



CALL FOR PAPERS
Summits of the Americas Secretariat
Organization of American States
October 2003



The Summits of the Americas Secretariat of the Organization of American States (OAS) invites university students from the OAS Member States to participate in an essay contest within the framework of the *Special Summit of the Americas*, which will be held in Mexico on January 12-13, 2004.

The Special Summit of the Americas will look for agreements on specific issues and will promote multilateral and national initiatives to solve the critical problems of the Hemisphere. The Heads of State and Government will be meeting for one day to exchange ideas and identify initiatives on three central themes: *economic growth with equity, social development, and democratic governance*.

OBJECTIVE

To solicit creative ideas from university students on how to best overcome the economic, social, and political challenges facing the region.

PARTICIPANTS

The essay contest focuses on works from undergraduate and graduate university students of the OAS Member States¹ on the three themes of the Special Summit.

THEMES TO BE CONSIDERED

The essays should expand on one of the three themes related to the Special Summit. Possible topics under each of these themes are:

1. Economic Growth with Equity

- Participation of the private sector as an engine of economic growth. Appropriate market rules.
- Creation of opportunities for all. Better income distribution. Adequate economic, fiscal, and monetary policies. Good management of public resources.
- Monterrey Consensus. Mechanisms for financing growth with equity. Greater opening to international markets. Implementation of cooperation instruments for development.

2. Social Development

- Policies to facilitate development and social inclusion: reduction of poverty, hunger, and social exclusion.
- Attention to all sectors of the population, with emphasis on the most vulnerable groups, through access to food, health care, education and housing.

¹ The students must be citizens of one of the 34 OAS Member countries: Antigua and Barbuda, Argentina, Barbados, Belize, Bolivia, Brazil, Canada, Chile, Colombia, Costa Rica, Dominica, Ecuador, El Salvador, Grenada, Guatemala, Guyana, Haiti, Honduras, Jamaica, Mexico, Nicaragua, Panama, Paraguay, Peru, Dominican Republic, Saint Kitts & Nevis, Saint Lucia, Saint Vincent and the Grenadines, Suriname, Bahamas, Trinidad and Tobago, United States, Uruguay, and Venezuela.



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- Promotion of credit and financial services, property registration systems, partnerships between the public and private sectors, creation of jobs, assurance of a productive use of science and technology, including the reduction of the digital divide, and the establishment of social protection systems in critical times.

3. Democratic Governance

- Interrelationship between democracy and economic and social development. Strengthening social unity and governance. Defining public policies with social orientation.
- Strengthening democratic systems. Respect for democracy. Greater transparency and accountability on behalf of the governmental institutions. The fight against corruption. Innovative financial mechanisms for democratic governance.
- Civil society participation and access to information.

ESSAY PRESENTATION AND SUBMISSION GUIDELINES

The essays should be original works, authored individually (in Spanish or English), and submitted in Microsoft Word, no longer than 20 pages, double-spaced in 12-point *Times New Roman* font. All papers must be accompanied by an abstract of half a page (200 words).

Attached to the paper should be the name of the author, name of the institution, address, telephone number, and e-mail address of the participant, and should be sent electronically to: csantamaria@oas.org.

Alternatively, the paper may be sent via mail, including a diskette containing the electronic file, to:

Call for Papers - Special Summit of the Americas
Summits of the Americas Secretariat
Organization of American States
1889 F Street, NW, Suite 686
Washington, DC 20006
Telephone: (202) 458-6437
Fax: (202) 458-3665

RECEPTION DEADLINE

The deadline for receipt of the essays, both electronic and hard copy versions is **November 7, 2003**. It is the responsibility of the participants to assure that the essay arrives on time to the Summits of the Americas Secretariat. The international Jury will



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review the essays and make a final decision of the winning essays on **December 15, 2003**.

LANGUAGE

The papers must be written in either English or Spanish.

PRIZES

The authors of the three best essays, one per each Summit theme, will be invited to attend the Special Summit of the Americas to take place in Mexico on January 12-13, 2004. The winners will be awarded a plane ticket in economy class, from their city of origin to the Special Summit, and all lodging expenses will be covered.² They will work with the Summits Secretariat staff on supporting the Summit meeting.

Finally, the three best essays and honorable mentions will be published in the Summits of the Americas Secretariat website (www.summitoftheamericas.org).

EVALUATION CRITERIA AND PANEL

A qualified International jury composed of nine individuals (3 on each Summit theme)—including academics, specialists, and hemispheric diplomats—will evaluate the essays and determine the winners in each theme. The evaluation criteria are:

- a) Relevance of the essay content with respect to one of the three themes
- b) Originality
- c) Recommendations and proposed solutions to the thematic challenges

The decision of the international jury will be incontestable. The jury reserves the right to award prizes only to those essays which meet the criteria; therefore, in the case that less than three essays meet the standard criteria, the panel may choose not to award three grand prizes. In addition, in the case of absolute discrepancy of opinions among the panel members, the Summits of the Americas Secretariat will make final decisions. Finally, the jury will award honorable mentions for those essays which will not receive the grand prize of attending the Special Summit but will still be published on the Summits of the Americas website.

PUBLISHING OF ESSAYS

The Summits of the Americas Secretariat reserves the right to publish the winning essays, or any other, but only after notification and consent of the authors.

² The Summits of the Americas Secretariat will cover the costs of visas, but is not responsible for obtaining the visa. The participant is responsible for obtaining their visas to enter Mexico.



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For additional information, please contact the Summits of the Americas Secretariat at:

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