

Youth Forum of the Americas

For the Participation of Young People in the Summit of the Americas Process

The Process:

Between August and December, 2008 over a thousand young people from different backgrounds, countries and realities participated in the consultation process of the Youth Forum of the Americas. This process was carried out by the Young Americas Business Trust in collaboration with the OAS Summits of the Americas Secretariat and the National Secretariat for the 5th Summit of the Americas.

Four Dialogues were held in Trinidad and Tobago, Paraguay, the Dominican Republic and Mexico. Furthermore, international organizations provided platforms through their networks for young people to contribute to the process and submit their ideas and suggestions in preparation for the 5th Summit.

An online consultation to include the perspectives of additional young people on the Summit's priority themes completed the process.

Preliminary recommendations were made to the Permanent Council of the OAS following a round table preparatory meeting which took place in December in Washington D.C.

The overwhelming response gave valuable insights on how young people can contribute to this Inter-American collaboration to create opportunities to meet the challenges of today and tomorrow.

The complete reports are available, in their original language, online at www.ybiz.net or on request to the Young Americas Business Trust.

IN BRIEF:

Recommendations from Young People for the Draft Declaration of Commitment

Human Prosperity

- Reform education systems to better equip students for the realities and demands of a global marketplace by developing new learning approaches and activities.
- Facilitate increased access to training opportunities, particularly in the areas of entrepreneurship and technology.
- Enhance existing community – based skills programs and facilities to create employment for young people in remote areas not underserved by existing institutions.
- Increase available resources and finances for young people and others who may be marginalized by providing assistance for social programs, and utilize microcredit and alternative financing to fund new ventures.
- Guarantee the safety and human rights of all citizens.

Energy Security and Environmental Sustainability

- Design and implement policies which utilize recycling and waste management as a way to reduce the use of new resources.
- Integrate environmental sustainability into the school curriculum, preferably starting at the primary school level.
- Provide incentives to encourage efficient use of available energy resources.
- Invest in alternative fuel sources and encourage the use of solar and wind power.
- Enforce environmental protection programs across the region.

Harness every opportunity possible to include youth ideas and initiatives in regional development programs

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