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American States



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Social Actors Forum

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POLICY DIALOGUE: THE ROAD TO CARTAGENA:

**“Hemispheric Cooperation to Combat Natural Disasters”
and**

“Hemispheric Cooperation to Reduce Poverty and Inequalities”

OAS Headquarters, Washington, DC

November 3rd and 4th, 2011

PROGRAM

INTRODUCTION

In order to ensure an inclusive process towards the Sixth Summit of the Americas to be held in April 2012, and under the Summit’s main theme of “**Connecting the Americas: Partners for Prosperity**”, the General Secretariat of the OAS¹ will host a series of activities to foster the contribution and participation of civil society organizations (CSOs) and social actors during the preparatory stages of the Summit.

These preparatory activities, entitled “**Policy Dialogues: The Road to Cartagena**”, have been designed to include both virtual and face-to-face policy dialogues that will provide ongoing, timely opportunities for CSOs and social actors to consolidate and effectively channel inputs and recommendations for the consideration of Member States during the negotiation of Sixth Summit mandates.

There are three participation mechanisms in this series of Policy Dialogues:

- **Summit Talk:** Virtual consultations that take place via the Summit Virtual Community (SVC) (www.summit-americas.org/svc) that are moderated by thematic experts, and that will last for approximately one month in order to facilitate broad participation;
- **OAS Policy Roundtables:** a forum open to the public and transmitted live through the SVC, in which a panel of experts from both the public and private sectors, as well as from international and non-governmental agencies, share their expertise and ideas and engage in a discussion on the key Summit themes and discuss with Member States and the general public;

¹ These sessions are being jointly organized and supported by the Summits of the Americas Secretariat, the Department of International Affairs, and the Executive Secretariat of Integral Development through the Department of Sustainable Development and the Department of Social Development and Employment.

- **Consultation Sessions and Formulation of Recommendations:** meetings in Washington, DC, of social actor representatives from the private sector, youth, civil society organizations, indigenous peoples, among other groups, to propose and compile concrete recommendations on the specific Summit themes.

The first consultation session with civil society and other social actors, will take place on **November 3rd and 4th, 2011** and will deal with two of the themes of the Sixth Summit: i) Natural Disasters; and ii) Poverty and Inequality.

Recommendations resulting from these sessions will be presented in the following meeting of the Summit Implementation Review Group (SIRG) on November 7 and will also be shared with other stakeholders of the Summits Process. The SIRG is the core management body of the Summits Process and is comprised of the 34 democratically elected governments of the hemisphere, which are represented by their appointed National Coordinators. The SIRG is responsible for reporting on the progress achieved in the fulfillment of previous Summit mandates and in the preparations of the Sixth Summit of the Americas.

In this document you will find the expected results, the methodology, the format and a preliminary agenda of the sessions for this policy dialogue.

EXPECTED RESULTS

The objective of this Policy Dialogue with the representatives of civil society and social actors is to stimulate discussion, exchange ideas and to propose concrete recommendations about the themes Natural Disasters and Poverty and Inequalities for the consideration of Member States during the stage of negotiation of the mandates to be adopted at the Sixth Summit of the Americas.

The expected results include:

1. A final recommendations document to be presented to OAS member states at the SIRG that is based on the discussions during the Consultation Sessions, as well as the virtual consultations and the Policy Roundtables; and
2. Exchange of experiences and best practices on projects and programs carried out by different social actors related to the main topics of the Policy Dialogues.

METHODOLOGY AND FORMAT

The CSO and social actor representatives will start discussions on the afternoon of November 3rd, 2011 in the General Secretariat Building (GSB) of the OAS, followed by an OAS Policy Roundtable on “The Road to Cartagena: Hemispheric Cooperation to Reduce Poverty and Inequalities” (to be held on the morning of November 4th in the Main Building of the OAS). Discussions will continue on the afternoon of Friday November 4th in the GSB.

The Program will include:

1. A welcoming session;
2. Introduction to the themes of the Sixth Summit, particularly the themes to be dealt with in these Policy Dialogues;
3. Two parallel working groups with the objective of formulating recommendations: Group 1 will address Natural Disasters, and Group 2 will address Poverty and Inequalities;
4. Policy Roundtable “The Road to Cartagena: Hemispheric Cooperation to Reduce Poverty and Inequalities”;
5. Completion of recommendations in working groups;
6. Presentation of recommendations in a plenary session;
7. Closing remarks.

Each working group will be guided by a moderator and will have the assistance of subject experts as well as a rapporteur (to be chosen at the beginning of each session). The rapporteur(s) will take note of the concrete recommendations that are produced during the discussion, and will produce the final recommendation document to be shared in the closing plenary session.

The recommendations agreed upon by the consultation session participants in each theme will be translated and subsequently shared with the OAS Member States in the meeting of the Summit Implementation Review Group (SIRG) on November 7th. A representative for each theme will be selected during the sessions to present the results to the SIRG, as feasible. The recommendation documents will also be circulated to other social actors and stakeholders in the Summits process.

WORKING LANGUAGES

The sessions will be held in English and Spanish. The recommendation documents will also be translated into these two languages.

REFERENCE DOCUMENTS

In order to enrich the discussion on each theme in this dialogue, it is recommended that the participants familiarize themselves with the following reference documents and other resources:

Reduction of Poverty and Inequalities:

- [Summit Talk: Reduction of Poverty and Inequalities](#)
- <http://cumbredelasamericas.org/reducing-of-poverty-and-inequalities.html>

Natural Disasters:

- <http://cumbredelasamericas.org/naturals-disasters.html>
- [Summit Talk: Natural Disasters](#)
- [Video of the XXXII OAS Roundtable “Road to Cartagena: Hemispheric Cooperation to Combat Natural Disasters”](#)

The Sixth Summit and the Summit of the Americas Process:

- [Sixth Summit of the Americas website \(Foreign Ministry of the Government of Colombia\): www.cumbredelasamericas.co](http://www.cumbredelasamericas.co).
- [Summits of the Americas Secretariat website: www.summit-americas.org](http://www.summit-americas.org)

A summary document of recommendations resulting from the **Summit Talk** virtual consultations will be compiled and distributed to registered participants prior to the face-to-face consultations on November 3-4. This document should be reviewed and referenced by participants as it will serve as the basis for the final recommendations document to be drafted during the Consultation Sessions.

PRELIMINARY AGENDA

Thursday November 3rd, 2011

Padilha Vidal Room, GSB building of the OAS,
1889 F Street, NW, Washington, DC 20006 (Level TL)

12:00 – 2:00pm **Registration** (delivery of per diems to sponsored participants)

2:00 – 2:30pm **Welcoming session**

- Welcoming remarks: Sherry Tross, Executive Secretary, Summits of the Americas Secretariat, OAS
- Remarks from Ambassador Carmen Lomellin, Permanent Representative of the United States to the OAS
- Remarks and Overview of the Sixth Summit Main Themes: Ambassador Luis Alfonso Hoyos, Permanent Representative of Colombia to the OAS

2:30 – 2:45pm **Introduction to Policy Dialogue objectives and methodology**

- Martin Huenneke, Specialist, Summits of the Americas Secretariat

2:45 – 5:00pm **Working Group Parallel Sessions**

1. Working Group on Natural Disasters (Gabriela Mistral Room)

- Report on results of the virtual consultation “Summit Talk” and the Policy Roundtable on Natural Disasters, Summits of the Americas Secretariat
- Discussion session and formulation of thematic recommendations

2. Group for Poverty and Inequalities (Padilha Vidal Room)

- Report and results of the virtual consultation and survey: “Summit Talk: Poverty and Inequalities”, Evelyn Jacir, Director, Department of Social Development and Employment, OAS
- Discussion session and formulation of thematic recommendations

Friday November 4th, 2011

10:00-11:45AM **Policy Roundtable “The Road to Cartagena: Hemispheric Cooperation to Reduce Poverty and Inequalities”**

Hall of the Americas, OAS Main Building, 17th St & Constitution Ave, NW,
Washington, DC.

Program

10:00 am Welcoming remarks by **Sherry Tross**, Executive Secretary Summits of the Americas Secretariat, OAS

10:10 am Discussion Panel moderated by **Ana Evelyn Jacir de Lovo**, Director of Social Development and Employment in the Executive Secretariat for Integral Development, OAS

- **Nancy Birdsall**, President of the Center for Global Development (CGD)
- **George Gray Molina**, Chief Economist, UNDP
- **Elsa Matta**, Executive Director, CE-Mujer, Dominican Republic

11:10 am Question and answer session

11:40 am Event closing by **Ambassador Luis Alfonso Hoyos**, Permanent Representative of Colombia

**Participants of both consultation sessions will attend this session.*

12:00 – 1:00pm **Lunch** (GSB building, 1889 F St, NW, Washington, DC, Level TL)
Provided by the OAS Summits Secretariat

CONSULTATION SESSIONS

1:00 – 3:30pm **Working Group Parallel Sessions**
(GSB building, 1889 F St, NW, Washington, DC, Level TL)

1. Working Group for Natural Disasters (Gabriela Mistral Room)
2. Working Group for Poverty and Inequalities (Padilha Vidal Room)

3:30 – 3:45 Coffee break

3:45 – 4:30pm **Wrap-up of Working Group Sessions**

1. Group for Natural Disasters (Gabriela Mistral Room)
2. Group for Poverty and Inequalities (Padilha Vidal Room)

4:30 – 5:15pm **Plenary Session for Presentation of Recommendations**
(Padilha Vidal Room)

- Presentation of the conclusions and recommendations of the Group for Natural Disasters, by the Group Rapporteur.
- Presentation of the conclusions and recommendations of the Group for Poverty and Inequalities, by the Group Rapporteur.

5:15 – 5:30pm **Closing Remarks**