Thematic Discussions with Civil Society and Social Actors within the Framework of the CSO Forum (June 6-7, 2022)

The objective of the thematic discussions is to provide a space for an exchange of ideas and good practices on the thematic pillars of the IX Summit and related topics. This space will contribute to further deepening the knowledge and awareness of participants of the Civil Society Forum of these topics from different perspectives.

These thematic discussions will be divided into two stages. The first stage will consist of a discussion by experts, and the second will involve an exchange between experts and participants of the Civil Society Forum, allowing them to raise questions or comments.

**Strengthening the Role of Environmental Defenders in Protecting Forests from Illegal Deforestation**

*(June 6th - 10:00 a.m.)*

**Objective:** The objective is to bring the many stakeholders together to discuss how best to protect environmental defenders from harassment & assassination, as well as strengthen their role in protecting a natural resource that mitigates climate change. At the end of the dialogue, the participants would better understand who to collaborate with and how to work together to further the work of environmental defenders. The dialogue speakers would include an environmental defender, an anti-corruption expert in the area of either corporate contracts (mining, logging, etc.) or prosecuting environmental crimes/violence against environmental defenders, a representative from a corporation with a good environmental track record, a countering wildlife trafficking expert/organization, a journalist who reports on environmental crimes, and an indigenous environmental activist.

**Speakers**

- Andrea Crosta, Earth League International (ELI)
- Joseph Berra, Human Rights Professor, University of California, Los Angeles
- Amaru Ruiz, Presidente de Fundación del Río, Observador de la Sociedad Civil Nicaragüense en las Negociaciones de Cambio Climático ante CMNUCC
- Jose Fernando Ochoa Pineda, Executive Director and Founding member at Defensa Ambiental del Noroeste (DAN)
- Sarah Gardiner, Police Advisor at Oxfam America
Moderator: Soledad Garcia Muñoz, REDESCA Special Rapporteur on Economic, Social, Cultural, and Environmental Rights

Advancing Democratic Accountability: The endeavor of civil society and social actors
(June 6th – 10:30 am)

Objective: This dialogue will underline the importance of strengthening democratic governance by highlighting the accomplishments of civil society organizations and social actors in the anti-corruption field. This session should help underscore the role that civil society has to play in holding governments accountable and demanding transparency/good governance.

Speakers

- Marcelo Espinal Vallejo, Director, Ciudanía y Desarrollo
- Patricia Gálvez, Centro Ecuatoriano de Desarrollo y Estudios Alternativos CEDEAL
- Sonjé Greenidge, Integrity Barbados
- Enrique de Obarrio, Citizen Forum of the Americas

Moderator: Richard Feinberg, University of California - San Diego

Building Sustainable, Resilient and Inclusive Cities of the Future
(June 6th - 2:00 pm)

Objective: Stimulate a high-level discussion between pioneering and leading city representatives and stakeholders from the Americas who have or are increasingly embracing the circular economy development paradigm. This is to highlight their practical experiences and solutions found to enable their cities to engage in the transition process of realizing future thriving sustainable, circular, resilient, and inclusive cities in the Americas.

Speakers

- Kristin Miller, Executive Director, Ecocity Builders
- Manuel Olivera, Regional Director for Latin America, C40 Cities regional C40 Cities regional representative
- Mario Coronado, Director de Asuntos Públicos, Telefónica Hispanoamérica
- Kevin de Cuba, Co-Founder, Americas Sustainable Development Foundation (ASDF)
- Laura Faber O’Connor, Chief Sustainability Officer, Los Angeles Mayor

Moderator: Angel Cárdenas, Manager of Urban Development and Creative Economies, CAF
Strengthening Regional and National Emergency Preparedness
(June 6th - 2:00 p.m.)

**Objective:** The COVID-19 pandemic has exposed weaknesses in almost all health systems, including in the Americas, and highlighted that many countries currently lack the minimum capacities necessary to rapidly detect and respond to known vulnerabilities and likely public health emergencies. This thematic conversation will assist to identify the current gaps in our health systems and actions to be taken to safeguard our health systems and citizens from future health emergencies.

**Speakers**
- Mariana Faria, Advisor, Resource Mobilization, Pan American Health Organization
- Patricia Wu, Vice President, and Managing Director, C&M International
- Carlos G. Guerrero Orozco, Derechos Humanos y Litigio Estratégico Mexicano (D.L.M.)
- Luis Lopez Resindez, Comunidades Indígenas en liderazgo (CIELO)
- Dr. Felicia Knaul, University of Miami, co-chair of Inter-American Health Task Force

**Moderator:** Katie Taylor, Executive Director, Pan American Development Fund (PADF)

Improving Migrants’ Integration in the Americas
(June 7th - 9:30 a.m.)

**Objective:** This thematic discussion highlights the need for:
- Generating opportunities to integrate migrants into labor markets and foster their inclusion in societies across the Americas.
- Encouraging collaboration amongst migrant groups, civil society, businesses, and governments to fully harness these transformational opportunities to develop more inclusive societies for all, particularly migrants.
- Highlighting migrants’ contributions to host countries.

**Speakers**
- Maria Angélica Montesinos Licona, Programs Coordinator, Asylum Access Mexico
- Cynthia Juárez Lange, Senior Counsel at Fragomen, Latter-day Saint Charities
- Angelica Salas, Executive Director, Coalition for Humane Immigrant Rights (CHIRLA)
- Leo Martellotto, President, Junior Achievement Americas

**Moderator:** Maria Moreno, Chief Executive Officer of USA for International Organization for Migration (IOM)
Digital Transformation: Human Rights and Internet
(June 7th - 9:30am)

Objective: The event will discuss and analyze the implications of digital transformation in four thematic pillars: (a) deterioration of public debate, (b) accessibility and digital inclusion, and (c) moderation of content on the Internet from a multisectoral perspective, and (d) how digital surveillance tools, from hacking to facial recognition, are used to target activists, racial and ethnic minorities, and workers. Participants will have deepened their understanding of the concept of digital transformation for the strengthening of human rights, particularly in terms of freedom of expression, and will have been able to identify and suggest actions along these lines for monitoring the commitments of the States arising from the IX Summit.

Speakers

- Agustina Del Campo, LL.M., Esq., Director of the Center for Studies on Freedom of Expression and Access to Information (CELE) at Universidad de Palermo and an international human rights consultant.
- Samuels Carlton, a Vice-Chair of ICANN’s At-Large Advisory Committee (ALAC), a foundation member and the inaugural Secretary for the Latin America and Caribbean Regional At-Large Advisory Organization (LACRALO) of ICANN.
- Nick Clegg, President, Global Affairs, META
- Tamara Taraciuk Broner, Americas Acting Director Masculinity, Human Rights Watch

Moderator: Pedro Vaca Villarreal, Special Rapporteur for Freedom of Expression, Inter-American Commission of Human Rights (IACHR), OAS Masculinity

Gender Equality and Democracy in the 21st century
(June 7th - 2:00 pm)

Objective: This thematic discussion will address the advancements in gender equality as a key factor in democratic consolidation. Using an intersectional approach that accounts for progress and the persistence of gaps that hinder or stimulate the full exercise of rights, this dialogue will pay close attention to the progress made in eliminating gender gaps, the role of the women's movement, as well as to the strengthening of gender and inclusive institutions in the region.

Speakers

- Rosina Wiltshire, OAS Electoral Observation Missions Gender Expert
- Tarcila Rivera Zea, Quechua activist, member of the United Nations Permanent Forum on Indigenous Issues
- Karina Flores Arriola, Women’s Network Democracy

Moderator

- Caroline Bettinger-López, Gender Policy Advisor to the White House Masculinity