriate benchmarks that include the appropriate mix of alternative, renewable, and conventional energy sources, and balance production and consumption needs.
- Reduce greenhouse gas emissions consistent with the goals agreed to at the UN Framework Convention on Climate Change meeting in Copenhagen in 2009.
- Integrate subregional power grids and achieve universal access to electricity in the Western Hemisphere by 2015.
- Harmonize regulations and adopt internationally accepted standards, including but not limited to fuel quality (including gasoline/ethanol/biodiesel blends), vehicle emissions, and energy efficiency and conservation targets.
- Increase energy efficiency with appropriate benchmarks through the adoption of electricity usage standards, smart metering/smart power grid systems, cogeneration (combined heat and power units), and other methods.
- Implement specific energy demand reduction measures through public outreach campaigns and appropriate incentives.
- Reduce or eliminate trade barriers on energy and energy-related equipment and services.
- Work with the IDB and other multilateral financial organizations to advance energy infrastructure development, including for alternative and renewable energy.
- Support, in collaboration with the private sector, the development of new energy and carbon mitigation technologies, such as carbon capture and sequestration, second generation biofuels, safe storage of nuclear waste, among others.
- Form regional public-private partnerships to research, develop, and disseminate new environmentally sound methods, tools, and technologies in the energy sector.
- Build capacity in science, technology, engineering, and mathematics by investing in education, expanding vocational training, and increasing the number of graduates in these fields by 30 percent by 2015.
- Establish a prestigious hemispheric energy innovation prize to be awarded periodically to individuals who have significantly advanced the field.

CONSULTATIONS CEAL

**Recommendations of the Latin American Business Council
(CEAL)
International President: Jorge Zablah-Touché (El Salvador-
2008-2009)**

TOPIC 1: Promoting Human Prosperity

➤ **What are the most important challenges the Americas face to promote human prosperity?**

Promoting equitable conditions for universal access to education and infant nutrition is fundamental. Nevertheless, in view of globalization it is also essential to focus on technical careers in secondary schools that foster sources of employment as well as earmarking resources to attain greater access to quality higher education.

With a healthy, educated, trained and all-inclusive society, we will become a more prosperous, cohesive and equitable region.

➤ **What must the goals of our governments and the private sector be with regard to:**

A. Decent employment: Free negotiations between unions and businesses on labor conditions that promote greater labor flexibility. In view of the international crisis, the state must redirect social spending to promote “jobs” intended to improve regional infrastructure, such as rural roads, for example. In this way, we will meet the objective of generating employment and improving the infrastructure of the region. (the case of Mexico)

B. Health, well-being and nutrition: Attain and comply with the UN Millennium Development Goals.

C. Access to quality education: absolute priority. The IDB should set up a bureau to monitor and follow up on the implementation of public policies to improve education and to link loans and financing conditions to compliance with the regulations of this bureau. For example, a country that does not follow the education parameters established by the bureau would pay a greater spread in IDB loans; countries that fully comply with the regulations would receive a reward. Promoting public-private efforts such as COLFUTURO in Colombia and GUATEFUTURO in Guatemala that promote education credits and scholarships for post-graduate and doctoral studies in the best universities in the world are models that should be replicated throughout the rest of the region. The public policy of Chile and Panama to guarantee education credits and scholarships to any citizen accepted in the best universities in the world to pursue their careers must also be promoted.

D. Overcome inequality and promote social cohesion: quality education. Take advantage of the successful model promoted by Brazil: BOLSA FAMILIA

E. Foster innovation and entrepreneurship. Public and private investment in science and technology, research and development and link universities with business (successful cases of Brazil, Mexico and Chile).

F. Business Environment: A product of social, political and economic stability. This is essential to attract foreign direct investment given current world problems.

- **What must the private sector commit to in order to reach these goals?**
To generating wealth and employment using social and environmentally responsible formulas and contribute to paying its taxes with complete transparency. Promote greater participation in public-private initiatives.
- **What is the role of public-private alliances in reaching these goals?**
Their role is essential. Since the infrastructure needs in Latin America require investments of more than 8% of the GDP annually for more than 25 years, the only way to meet these needs is to promote an appropriate business climate and proper legislation for Development and Public-Private Participation Alliances. It is necessary to take advantage of the experiences of Mexico, Brazil, Colombia, Chile and Peru, among others, to apply them not only to road infrastructure, but also to education, health and prison administration, among others. Public-private participation alliances are essential for long-term projects whose social return is difficult to predict.
- **What must the timeframe be for reaching these goals?** This depends on the country and available resources. To start, countries must adopt the goal of “at least 10% annual increases” with regard to certain recognized international parameters.

TOPIC 2: Energy Security

- **What are the most important energy security challenges faced by the Americas?** Small countries, LDCs and those with low human development indices (HDI) and lesser relative development must receive preferential treatment in terms of energy security through an IDB fund and/or other institutions that can be used to equalize energy prices, avoiding exposure to excessive international market volatility.
- **What must the goals of our governments and the private sector be with regard to:**
 - A. Energy efficiency and conservation.** Take advantage of our renewable energy potential (water, geothermal, wind, direct or indirect solar by photosynthesis), which in the case of Central America exceeds 18,000MW.

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- B. Energy diversification.** Reach a regional agreement to reduce our oil dependence. Take advantage of Brazil's experience in using ethanol, biodiesel, electricity cogeneration based on sugarcane waste (bagasse) and promote biofuels.
 - C. Clean energy solutions.** Incentives for the use of clean energies. Promote environmental certificates that increase market value through the use of clean energies.
 - D. Energy cooperation and integration.** Continue integrating energy markets. This is already in operation in Mexico with SIEPAC in Central America and will continue in Colombia in the next two years, and in turn will then be extended to South America.
 - E. Safe access to energy supplies for all.** Continue the Rural Electrification Program until it reaches 95% coverage. Where it is not feasible to invest in electric transmission, implement solutions with solar and/or wind energy.
- **What must the private sector commit to in order to reach these goals?** To promoting long-term investments and seeking extra-regional international partners to invest in our region.
 - **What is the role of public-private alliances in reaching these goals?** Their role is essential since available public funds for the required investments are not sufficient and must be geared to promoting 100% coverage, while private resources are geared to generating clean energy.

TOPIC 3: Environmental Sustainability

- **What are the most important environmental sustainability challenges faced by the Americas?** Guaranteeing the right to full human development in harmony with the environment, within the framework of inter-temporal equity; that is, countries that have opted to save their natural resources for future availability must be compensated in terms of preservation goals and objectives by those who have overexploited their environment. The valuation of natural resources must be stimulated and their regional markets must be developed, as in the case of carbon credits, particularly since our region has a strong potential in international markets.
- **What must be the goals of our governments and the private sector regarding:**
 - A. **Natural disaster preparation.** Our region is highly exposed to a large number of natural disasters, particularly the Caribbean region due to hurricanes and the Andean region due to earthquakes. It is necessary to strengthen our natural disaster mitigation committees and generate alliances with the private sector in order to have effective distribution networks when these natural disasters occur.

CONSULTATIONS CEATAL

CEATAL' Contributions to the Project Declaration of the V Summit of the Americas

In response to the objective of contributing to the negotiations for the Fifth Summit of the Americas, CEATAL underscores the following elements to be considered within the mandates of the Draft Commitment of Port of Spain:

- **SOCIAL DIALOG.** The draft Declaration should note that the positive effects of economic growth will reach their maximum when they lead to a sustainable development process, go hand-in-hand with social well-being and are stimulated by real social dialog. In order to deal with current social problems, the region must have a broad and genuine social dialog, based on a new collaboration paradigm and not on a culture of confrontation, a paradigm in which governments, entrepreneurs and workers join efforts to generate wealth and employment. Thus, governments must design and apply national public policies that incorporate social dialog aimed at promoting social development. New forms of organizing work, increasing international trade flows, subregional and bioregional integration processes, free trade and free investment agreements, the existence of an increasingly competitive environment, relocation of plants, and labor migrations, among others, in addition to the world economic and financial crises are all factors that add to the daily challenges that exist in relations between business owners and workers. As a result, it is even more necessary to create a climate of dialog and collaboration that will help to harmonize different interests and priorities and bring about social consensus to ensure social peace, the well-being of workers and the sustainable development of businesses.
- **PRIVATE PROPERTY AND LEGAL SECURITY:** The draft Declaration should stress the importance of private property as the keystone of economic development and human prosperity. This calls for the existence and application of clear and stable legal standards that provide security for entrepreneurs. There must be full respect for private property as a prerequisite for the existence of sustainable enterprises. The smooth functioning of the private sector implies the existence and application of clear and stable legal standards that provide security for entrepreneurs. These standards must be predictable and include an institutional environment in which business and investment can be carried out securely. In countries where there is no legal security for exercising the right to private property for large and small enterprises alike, there is an immediate deceleration of development, deterioration of credibility and trust at the international level, an increase in informality and a definite return to higher poverty rates. Without sustainable enterprises, there will be no decent work.
- **TRANSPARENCY AND ELIMINATION OF CORRUPTION IN PUBLIC INSTITUTIONS.** The draft Declaration should stress the importance that a globalized society requires transparent and committed management of public institutions. The lack of standards, efficiency, management control, honesty and

transparency in the functioning of public institutions are clear factors that contribute to the insecurity of society in general. Enterprises and entrepreneurs need, first and foremost, political, public and administrative security in order to make decisions concerning investment and employment. Governments must double their efforts to strengthen institutionality by eliminating all forms of arbitrariness or corruption in carrying out their functions and by fostering transparency in government activities. Institutional deficiencies and excess regulation are probably the major cause of the lack of competitiveness in the region, to which we must add the traditional lack of coordination between government and the private sector. The growing globalization of the economies demands institutional frameworks that allow global governance, but at the same time, this must coexist with good governance at the national level, where the different local and regional policies foster an inclusive globalization process. Governments should firmly commit to increasing their efforts to overcome existing inequalities. To do this, they must promote, inter alia, fair and equitable tax systems and better governance of available resources to benefit productive employment and economic and social development.

- **EDUCATION AND HUMAN CAPITAL:** The draft Declaration should highlight the fact that the creations of jobs demands close collaboration between enterprise and government in designing education policies. Education is the foundation of citizenship, equal opportunities and development. Education policies and professional training must respond to the expectations of society and to the needs of enterprises and of the labor market. These policies should also include as a priority in their objectives, employability and fostering an entrepreneurial spirit. Thus, due to the constant changes in the way production and work are organized, it is essential that the entrepreneurial community collaborate in designing and implementing training programs. Enterprises, and their ability to produce, depend more and more on the quality of human resources and the establishment of harmonious labor relations.
- **INFORMAL ECONOMY.** The draft Declaration should reflect the promotion of legislative frameworks that tend to reduce the informal economy since this has become one of the principle obstacles to the development of the region. Currently, the informal economy provides employment to a high percentage of the economically active population in Latin America. This leads to social inequalities, inefficiency in the markets, and keeps us from obtaining the decent work goals defined by the ILO. It is important to reinforce the foundations of the institutions and public powers, to increase efficiency, simplify and adapt regulations to meet the situations in which they operate, and establish transition programs to attain this goal.
- **TRADE.** Lastly, it is surprising to see the lack of any reference to the importance of trade in the draft Declaration. It has been shown empirically that protectionism in times of crisis does not foster development and, therefore, it is essential that in

order to be relevant, the draft Declaration must promote open borders for the exchange of goods and services.

- **RESPONSES TO THE CRISIS**– All of the above topics take on even greater significance in a time of crisis such as the present crisis. Governments must, therefore, act together in supporting the private sector so that existing jobs are maintained. They must also design support measures for the unemployed that include active training policies, to enable them to regain their employability.

CONCLUSION

We understand that the document cannot overlook the above topics since they are essential for the development of the countries. The topics specifically address the promotion of human prosperity, energy security and environmental sustainability – objectives highlighted in the Declaration.

December 5, 2008

CONSULTATIONS ALETI



Recommendations of the Latin American and Caribbean Association of Information Technology Entities (ALETI) President: Dr. Jorge A. CASSINO

THEME 1: Promoting Human Prosperity

- **What are the most important challenges facing the Americas to promote human prosperity?** Human prosperity is based on the following principles: free market access, freedom to own a business and private property, free access to information, job markets, protection of health, participatory democracy, freedom of speech and belief, transparent administration of the state, access to education and equal human opportunities, elimination of child labor, gender equality, non-discrimination and a distributive economy with equal opportunities. These bases give men and women opportunities for professional, personal and human growth, with fundamental emphasis on interaction between governments and the private sector in order to reach consensus that will make it possible to attain these principles.
It is necessary to promote and encourage Social Entrepreneurial Responsibility (SER) by having an increasing number of businesses assume their responsibilities in carrying out their businesses.

One of the useful tools for monitoring prosperity plans is information technology.

- **What must the goals of our governments and the private sector be with regard to:**
 - A. **Decent employment:** Governments and the private sector are mutually responsible not only for providing the legal conditions to protect workers, but also for protecting businesses from frivolous lawsuits. The physical safety of workers, contractual conditions, gender equality, protection of birth, elimination of child labor, labor training and mutual respect are fundamental to all decent work. Work from the home can be one aspect that should be kept in mind over the next years and IT will be a fundamental tool for this.
 - B. **Health, well-being and nutrition:** Promoting a health system based on prevention, food education, nutrition and hygiene, preventing and eradicating diseases such as dengue, yellow fever, cholera and tuberculosis, as well as using IT tools, to optimize resources and using them rationally in the population. Social programs must be strictly controlled in order to avoid their improper use.

C. **Access to quality education:** Governments and the private sector should work together to promote education at all levels and in all regions, seeking intensive use of digital tools, based on distance education using digital means, ensuring that they are designed for the professions or specializations that the country and markets demand. The private sector should promote ongoing training, retraining and adaptation of their personnel and society, geared to the needs of their markets, whether technologies, languages, international trade, etc. The ministries of education, public and private universities and the education system in general must work together to ensure that plans and programs are aligned with local and international employment opportunities in a globalized economy, in both the public and private sectors. Special attention should be given to strengthening mathematics, basic sciences and foreign languages, principally in primary and secondary schools. The above must not exclude humanistic education focused on solidarity and spiritual values that must always serve as the point of reference for the complete education system.

The ministries of science and technology must promote, foster and orient all projects that include R+D+I (research, development and innovation), that can generate revenue for the country through intellectual property, and any research that can be translated into commercial results. We suggest that special attention be given to positive, transparent, non-discriminatory incentive programs between local and foreign capital.

D. **Overcoming inequity and promoting social cohesion:** Social cohesion is based on the principle of equal opportunities, justice, education, etc. There must also be similar benefits for all production, commerce and services actors, avoiding privileges that distort equity.

Legal security is the cornerstone to ensuring equity and cohesion for the people, including protecting pension funds from undue government appropriation. It is also necessary to provide the private sector with long- and medium-term plans that guarantee their commercial and development strategies.

Special attention must be given to digital inclusion through programs that address the causes of digital gaps among people, social groups and enterprises. It is essential that the programs developed for these purposes fully consider the elements that come together for creating or maintaining these gaps, many of which are not digital technology in and of itself or access to this technology, but the ability to use it, ignorance of its usefulness, the culture or the social and economic conditions involved.

E. Promoting innovation and entrepreneurship:

Innovation will be the distinguishing aspect of countries since it will give them added value and revenue to continue fostering research and invention.

Respect for intellectual property is the key to benefit from innovation proceeds; it will be the key to working with the academic, private and public sectors to establish the actions to be taken, among which there must be regional complementation of knowledge and training.

Governments should allocate larger portions of their budgets to research, development and innovation and prepare tax structures that encourage this type of activities by the private sector.

Moreover, opportunities brought about by innovation and entrepreneurship make it possible to balance the opportunities between those who have much and those who have less. Each step of innovation must be interpreted as a risk for those who are well established and as an opportunity for those who need to get ahead.

F. Business environment: Governments must design and enforce legal, tax, customs and personal mobility mechanisms that allow the private sector to compete under equal conditions and opportunities, thus facilitating investment and the establishment of businesses from the region and in the region.

Governments and the private sector must encourage the dissemination of information about alternate dispute settlement mechanisms that exist in the region, such as arbitration, mediation and conciliation, as well as those established in bilateral and multilateral agreements. Governments should pay particular attention to programs that promote the development and use of digital technologies to improve market information and decision-making. These technologies are elements that “fertilize” the business eco-systems of in the countries and regions, and promoting them is a key element for ensuring an appropriate environment for local and regional businesses. The conditions for competition in key sectors for this environment are fundamental. Special attention must be given to promoting competition in the telecommunications and financial sectors and to providing public services. Businesses must be promoted from the initial stages when sharing and marketing information, and not only in the traditional market phase of products or services.

➤ What must the private sector commit to in order to reach these goals?

- A. Promote the ethical conditions of Social Entrepreneurial Responsibility among the members.
- B. Promote, communicate and encourage respect and protection for the environment.
- C. Promote, educate and spread good energy management practices.
- D. Put the common good before the interests of the union.

- E. Invest in whatever is needed and assume leadership in actions required by the market for sustainable development of entrepreneurial and sectoral activities.
- F. Be willing to sit down to work with the government and social sectors to jointly solve problems, in an environment of respect, transparency and equal treatment.
- G. Take innovation as the greatest challenge for the private sector, making sure that the private sector provides the major part of innovation, which will be a clear sign of healthy competition.
- **What is the role of public-private alliances in reaching these goals?**
 - A. The interaction between the public and private sectors, aimed at constructing new development, innovation and crisis solution mechanisms must be implemented as a signal to society of a new working method. These alliances must be based on the search for the common good as the key element of the alliances, placing ethical dictates and healthy social and economic co-existence before economic and political interests. Transparency is a fundamental value in these “partnerships.” View innovation as the major challenge for the private sector, ensuring that the major part of innovation is provided by the private sector, which will be a clear sign of healthy competition.
- **What must the timeframe for reaching these goals be?**

Each country and subregion, according to their situations, must establish the objectives and timeframe for establishing coordination and decision-making mechanisms, within the framework of these initiatives. The Summits could be a mechanism for ACCOUNTABILITY AND BENCHMARKING progress.

THEME 2: Energy Security

- **What are the most important energy security challenges faced by the Americas?** The generation of renewable sources of energy in the region must be a priority. Incentives for the private sector to make this challenge a priority are key elements of a strategy to address this problem. Provide training, promote, develop and finance the use of renewable energies, such as solar, wind, geothermal and hydroelectric energy. Important emphasis must also be placed on educating the population on the efficient use and conservation of energy. Develop control systems that provide feedback for management decisions.
- **What must the goals of our governments and the private sector be with regard to:**
 - A. **Energy efficiency and conservation:**

Saving energy and using it rationally are based on education plans at all levels of society, as well as the clear and precise dissemination of the need to protect regional ecology.

The alternative sources of energy must be made known and demonstrated at all levels of society. In this regard, the technology sector has been working for years on developing low-consumption, non-contaminating equipment.

- B. **Energy diversification:** in order to properly apply the different methods of energy (wind, solar, geothermal and hydroelectric), the public sector, together with the private and academic sectors, should develop plans to disseminate knowledge of, create an awareness and promote these methods as pilot projects in different locations.
- C. **Clean energy solutions:** Changing from an energy system based on hydrocarbons to a clean energy system requires extremely high levels of investment and changes in human and economic patterns. These must be clearly expressed in government strategies and their budgets and work programs. The international financial community also plays a fundamental role in this process, facilitating financial, technological and human resources for these purposes. Gradually reducing dependence on hydrocarbon energy until it is eliminated is a long process based on the political will to make the change by using all possible means, including fiscal or financial incentives that ensure the reformulation of energy production.
Governments and private enterprise must commit, together with the universities of the countries, to achieve technical academic growth in these technologies.
- D. **Energy cooperation and integration:** This strategy is highly positive. However, it requires heavy investment in electric interconnection infrastructure (transmission lines, compensation equipment and substations), which makes it difficult to achieve this goal. Although this is a positive strategy, investment in other generation mechanisms can be more applicable, given the world financial situation.
- E. **Secure access to energy supply for all:** This is the key to the development of the countries and their provinces or departments, allowing all communities to have access to available energy, which also is a priority for the private sector. Businesses are responsible for efficiently using energy and, in this way, take maximum advantage of it.
- **What must the private sector commit to in order to reach these goals?**
- A. Promote at all levels of the education system the knowledge of the different ways groups or individuals can participate in dealing with the problem.
 - B. Invest in learning and experimenting ways to use energy more efficiently in its activities and, based on the positive results, implement the necessary changes in its production processes for the sustainable introduction of these new forms of energy.
 - C. Create awareness in society on the rational use of energy.
 - D. Disseminate information on the different systems for generating energy.
 - E. Promote and encourage the rational use of energy resources.
 - F. The academic and the private sectors must develop technical and university careers on different energy production methods.

- **What is the role of public-private alliances in reaching these goals?**
This alliance is fundamental since it will be the basis for changing the use of these resources and the methodologies of production, as well as controlling production of non-renewable energy methods.
- **What must the timeframe be for reaching this goal?**
Immediate actions are needed to design new methods and to cut production of non-traditional methods.

THEME 3: Environmental Sustainability

- **What are the most important environmental sustainability challenges faced by the Americas?**
Balancing social and economic development with environmental development is, in summary, the fundamental challenge of the region. It is essential for the region to align the development model with the environment. The challenges of climate change, environmental protection, allowing the exploitation and production of raw materials necessary for the region and for the world seem to be incompatible actions that need to be addressed and analyzed in a broader context.
The exploitation of raw materials and agricultural production using inappropriate methods harm the soils, forests and jungles, rivers and oceans. The growing demand for biofuels adds additional pressure that has a very negative impact on medium-term environmental sustainability.
Environmental protection is based on educating communities on how to eliminate waste in its different degradable, non-degradable and harmful forms (batteries, computer equipment, etc.) Thus, the private sector is especially relevant in taking preventive actions, and the public and academic sectors are important for training and educating society. Likewise, governments must establish appropriate regulatory platforms and develop the necessary institutionality to be able to address this problem in a well-balanced way that will bring about sustainable development without threatening human life and nature.
- **What must the goals of our governments and the private sector be with regard to:**
 - A. **Preparation for natural disasters:** Design and program emergency plans for catastrophes geared to prevention, action, evacuation and repair of the effects of these disasters. Plans must also be prepared to educate society on these events and practice them periodically. Special attention must be given to disaster management and prevention, given the increasing impact of man on the environment. It is important to repeat once again that the use of digital technology is an irreplaceable resource in these initiatives and its use should be encouraged.
 - B. **Climate change:** Society still does not give due attention to this problem that affects humanity. Governments, the entrepreneurial and academic sectors should begin preparing models for action to prevent the effect of climate change, but above all, focus on its causes. It is essential to study the problem systematically and in its different dimensions. The entrepreneurial sector is

not sufficiently involved in this topic. Also, there are no incentives to implement this initiative. The intensive use of information technology and communications must provide better follow-up elements, better elements for well-thought out and relevant decisions on the impact of each measure.

- C. **Environmental governability:** A legal system and institutional development of this topic is of vital importance since it is necessary to clearly define the rules to be followed, bearing in mind the environmental vision each country wishes to attain. The regional construction of these rules is a priority in order to suggest them to the different countries.
 - D. **Water resources:** the protection of water resources related to deforestation, urbanization, contamination, reception of industrial, chemical and human wastes, conversion of garbage dumps, etc. must be included in regional training and social dissemination plans; the private and academic sectors must contribute actively in these plans.
 - E. **Protection of biodiversity:** protecting, sustaining, safeguarding and maintaining biodiversity is essential to coordinate the enforcement of environmental protection, not only from a legal point of view but also from the point of view of surveillance and control.
 - F. **Urban environmental management:** Cities tend to be one of the environmental management problems of the region. The lack of an awareness of cleanliness, the elimination of dirt in the streets, and the failure to use garbage dumps for residues generate problems in the ecosystems and together with traffic and industrial pollution are deteriorating the air and the environment. The failure to understand cleanliness and order in cities is basically due to a lack of social education on environmental protection, mostly in the lower classes. Therefore, it is essential for businesses and the public sector to disseminate the good practices of environmental protection.
- **What must the private sector do to reach these goals?**
Compliance with current legislation is essential in this process. Develop policies and apply them to defend the environment, either by training personnel, their clients, and society or by taking the proper precautions to not contaminate with daily wastes. Develop solutions, products and services that enable the public to meet these objectives.
- **What is the role of public-private alliances in reaching these goals?**
A priority is the creation of long-term alliances between the public and private sectors, with close collaboration of the academic sector in order to understand and adopt environment protection for society as a whole.
The private sector decidedly supports the global initiative entitled PEACE WITH NATURE, presented by the Nobel Peace Prize winner and President of Costa Rica, Dr. Oscar Arias Sánchez. This initiative suggests global action by humanity to coexist with nature with respect and care, understanding that we humans are called upon to serve as the custodians and protectors of the living beings that share our planet. We urge governments to join in this initiative, to disseminate it and use it as material for consultation and study that promotes discussion within

the governments. Based on the contributions of this initiative, we suggest that the countries identify internal policies and initiatives that apply the principles set forth in this declaration to their specific situations. There is no doubt that this will allow different countries and sectors to coordinate their actions better.

➤ **What is the timeframe for reaching these goals?**

Actions must be immediate and short term, given the increasing damages to the environment.

For the members of ALETI, please see Annex# 3.

**DECLARATION OF
THE ANDEAN
BUSINESS ADVISORY
COUNCIL**

Declaration

The Andean Business Advisory Council and the V Summit of the Americas

The effects of the current global financial and economic crisis have had an impact on our countries as our exports and prices in external markets have fallen. Moreover, there has been a reduction of remittances from migrant workers and an increase in unemployment at the domestic level. Another consequence has been the lack of international credit. In this context, the need to promote regional unity has become even more important as an alternative to take advantage of the development opportunities in a globalized world.

Thus, it is imperative to promote public-private partnerships through an agenda that responds to the needs of the current international situation and finds solutions to the challenges faced by the V Summit.

A new private sector leadership is required, one that takes advantage of the knowledge derived from producing and distributing wealth based on successful policies and practices that can be replicated in different countries. To accomplish this, mechanisms for the follow-up and evaluation every five or ten years of these practices are required allowing for projections for a minimum of twenty years.

It is urgent to pause and redefine strategies towards a consolidation of the Hemisphere as a bloc. The integration of the Americas needs to have a social quality. It is imperative, as well, to ensure the sustainability of the integration efforts in the Americas, address issues such as the environment, security, fight against drugs, international terrorism and the energy and communications integration. The integration process needs to have a positive influence on public policies.

In a world where issues like education, health, the environment, science and technology have never been so important, the commitment of the business sector is essential to achieving international and domestic competitiveness.

As private sector, we commit to actively participate in public debates including on issues such as corruption, governance, institutional strengthening and the fight against drugs. We will contribute our administrative capacity, ethics, innovation and creativity and the permanent revitalization of the business dynamic. As modern business leaders, we will work towards the generation of social capital, political dialogue and the promotion of an effective multilateralism. Only through such efforts will we be able to prosper as nations committed to governance and collective prosperity.

CONSULTATIONS SOUTHERN CONE

PRIVATE SECTOR OF THE AMERICAS
Southern Cone Chapter:

Introduction

The organization Private Sector of the Americas, with the support of Estudio Graciela Römer & Asociados from Argentina, conducted a survey of the private sector in Mercosur member countries. The purpose of such survey was to analyze its contribution to the preparatory process for the V Summit of the Americas.

The survey included a number of leading figures from the private sector of the five countries in the region (Argentina, Chile, Brazil, Paraguay, and Uruguay), who are also members of the main chambers of the sector in their respective countries (see Annex 3 for a list of the entities surveyed).

One of the main findings is that there appears to be a certain degree of dispersion about what could be considered a priority for the regional agenda.

Within this context, certain priorities stand out clearly. Some of them are directly connected with the items included in the V Summit, such as effective economic integration in the region and the promotion of trade among the countries, or the need to face the challenges posed by the current crisis strengthening the educational basis of the labor force.

If we narrow the scope of the analysis to the issues that define the purpose of the V Summit itself, the vision that prevails is the recognition of a clear division of labor between the private sector and the State. Therefore, according to this view, the latter has to lead the processes, while the former has to adjust its behavior to such leadership, as well as to the standards and to the regulatory frameworks that the State may set forth.

Another relevant aspect is that, in the light of such greater responsibility assigned to the State, it should also have increasing financial responsibility, compared to the private sector, over the set of actions foreseen for each of the items included in the analysis.

Finally, and this becomes clear especially in the fields of education and health, there is a widespread vision that there is a division of labor between the State and the private sector.

According to such vision, the State should ensure the mandatory nature of education and health. However, its responsibility is limited to financing such basic services only to the sectors that do not have access to those provided by the private sector.

On the other hand, the private sector is responsible for the efficient organization of secondary and, more specifically, higher education.

It could be then said that universality and inclusion are the tasks urged from the State in these areas, while efficiency is what is expected from the private sector.

A similar division occurs in the health area. In this case, the State should ensure and safeguard easy and free access to basic health services to anyone who cannot afford it, while the private sector has to manage efficiently health insurance programs.

Finally, the role entrusted to the partnerships between the public and the private sectors has been considered in general terms. It has not been discussed under each item included in the analysis. What emerges is a desire to see certain policies, which are considered “strategic,” go beyond changes in governments as part of a broad agreement among the different relevant stakeholders in each country - *i.e.*, the State, the private sector, and the civil society.

Detailed analysis of the different issues discussed

1. What priorities should be defined in the next Summit of Heads of States of the Americas if you were to define them? Leaders' spontaneous views.

There is no one single issue. However, some issues seem to be considered priorities for their inclusion in the agenda.

First, importance is given to *economic integration and regional trade*. In this regard, more than three out of ten answers point toward such direction.

Second, two issues have been mentioned in approximately fifty per cent of the surveys concerning integration, although they are far from the rest. They are *education and the need to face the current economic crisis* with emphasis on industrial production and job creation.

Leaving aside the three items discussed, the remaining issues are extremely varied. (They include democracy in the region, encouragement to multilateralism, health, poverty, the reinsertion of Cuba as OAS member, political alignment in the region, and the like)

2. Which of the following seem to be a priority for human prosperity?

In general terms, there is no decisive consensus in this area, although some emerging priorities can be clearly seen.

None of the options suggested had a prevailing position over the others. Instead, there seems to be a relative dispersal as far as answers are concerned.

However, there seems to be a higher level of agreement on some issues than on others when defining human prosperity.

Evidently, the focal point is given to “*equal access to quality education,*” as it has been the issue mentioned most often in the answers. This is also largely consistent with the emphasis laid on education as a top priority in the countries of the region.

Leaving aside the role of education in the leader’s vision of human prosperity, the other two issues that can be highlighted are the *need to ensure an environment that promotes businesses, and the need to ensure universal health coverage,* in that order. Furthermore, they are followed by the importance of *decent jobs,* that is, the need for formal jobs or jobs with access to health care programs (See Table 1).

There is no standardized position concerning the responsibilities of both the State and the private sector. Moreover, it all depends on the issue under analysis. As an example, the possibility of ensuring equal quality education for all is seen as an exclusive responsibility of the State. On the other hand, some believe that the possibility of promoting decent jobs for all is a responsibility that falls onto the State, while others see it as a responsibility that needs to be shared by the State and the private sector (see Table 1 for a detailed analysis).

Table 1. Human prosperity issues, scope, and timeframe (terms)

Issue	Priority	Scope	Term
Access to quality education	*****	State	Short term, Long term
Business environment	****	State, Both	Short term, Long term.
Health coverage	****	State, Both	Short term, Long term
Innovation promotion	***	Both, State	Short term, Long term.
Decent employment	***	Both	Short term.
Exclusion overcoming	**	Both	Long term

Overall, the prevailing view is that all these issues entail unparalleled changes that require a long-term vision. However, the need to address them in the short term is clearly recognized.

Yet, certain aspects or nuances are worth mentioning at this point. They are explained in Table 1 for each of the issues considered as a priority for human prosperity.

Some ideas that give us important clues about these links between the short and the long terms deserve our attention.

- There are certain *distortions in the concept of private initiative* and a number of restrictions in ownership rights that need to be removed.
- The need for a *cultural change linked to civil education* that should evolve after a long-term process.
- The need for a *consensus among all the sectors – i.e., the State, the civil society, and the private sector–*, as to allow for the definition of an agenda that could go beyond electoral contests and administrations.
- Currently there are *rigid regulations and flexible compliance while there is a need to have flexible regulations with strict compliance*.
- Although we are referring to long term, there is a need to address at risk populations (health, food, or any other type of risk) in the short term.

2.1. What actions need to be taken to drive such goals and priorities?

Business environment. On the one hand, the State should ensure clear rules. On the other hand, the private sector should ensure a good business management, comply with the legal framework for employment, and act in accordance with the principles of social responsibility.

Education. The State should guarantee mandatory education for all and offer free education to the lowest strata in society. The private sector should provide education in an efficient manner (private schools) and support in-the-job training.

The role of the State is to safeguard and provide for free and accessible mandatory education for the entire citizenship. The private sector should assume responsibility for secondary, and more specifically, university education.

Decent employment. The State should require and control that employment is created in the formal sector. The private sector is responsible for complying with the law.

Health. The State should comply with the role entrusted onto it as far as public health is concerned, offering coverage to those who cannot afford it. The private sector should be efficient in the management of health insurance programs.

The State should ensure universal health coverage, offering access to health coverage to the poor. The private sector should make its contribution, ensuring their employees are formalized and giving them a health care program.

Innovation. The State should promote a favorable climate, and define general guidelines. The private sector should contribute in both financial and economic terms. In addition, it should conduct research and apply the results thus obtained.

The private sector should recognize and reward innovation to boost it and turn it into a competitive and interesting option.

3. Which of the following seem to be a priority to ensure energy security in the region?

There is no other aspect where diversity, as far as opinions or viewpoints are concerned, can be seen so clearly. The idea that “everything is equally important” strongly prevails when addressing this issue.

Table 2. Energy security issues, scope, and time frame (terms)

Issue	Priority	Scope	Term
Cooperation and integration	*****	State	Long term, Short term.
Efficiency, preservation	*****	State, Private sector	Short term.
Clean energy	****	State	Short term, Long term
Safe access to supply	***	State	Short term, Long term.
Diversification	***	State	Short term, Long term.

For all the issues discussed, except for energy efficiency and preservation, the opinions point to the fact that the responsibility should essentially fall onto the State.

There are opposed viewpoints concerning the time horizon for this series of initiatives. The only exception is the discussion on efficient energy use, as it has been unanimously defined as a short-term priority.

3.1. What actions need to be taken to drive such goals and priorities?

Diversification. The State should provide funding for research activities. The private sector should invest on new energy sources and their distribution.

The State should undertake a commitment with research on wind and solar energy, as well as on bio-energy sources. The private sector should undertake to implement the results obtained from such research.

The State should encourage diversification, while also caring for costs. The private sector should use new energy sources.

Efficiency. The State should encourage and raise awareness. The private sector should implement this principle and look after the energy used.

The State should provide for a suitable regulatory framework. In turn, the private sector should adjust its behavior to match and comply with such regulation.

Basically, the State should raise awareness among the citizens.

Clean energy. The State should legislate, while the private sector should fully observe the legislation. Both should engage in research to find new clean energy solutions.

Safe access. The State and the private sector should join their efforts to reach prices that allow for access to resources.

Cooperation. The private sector should make investments taking as a basis the incentives defined by the State.

4. Which of the following issues seem to be a priority to ensure environmental sustainability in the region?

The considerations associated with environmental governance should have a privileged position over any other issue. In addition, this is the sole area where a clear consensus can be seen, as this is a critical imperative in the short term. Moreover, this issue essentially appears as an intrinsic responsibility of the State.

Table 3. Environmental issues, scope, and time frame (terms)

Issue	Priority	Scope	Term
Environmental governance	*****	State	Short term.
Water resources	***	State	Long term
Climatic change	**	State, Private sector	Short term, Long term.
Biodiversity	**	State	Short term, Long term.
Urban environmental management	**	State	Short term, Long term.

4.1. What actions need to be taken to drive such goals and priorities?

Environmental governance. The State must define new regulatory frameworks associated with the new ventures that will certainly arise. In turn, the private sector should comply with these new regulatory frameworks.

The State should take the lead, define standards, and enforce them. The private sector should comply with such standards.

The State should call for and obtain the long-term commitment from the private sector.

Water resources. The State should safeguard enforcement with and observance of quality standards. The private sector should enhance the use of water resources.

The State should safeguard the water basins and forests, and delegate onto the private sector reforestation tasks.

Urban environmental management. The State should disclose and discuss this issue. In turn, the private sector should put it into practice.

Biodiversity. The State must regulate. The private sector must comply with such regulations.

Climatic change. The State should undertake the commitment of establishing the institutional mechanisms required and raising awareness on the need for governance concerning this specific issue.

Natural disasters. The State should promote prevention programs and studies to avoid natural disasters and to know how to react in the event of a natural disaster.

What is the role assigned to public-private partnerships?

The views concerning the role of partnerships between the public and the private sectors were not linked to each individual issue included in the survey. On the contrary, they generally appear to reflect a global viewpoint that prevails for the three items included in the survey (i.e., human prosperity, energy security, and environment). Some of the interviewees have laid the emphasis on the following:

- It is extremely positive because it allows for shared responsibilities.
- It is pivotal. Only the articulation between the public and the private sectors will ensure that public policies have an impact.
- Reaching a consensus at all levels is vital. This includes the State, the civil society, and the private sector. There is a need for an agenda that goes beyond the tenure of any administration.
- It is critical. We need to reach a consensus ensuring that every sector moves in the same direction. This has not been possible yet.
- It is very important. We need to work together. The State should listen to both business executives and employees alike.
- It is essential. We need to accomplish the goal of private public partnership.

ANNEXES

Annex 1: Questionnaire-Guide for the Presentation of Private Sector Contributions**V SUMMIT OF THE AMERICAS**
**“Securing Our Citizens’ Future by Promoting Human Prosperity,
Energy Security and Environmental Sustainability**
Port of Spain, Trinidad and Tobago**QUESTIONNAIRE –GUIDE FOR THE PRESENTATION OF
SUBREGIONAL CONTRIBUTIONS**

Based on the V Summit of the Americas Draft Declaration of Commitment, please submit your views on the following topics (Items I, II and III) and use the attached template to indicate the commitments that should come out of the Summit, identifying the party (ies) responsible for executing those commitments, and the timeframe for their execution.

ITEM 1: Promoting Human Prosperity

- What are the greatest challenges in the Americas related to human prosperity?
- What should the goals of our governments and private sector be with regards to:
 - A. Decent employment
 - B. Health, wellness and nutrition
 - C. Access to quality education
 - D. Overcoming inequity and promoting social cohesion
 - E. Fostering innovation and entrepreneurship
 - F. Business climate
 - G. Other
- What should the private sector commit to doing towards achieving these goals?
- What is the role of public-private partnerships in addressing these goals?
- What should the timeframe be for achieving these goals?

ITEM 2: Energy Security

- What are the greatest challenges in the Americas related to energy security?
- What should the goals of our governments and private sector be with regards to:
 - 1. Energy efficiency and conservation
 - 2. Energy diversification
 - 3. Clean energy solutions
 - 4. Energy cooperation and integration
 - 5. Secure access to energy supplies for all
 - 6. Other
- What should the private sector commit to doing towards achieving these goals?
- What is the role of public-private partnerships in addressing these goals?
- What should the timeframe be for achieving these goals?

ITEM 3: Environmental Sustainability

- What are the greatest challenges in the Americas related to environmental sustainability?
- What should the goals of our governments and private sector be with regards to:
 1. Natural disaster preparedness
 2. Climate change
 3. Environmental governance
 4. Water resources
 5. Biodiversity protection
 6. Urban environmental management
 7. Other
- What should the private sector commit to doing towards achieving these goals?
- What is the role of public-private partnerships in addressing these goals?
- What should the timeframe be for achieving these goals?

Annex 2: Table for the Presentation of Private Sector Commitments to Achieve the Goals of the V Summit of the Americas**Table for the Presentation of Private Sector Commitments to Achieve the Goals of the V Summit of the Americas**

Please use this template to indicate the goals and commitments that should come out of the Summit, prioritizing each commitment, identifying the party (ies) responsible for executing those commitments, and the assigning a timeframe for their execution. **Use as many entries as necessary, based on the discussions of items I, II and III.**

Item I: Promoting Human Prosperity

Priority (prioritize each goal using numbers: priority 1, priority 2, etc)	Goal	Action/Commitment	Responsible party (government, private sector, public-private, civil society)	Timeframe for execution: short, medium, long term

Item II: Energy Security

Priority (prioritize each goal using numbers: priority 1, priority 2, etc)	Goal	Action/Commitment	Responsible party (government, private sector, public-private, civil society)	Timeframe for execution: short, medium, long term

Item III: Environmental Sustainability

Priority (prioritize each goal using numbers: priority 1, priority 2, etc)	Goal	Action/Commitment	Responsible party (government, private sector, public-private, civil society)	Timeframe for execution: short, medium, long term

Annex 3: List of Members of Organizations that Participated in this Consultations Process**1- List of Members of FECAMCO**

Cámara de Comercio de Costa Rica
Cámara de Comercio de Cortés
Cámara de Comercio e Industria de El Salvador
Cámara de Comercio de Guatemala
Cámara de Comercio e Industria de Tegucigalpa
Cámara de Comercio de Nicaragua
Cámara de Comercio de Belice
Cámara de Comercio de Bogotá
Cámara de Comercio, Industria y Agricultura de Panamá
Cámara de Comercio de Colón
Cámara de Comercio y Producción de Santo Domingo

2- Information about ALETI/List of Members

- ALETI is the Latin American and Caribbean Association of Information Technology Entities, which brings together the principal Chambers of Commerce of the Information Technology Industry and includes fifteen (15) countries of the region, plus Spain. ALETI was duly constituted in 1998 and has participated actively in national, regional and world forums with multilateral entities, such as the UN, IDB, WB, EU, etc. ALETI represents 5.25% of the information technology business in the world, approximately 200 billion dollars in 2008. This represents a little more than 60,000 large-, medium- and small-scale businesses in the IT industry. ALETI is a major contributor in bridging the technology gap among the countries in the region, improving access to education for all the people, strengthening research and development, promoting innovation and new entrepreneurs by bringing knowledge to all levels of society.

List of ALETI Countries and Members

Country	Entity
	ACTI
Argentina	CESSI
Bolivia	CBTI
Brazil	ASSESPRO
Chile	GECHS
Colombia	FEDESOFTE
Costa Rica	CAMTIC
Cuba	GT
Dominican Republic	ADOSOFT
Ecuador	AESOFT
Guatemala	SOFEK
Mexico	AMITI
Paraguay	APUDI
Peru	APESOFT
Spain	AETIC
Uruguay	CUTI
Venezuela	CAVEDATOS

3- List of entities from the private sector of Argentina, Chile, Brazil, Paraguay and Uruguay surveyed

- Asociación de Bancos de Argentina (Bank Association of Argentina)
- Cámara Argentina de Comercio (Argentine Chamber of Commerce)
- Consejo Interamericano de Comercio e Industria (Inter-American Commerce and Industry Council)
- Unión Industrial Argentina (Argentine Industrial Union)
- National Confederation of Industries (Brazil).
- Federation of Industries of the State of Sao Paulo (FIESP)
- Asociación de Bancos e Instituciones Financieras de Chile (Chilean Association of Banks and Financial Institutions)
- Cámara de Comercio de Santiago de Chile (Chamber of Commerce of Santiago de Chile)
- Cámara Chilena de la Construcción (Chilean Chamber for Construction)
- Cámara Algodonera del Paraguay (Paraguayan Chamber of Cotton Producers)
- Cámara Nacional de Comercio y Servicios del Uruguay (National Chamber of Commerce and Services of Uruguay)
- Cámara de Industrias del Uruguay (Chamber of Industries of Uruguay)
- Cámara Mercantil de Productos del Uruguay (Chamber of Commerce of Uruguay)
- Cámara Paraguaya Exportadora de Cereales y Oleaginosas (Chamber of Grains and Oilseeds Exporters of Paraguay)

THE ORGANIZATION OF AMERICAN STATES

The Organization of American States (OAS) is the world's oldest regional organization, dating back to the First International Conference of American States, held in Washington, D.C., from October 1889 to April 1890. At that meeting the establishment of the International Union of American Republics was approved. The Charter of the OAS was signed in Bogota in 1948 and entered into force in December 1951. The Charter was subsequently amended by the Protocol of Buenos Aires, signed in 1967, which entered into force in February 1970; by the Protocol of Cartagena de Indias, signed in 1985, which entered into force in November 1988; by the Protocol of Managua, signed in 1993, which entered into force in January 29, 1996; and by the Protocol of Washington, signed in 1992, which entered into force in September 25, 1997. The OAS currently has 35 member states. In addition, the organization has granted permanent observer status to over 45 states, as well as to the European Union.

The essential purposes of the OAS are: to strengthen peace and security in the Hemisphere; to promote and consolidate representative democracy, with due respect for the principle of nonintervention; to prevent possible causes of difficulties and to ensure peaceful settlement of disputes that may arise among the member states; to provide for common action on the part of those states in the event of aggression; to seek resolution of political, juridical, and economic problems that may arise among them; to promote, by cooperative action, their economic, social, and cultural development; and to achieve an effective limitation of conventional weapons allowing to devote the largest amount of resources to the economic and social development of the member states.

The Organization of American States accomplishes its purposes by means of: the General Assembly; the Meeting of Consultation of Ministers of Foreign Affairs; the Councils (the Permanent Council and the Inter-American Council for Integral Development); The Inter American Juridical Committee; the Inter-American Commission on Human Rights; the General Secretariat; the specialized conferences; the specialized Organizations and other entities established by the General Assembly.

The General Assembly holds regular sessions once a year. Under special circumstances, it meets in special session. The Meeting of Consultation is convened to consider urgent matters of common interest and to serve as Organ of Consultation under the InterAmerican Treaty of Reciprocal Assistance (Rio Treaty), the main instrument for joint action in the event of aggression. The Permanent Council takes cognizance of such matters as are entrusted by the General Assembly or the Meeting of Consultation and implements the decisions of both organs when their implementation has not been assigned to any other body, it monitors the maintenance of friendly relations among the member states and the observance of the standards governing General Secretariat operations and also acts provisionally as Organ of Consultation under the Rio Treaty. The General Secretariat is the central and permanent organ of the OAS. The headquarters of both the Permanent Council and the General Secretariat is in Washington, D.C.

MEMBER STATES: Antigua and Barbuda, Argentina, The Bahamas (*Commonwealth of*), Barbados, Belize, Bolivia, Brazil, Canada, Chile, Colombia, Costa Rica, Cuba, Dominica (*Commonwealth of*), Dominican Republic, Ecuador, El Salvador, Grenada, Guatemala, Guyana, Haiti, Honduras, Jamaica, Mexico, Nicaragua, Panama, Paraguay, Peru, Saint Kitts and Nevis, Saint Lucia, Saint Vincent and the Grenadines, Suriname, Trinidad and Tobago, United States, Uruguay and Venezuela.



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