

THE ROAD TO PANAMA



CIVIL SOCIETY AND
SOCIAL ACTORS
PARTICIPATION
2015



OAS | SUMMITS
of the Americas



The Road to Panama

Civil Society and Social Actors Participation in the
VII Summit of the Americas

Panama City, Panama

2015

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INTRODUCTION

In preparation for the Seventh Summit of the Americas, which took place in Panama City, Panama on April 10-11, 2015, the Summits Secretariat undertook a series of activities with civil society and social actors that participate in the Summits Process. The activities were focused on the main theme of the VII Summit: “Prosperity with Equity: The Challenge of Cooperation in the Americas,” and sought to facilitate the participation and significant contribution of civil society and social actors in the preparation phase of the Seventh Summit.

This document presents a compilation of the activities that took place in the “ROAD TO PANAMA” and includes the conclusions and recommendations from the onsite consultations as well as those consultations that were held through the Summits Virtual Community.

**“ROAD TO PANAMA: 1ST POLICY DIALOGUE ON
PROSPERITY WITH EQUITY”
AND RECOMMENDATIONS FROM CIVIL SOCIETY AND SOCIAL ACTORS IN
PREPARATION FOR THE SEVENTH SUMMIT OF THE AMERICAS**

(October 21, 2014)

I. Summary of “Road to Panama: 1st Policy Dialogue on Prosperity with Equity”

The “Road to Panama: 1st Policy Dialogue on Prosperity with Equity” was the first consultation with civil society and social actors in preparation for the Seventh Summit of the Americas. The event took place in the Ruben Dario Conference Room of the Organization of American States on October 21, 2014 and began with a presentation by the Government of Panama on the theme for the Seventh Summit, which was followed by a panel discussion of experts on the Summit theme presented by Panama. The program ended with a series of national consultations where representatives from civil society and social actors across the hemisphere were asked for recommendations in preparation for the Seventh Summit.

a. Introductory Remarks on the Seventh Summit of the Americas theme by Ambassador Max José López Cornejo, Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Panama

- Ambassador Lopez began the Policy Dialogue by presenting the theme of the Seventh Summit: “Prosperity with Equity: The Challenge of Cooperation in the Americas” and explained that, in order to structure the Inter-American conversation on this issue, Panama, in its capacity as the Host Country, had chosen to focus on the following sub-themes: Health, Education, Environment, Energy, Security, Migration, Governance and Civic Participation.
- The Ambassador mentioned underlying social factors hindering development in the region, such as: inequality, poverty, unemployment, crime, environmental depletion, discrimination and lack of social services, quality education, and the full inclusion of all citizens in the benefits of development.
- He underscored that international cooperation through participatory and multi-sectorial mechanisms is paramount to integration by identify the policies and investments to address these challenges.
- Ambassador López concluded his presentation by reiterating his President and Vice President’s special interest in the participation of civil society in the Summits Process.

b. Summary of presentation on “Economic Prosperity with Equity” by Augusto De La Torre, Chief Economist for Latin America and the Caribbean, World Bank

- Dr. De la Torre indicated that the economic challenges that the region is currently facing are very different than those faced 10 years ago.
- He advised that understanding the Latin America of today vis-à-vis the Latin America at the end of the 90s is a fundamental starting point.

- He highlighted that in the 90s; the main economic concern was instability and managing financial and fiscal crises and cycles.
- The economist underlined that today, except for certain pockets in the Caribbean, Central America, and the case of Venezuela, economic stability is the norm.
- Mr. de la Torre also highlighted that, in a region where 50% of population lived under poverty 20 years ago, today the rate has decreased to 25% and the percentage of the population in extreme poverty only represents 12% of the total population.
- He mentioned that the threat of a great economic crisis and the destruction of social gains do not amount to a real concern but the challenge for the future will be on how to restore growth at a pace that allows for social gains in a region that does not have experience with growth.

c. Summary of presentation on “Social Prosperity with Equity” by Ines Bustillo, Director, Washington Office, Economic Commission on Latin America and the Caribbean, United Nations

- Dr. Bustillo concurred in saying that the region had enjoyed very significant social gains in the 90s, according to ECLAC data, and also stressed that recuperating the poverty levels that the region had prior to the 80’s “Lost Decade” took 25 years.
- She mentioned that in recent years, important progress had been achieved in many fronts:
 - In 2002, the poverty rate was at 45% and at 28% today;
 - Inequality has fallen in 18 of the region’s countries;
 - The unemployment rate fell from 15% in 2002 to 6.2% in 2013;
 - Significant improvements in primary education coverage, although there are retention problems in secondary education and quality problems in secondary and tertiary education.
- In spite of the progress, some challenges remain:
 - 1 out of 4 students in the poorest quintile finishes secondary school;
 - Only 1 out of 100 in the poorest quintile finishes tertiary education.
- There have been innovations in social policy:
 - Conditioned transfer programs;
 - Transition to universal social policies;
 - Improvements to the institutional framework for social policy.
- The representative from ECLAC finds it noteworthy that today the agendas of finance ministers are now addressing topics of poverty and inequality.

d. Summary of presentation on “Democratic Governance” by Alicia Puyana, Professor, Latin America Social Sciences Institute

- Professor Puyana mentioned that in defining governance as a society’s ability to define and establish policies and resolve conflicts peacefully within the current legal system, the first question was whether that legal system was legitimate and if was fully accepted. Legitimacy derives from whether the State has been able to resolve a society’s basic problems or not.
- She also indicated that the concentration of wealth leads to the concentration of decision making, that real and effective equality requires a “fair playing field,” and that property and income are the basis for equality.
- Given the current conditions, Professor Puyana predicted that governance did not appear to be an attainable goal in the short term.

II. Questions from participants to panelists of “Road to Panama: 1st Policy Dialogue Prosperity with Equity”

a. Barbados

- What is the status of the mandates’ implementation? Going back to previous summits, what is the track record (in percentage) for implementation?

b. Belize

- What is the impact of political corruption in our cyclical model of growth based on election cycles? Comment on the impact on economic growth and equity.
- Latin America and the Caribbean have been the victims of indentured servitude, slavery, and bonded labor. What has been or will be the discussion or action on how to change the effect of this, especially psychologically and physically?

c. Costa Rica

- How can the recommendation of ensuring greater sustained economic growth in the region be aligned with concerns about sustainability, given the pressures facing the environment at the global level?
- What role is south-south cooperation currently playing in the region to address economic and social inequality?

d. Guatemala

- If Latin America and, specifically, Central America had a population with more resilience and a better attitude, it could lead us to prosperity with equity; why not invest in the development of human capital?

e. Jamaica

- Although poverty in the Caribbean is the widest of Latin America and the Caribbean, it is necessary to focus on the pockets of poverty and stagnant growth in the region. How can we change the “rules of the game” to prevent inequality?

- Is mandatory training and workforce development in all places of work a viable option to promote equality and to foster sustainable economic growth?
- Uganda, which had a remarkable response on HIV prevention at the beginning of the epidemic, is seeing a reverse. This threatens to be the case in Caribbean countries that have legal barriers steeped in cultural values. Can the region develop region-wide legal instruments for regional public health, since we have new equally challenging illnesses like Ebola, which know no borders?
- Nations that can barely afford training specialists often have these specialists migrate to more developed nations (brain drain), which is a lose-lose scenario for specialist and nations that have invested in them. What strategies are or need to be put in place to stem the capital and human resource flight?

f. Peru

- Given the current economic deceleration, what is going to happen to social gains?
- What possibility is there of the OAS promoting the creation of Ministries of Economic Inclusion in its 34 member states?
- What concrete actions and policies can be implemented to address the growing problem of public insecurity?
- Identify those “external winds” referred to by the panelists, which are decelerating economic growth in the region’s countries. Are we talking about development models that the countries are using?
- In a perspective of “prosperity with equity,” how can we overcome the inequalities in the education of indigenous populations, if there are still differences between public and private schools in much of Latin America?
- Are more transfers of technology needed so that our countries export added-value products instead of just raw materials?
- How have public-private partnerships for investments in the areas of health, education, social investments, etc. worked in other countries?
- How is the use of revenue from direct and indirect taxes for infrastructure projects being implemented in other countries?
- How can social investments be encouraged without the political effects of vote seeking?
- The “demographic explosion” is causing social problems in our region. How can this problem be adequately addressed to promote economic growth with economic and social resources?
- Consultations prior to mining and energy investments have created enormous social conflicts due to a lack of understanding about these investments and how they are imposed on populations. What impact have such consultations had in other countries of Latin America?
- What percentage of the budget is assigned to education in other countries, given that education levels are very low compared to other parts of the world?
- The analyses are interesting and seem to be considering Latin American society as homogeneous, without considering the ethnic groups that make it up; it would be interesting to see how that growth has benefited indigenous and Afro-descendant populations. How will that well-being benefit those groups in the long term, given the reductions in their levels of political representation they are facing in our states?

g. Washington, DC

- Address the relation between race and poverty in the Americas.
- What is the program for civil society participation in preparation for the Seventh Summit?

III. Results of National Consultation with Civil Society and Social Actors in Barbados



General Comments:

- The representatives were of the view that there is a need to look at the role of agriculture, particularly as it relates to food and food security.
- It was the view that while there are similar issues related to the quality of education, the challenge in the Caribbean was different to that of Latin America. In addition, it was argued that education should be broadened.
- There was a view that health care is not properly being provided in the public sector thereby making inequality acute.
- Small Island Developing States (SIDs) by definition are vulnerable and are therefore subjected to inequality and poverty.
- Partnerships should involve not only the private sector but also the wider civil society. There was a view that they could lead to positive outcomes.
- Youth unemployment is one of the existential challenges and a driver to inequality.
- The voice and participation of civil society was absent from the panel discussion.
- There is a need for a genuine process for civil society participation.
- In the Caribbean, there is a need to protect the gains of the middle class to prevent them from slipping into poverty.

- We must be able to create more comprehensive policies going forward which promote an equal distribution of wealth, assets and income.
- There is a need for effective poverty alleviation programs that encourage sustainable livelihood and facilitate participatory democracy.
- All stakeholders must ensure that democracy works. The success of democracy cannot be left solely to the politicians and political parties.
- Civil Society can play a role in ensuring that OAS mandates from the Summit are implemented in a timely manner.
- The issue of gender is critical to discussions about prosperity and equity. This issue was not mentioned in the dialogue.
- Participants were disappointed with the competing narratives in the discussion. For example, one of the presenters informed that poverty factors had increased in Latin America, and another informed that that there was no increase.
- Participants further emphasized that education does not guarantee one a future. The question asked was, how do we introduce guarantees?
- Participants felt that elements of human rights in relation to women, children, etc., should have been included in the discussion.

Recommendations:

1. There is a need to invest in quality education and access at the tertiary level for all within the next three years.
2. Youth unemployment is one of the existential challenges and a driver to inequality. A greater emphasis should be placed on increasing the access of youth to employment opportunities.
3. In the Caribbean, there is a need to protect the gains of the middle class to prevent them from slipping into poverty. We must be able to create more comprehensive policies going forward that promote an equal distribution of wealth, assets and income. There is a need for effective poverty alleviation programs that promote equity and facilitate the building of a participatory democracy.
4. The gender dimension should be emphasized in all discussions since inequality affects men and women differently.
5. The issue of discrimination on the basis of race has been used to exclude and marginalize groups in society. There should be a sustained effort in the hemisphere to eliminate all forms of discrimination and to bring marginalized groups into the mainstream.
6. Civil Society should be invited to participate in future discussions.

7. Partnerships with civil society could lead to positive outcomes.
8. There is a need to have more data on the Caribbean so that it may be discussed as an equal with other regions. We would like to see an increase of regional data use by 50% by this time next year.

IV. Results of National Consultation with Civil Society and Social Actors in Belize



General Comments:

- Current barriers to prosperity: Fear of victimization; when individuals do not contribute or participate because of the fear of being perceived as partisan; reluctantly to give feedback; complacency; legal barriers.
- Establish a citizen profile of a good citizenship.
- Urgent need to become more participatory/more involved/more interested in engagement.
- Obtain data and information to conduct effective planning, monitoring, evaluation and review.

Recommendations:

1. Capacity building is necessary to become more entrepreneurial and to attract investments.
2. Infrastructure or cultural barriers may also deter growth and must be addressed through economic policies.
3. Growth must be sustainable, equitable and inclusive.

4. Achieve universal (equal access) to education at all levels (childhood to higher education) with standardized evaluation methods for students.
5. Achieve full inclusive education according to international standards.
6. Higher education collaborating with public and private sector to build degree programs that fit the demand of the labor market.
7. The importance of teacher training must be underscored.
8. Greater emphasis must be placed on preventative healthcare.
9. Strengthen our primary, secondary and tertiary health systems.
10. Strengthen our ethical standards through our Board of Ethics.
11. Effective oversight by the Ministry of Health.
12. Promote healthy nutritional practices.
13. Achieve transparency, accountability and integrity, as well as good management of public resources and strategic ways to enforce accountability.
14. More women for elective offices.
15. CSO must be willing to stay neutral and establish regulatory framework.
16. Create an enabling environment that will ensure strong, independent and objective media
17. Provide mechanisms for public participation in policy making.
18. Transition to fully renewable sources of energy to include hydro, solar, biomass, etc. because of the present energy system and concern about its reliability and security.
19. Call on service providers to lower energy rates.
20. Provide energy subsidy or energy voucher programs to offer equitable access; liberalizing market.
21. Incentivizing initial overhead costs for renewable or alternative energy sources.
22. Natural resources should be protected through collaborative efforts with neighboring countries.
23. Place greater emphasis on educating the population on the vulnerabilities of our natural resources.

24. Promote clear, structured approaches to creating opportunities to retain and attract a skilled labor force.

V. Results of National Consultation with Civil Society and Social Actors in Bolivia



Recommendations:

1. Guarantee access in both metropolitan areas and rural communities, in order to democratize opportunities and productive economic entrepreneurship, education, health. States face the challenge of creating democratically accessible alternative sources of clean energy: wind, solar, etc.
2. The state must guarantee autonomy and sovereignty in the management of generation, distribution, and redistribution for the general population.
3. Consider environmental rights (Mother Earth), consider the rights of the subjects of rights (indigenous peoples) in the framework of the right to free, prior, and informed consultations, as provided for in the constitution and international conventions.
4. Guarantee the effective rights of these subjects (indigenous peoples and Mother Earth) through the strength of the guarantees provided by the state's institutional framework
5. Begin serious reflection on the limits of growth at a time of climate crisis.
6. Challenge of creating awareness (among the general population) regarding the responsible and efficient use and management of energy and the environment (culture of respect toward Mother Earth).

VI. Results of National Consultation with Civil Society and Social Actors in Costa Rica



Recommendations:

1. Increase in 0.20% the amount of annual national GDP invested in the production and use of renewable energy, over a period of two years.
2. Comprehensively strengthen the primary and secondary education curriculums to promote values of civic and social coexistence in order to bring about a 20% reduction in violence toward other children and adolescents.
3. Promote entrepreneurship through technical education in accordance with the needs of economic sectors, in order to reduce local unemployment levels.
4. Distribute international cooperation in the Latin American countries taking into account the development needs of the country in the application of technologies .
5. The state will promote, within 3 years, a cooperative enterprise that will have a 30% share of an economic sector in each province of the country, to encourage the democratic distribution of wealth.
6. Target 3% of international cooperation on strengthening democratic governance by the creation of one or two public state policies, over a period of 4 years, geared toward fostering the effective and equitable administration of resources and toward minimizing social inequalities, chiefly in the most vulnerable regions, in the framework of sustainable development.

VII. Results of National Consultation with Civil Society and Social Actors in Guatemala



Recommendations:

1. Minimum increase of 20% in the performance statistics of students at the primary, basic, and diversified levels, in both reading and mathematics.
2. Reduce levels of violence through the implementation of preventive policies at the community level. Promoting secondary and tertiary prevention.
3. Provide technical training for 20% of the economically active population, targeting young people.
4. 20% migration from the informal economy to the formal economy.

VIII. Results of National Consultation with Civil Society and Social Actors in Jamaica



General comments:

- CARICOM should provide relevant socio-economic data for the Caribbean to more effectively participate in the discussions of the VII Summit.
- In discussing democratic governance, the concentration of power and wealth, and how it relates to inequality and to what extent that leads to inequality in Jamaica should be considered. Are public institutions working for the general welfare of society? Government leaders should be held accountable for their performance.
- The presentations made by panelists during the live webcast did not include reference to several issues that are of importance to Jamaica and the CARICOM region. These issues include: corruption, crime and violence, natural disasters, public health and communicable diseases, housing and displaced persons.

Recommendations:

1. Within 8 months, secure the agreement of the International financial multilateral institutions to grant more concessional terms when extending loans to developing countries in the Americas to enable their governments to make reasonable provisions for the poor, and to prevent undue social and economic hardship, in order to secure equity and to avoid increased poverty.
2. Within 18 months, conduct and complete a review of the anti-corruption and good-governance institutional regimes of all CARICOM States, and table the findings, together with remedial recommendations where necessary for the strengthening of the regimes in keeping with international best practices in corruption control and good governance, integrity and transparency standards in government.

3. Transform education systems over a five year period by providing greater access to vocational training in order to improve entrepreneurship and enable greater levels of prosperity.
4. Implement policies over a five to 10 year period that will enable youth to participate in enhanced food security strategies, while facilitating the capacity for employment.
5. Increase the production capacity of prisons by at least 50% in 5 years to enable prisons to become more self-sufficient.

IX. Results of National Consultation with Civil Society and Social Actors in Peru



Recommendations:

1. Create projects for carbon credits and promote and increase forestation and reforestation by 3% at the national level within a period of 5 years.
2. That States, in collaboration with civil society, create schools for youth leadership in order to strengthen political parties.
3. Establish forums for citizen participation within local, regional, and national governments, with emphasis on the promotion of the capabilities of young people without discrimination.
4. Urge member states to negotiate agreements for citizen diplomacy through cultural, technological, and educational exchanges at all levels of education.
5. Promote an inclusive reform education in the medium- and long-term to strengthen quality public education with international standards, based on adequate and sufficient budgets and with gender awareness.

6. Promote public health policies that guarantee that resources are channeled into assisting the most vulnerable and excluded segments of the population, such as expecting mothers, children under the age of 3, and for work in the areas of health education and violence against women.
7. Redistribute public spending with priority on the health and education sectors.
8. Implement a development strategy that encourages productive diversification and specialization.
9. Implement a development strategy that encourages the acquisition of technology from abroad.
10. Implement a development strategy that encourages the implementation of technology.

**REPORT ON THE VIRTUAL FORUM WITH CIVIL SOCIETY AND SOCIAL ACTORS
PROSPERITY WITH EQUITY:
THE CHALLENGE OF COOPERATION IN THE AMERICAS**

(October 21 to November 11, 2014)

1. Introduction

The Seventh Summit of the Americas is to take place in Panama on April 10 and 11, 2015, and will bring together the heads of state and government of the Americas to deal with the topic “Prosperity with Equity: The Challenge of Cooperation in the Americas.” The Summits of the Americas Secretariat, in collaboration with the Department of International Affairs of the Organization of American States (OAS), is organizing a series of activities to facilitate participation by civil society and social actors in preparation for the Seventh Summit.

In this context, a first round of consultations with civil society was held, which included a policy dialogue, national consultations in several member states, and a virtual forum.

The first virtual forum focused on the following three thematic axes:

- (a) **Economic prosperity with equity**
- (b) **Social prosperity with equity**
- (c) **Democratic governance and citizen participation**

The forum, open from **October 21 to November 11, 2014**, provided representatives of the Hemisphere’s civil society and social actors with the opportunity to exchange ideas and experiences and to offer the member states comments and recommendations on the theme of the Seventh Summit. The results of that virtual forum were compiled in this report, which was distributed to the states in preparation for this meeting of the Summit Implementation Review Group.

The virtual forum was organized by the Summits of the Americas Secretariat and moderated by Jackie Arango, a Colombian researcher with experience in social innovation, the design of user-centered programs and products, and social entrepreneurship.

2. Purpose of the consultation

The topics examined at this virtual forum were focused on the three points identified above and, in connection with each point; the participants were asked the following questions:

- a) **Economic prosperity with equity**
 - As a social actor, what do you believe is the biggest challenge of the region in terms of equitable economic growth?
 - Can you provide examples of public policies created to support equitable economic growth and which could be replicated at a regional level?
 - In which way are you or your organization contributing to the building of an equitable economy?
 - In your opinion, what should be the hemispheric strategies to build prosperous and equitable economic systems in Latin America and the Caribbean?

b) Social prosperity with equity

- Which major challenges hindering equitable social development are currently affecting Latin American and Caribbean societies?
- Which public or private strategies are currently being implemented to improve these conditions?
- Which other strategies would you recommend to address the issue of social inequity in the region?

c) Democratic governance and citizen participation

- Which citizen participation mechanisms are currently being used in the region?
- What are international organizations, local and national governments doing to promote greater citizen participation?
- In your opinion, how does citizen participation support better democratic governance?

3. General summary of the forum's results

The forum was available in English and Spanish and was attended by a total of 25 participants, who presented the observations and recommendations summarized below.

3.1 Economic prosperity with equity:

- **Public policy:** Since the creation of public policies in any country facilitates policies, laws, and developments that remain in place over time, we propose the development of policies with emphasis on:
 - Science, technology, investigation, development, and innovation
 - Fiscal measures for internal and external economic growth.
 - Social and labor inclusion.
- **Inclusion and a focus on the population:** Having an equitable economy requires an equitable society. Proposals and comments:
 - Include different groups in all labor-related areas, including communities and populations of African descent, indigenous peoples, people with disabilities, gender equality, and individuals reincorporating into society after various regional conflicts.
 - Acknowledge diversity, interculturality, and the potential and tendencies of the market, bolstering the participation and access of the most affected sectors.
- **Equitable distribution of wealth:** The following proposals were offered:
 - Improving access to goods and services that can raise the living standards of society, in order to close social divides.
 - *“The fair and effective distribution of wealth is the key to the region's growth.”*
- **Infrastructure:**
 - Investing in roads and transportation is very important in order to facilitate ties between different countries and regions for exchanges of goods, products, and services.

- **Partnerships between universities, companies, and states:**
 - The development of plans and strategies in the University-Company-State triangle is important for the development of actions and concrete solutions to real problems and situations.
 - *“Promote and strengthen public-private partnerships as a consolidation mechanism for creating and increasing employment, production of social capital.”*
 - Good practices: the use of equitable economic models that have been tested in other regions and countries, such as those that *“combine the investments and complementary efforts of the state and of local and international companies.”*
- **Agriculture as a source of wealth:**
 - Various agrarian reforms, promoted by farmers’ groups and associations, were proposed.
 - Investments are needed for improvements in renewable energy that will enable solar energy to be used to improve the economy and funding for agriculture.
 - Identify family farming models that will facilitate sustainable microenterprises.
- **Job market**
 - Acknowledging the needs and problems of each region, as a joint responsibility, will enable the development of new ideas, projects, undertakings, and processes for resolving those needs and creating greater labor inclusion.
 - *“Recognizing the diversity and intercultural nature of populations as strengths that impact their new social transformation.”*
 - Skill-based hiring.
 - Entrepreneurship: owners of large businesses can support the ideas of young entrepreneurs *“to develop and construct their ideas and business areas so that the uncompetitive, untapped parts of our economy can become more accessible to the different levels of society.”*
- **Innovation**
 - *“Innovation is the oxygen of business.”* Companies and the state must invest more in innovation, to enable developments that focus on real, creative, and innovative needs in order to create more employment and raise living standards.

3.2 Social prosperity with equity:

- **Education:** This was the forum topic with the liveliest discussion. The comments and recommendations on the topic included the following:
 - For an equitable society, it is important that the educational systems are in line with the region’s requirements and needs.
 - Public education must be high-quality and free of charge.
 - Education must focus on a country’s specific needs and its economic vocation.
 - “Education must have no distinctions: neither in infrastructure, nor in education quality, nor by regions and/or social strata.

- We propose making private social investments for the education and employment of women, young people, and the most vulnerable segments of the population.
- *“Education at all levels and styles must be a permanent effort to meet the challenge of overcoming poverty and attain economic growth with equity, with human capital that pursues innovation and creativity to build wealth from diversity and interculturality in a framework of rights, freedom, and autonomy.”*
- **Inclusion:**
 - “There is a close correlation between poverty and race. Thus, the Afro-descendants of the Americas are an ethnic population segment with the highest levels of vulnerability in terms of access to goods and services such as education, health, housing, employment, etc.”
 - Increase the possibilities of employment based on people’s capacities and skills.
 - Create programs to close gender gaps.
- **Basic needs:**
 - Lack of political action by governments in implementing programs to overcome unsatisfied basic needs.
 - Vitally important that the right to basic human needs be taken into account, such as nutrition, water, housing, medical care, access to information, to education, to personal freedom and choice, tolerance in inclusion and access to higher education, etc.
- **Overcoming poverty:**
 - Social programs for overcoming poverty require the development of high-impact projects and must address specific situations, such as malnutrition among babies and children, teenage pregnancy, mortality among expectant mothers, domestic violence, and child labor.
- **Strengthening the capacity for work:**
 - Strengthen the individual and collective capacities of poor populations to enable them to enter the job market.
 - *“Economically and socially successful countries have invested in their populations and their civil society organizations, accumulating the human capital that is today recognized as the key to growth through competitiveness.”*
- **Violence and security:**
 - Identify plans and strategies for the development of agreements and public policies in pursuit of equitable justice.
 - *“One immense challenge: insecurity in our cities.”* Few public or private strategies are visible.
- **Family:**
 - Place priority on care for early childhood and for the neediest families.
 - We propose a culture centered on the family and its security, economic and social security for education, universal educational coverage, training, and career paths.

3.3 Democratic governance and citizen participation

- **Academia and education:**
 - The work of the academic sector (primary, secondary, and professional) plays a very important role in society and in democratic participation: if people are educated about the importance of participation, our democracy will be greater and better.
 - *“Education must make a very special contribution to democratic governance; for that, it must prepare well disposed and properly qualified individuals, together with citizens committed to democratic civil culture who can develop critical opinions and put them into effect from their earliest years.”*
- **Organizations and civil society:**
 - Civil society organizations have the task of encouraging society as a whole, particularly young people, to participate in dialogue processes with the private sector, the government, and the general public, through different youth associations.
- **Legal framework:**
 - “Legislation must encourage the emergence and participation of NGOs by creating a legal framework that respects freedom of association and the relations that arise between those organizations and the rest of society.”
 - The growth of civil society and its participation must be accompanied by a legal framework that encourages them.
 - The implementation of regional laws that allow the development of strategies for citizen participation and democracy is important.
- **Young people as protagonists:**
 - Young people must become agents for change who can transform society with tools based on participatory public policies.
 - We propose creating meeting spaces for young people to allow the structuring of participation processes, defined by the same structure of participatory democracy.
- **Meeting spaces**
 - Spaces for meeting and discussing, such as forums, are of vital importance, provided that they go beyond consultation and opinion to produce action and creation.
 - Forge public and private partnerships in which citizens and organizations participate as social actors.
 - Create and generate collectives of civic commitment.
- **Lack of democracy:**
 - We propose constitutional amendments to prevent threats to democracy in the region.

Annex

a. List of participants

English-language forum		Spanish-language forum	
Trinidad and Tobago	1	Colombia	9
Guyana	4	Argentina	2
Haiti	1	Peru	2
Colombia	3	Dominican Republic	1
Total	9	Uruguay	1
		El Salvador	1
		Total	16

**“DIALOGUE ROAD TO PANAMA: MANDATES FOR ACTION”
RECOMMENDATIONS FROM CIVIL SOCIETY AND SOCIAL ACTORS IN
PREPARATION FOR THE SEVENTH SUMMIT OF THE AMERICAS**

(February 6, 2015)

I. Summary of the event “Dialogue on the Road to Panama: Mandates for Action”

The Dialogue on the Road to Panama: Mandates for Action was the second round of consultations with civil society and social actors in preparation for the Seventh Summit of the Americas. The event took place in the Rubén Darío Conference Room of the Organization of American States on February 6, 2015, and began with a presentation by the Government of Panama on the “Mandates for Action” document of the Seventh Summit of the Americas. Panama’s presentation was followed by a presentation by the Summits Secretariat on activities with civil society and social actors on the occasion of the Seventh Summit of the Americas. The program ended with a series of national consultations where representatives of civil society and social actors from across the Hemisphere offered their recommendations in preparation for the Seventh Summit.

a. *Introductory remarks by Amassador Alfonso Quiñonez, Executive Secretary, Summits Secretariat, OAS*

- Ambassador Quiñonez inaugurated the dialogue “Road to Panama: Mandates for Action.” He pointed out that the participation of civil society and social actors during preparations for the Summits and during the Summits themselves were an essential part of the Summits process, as it allowed their representatives to make recommendations to governments concerning the approach to Summits and their anticipated results and thus become partners of governments and international organizations in implementing and following up on the Summit mandates.
- Ambassador Quiñonez underscored that, in the past 10 years, our region had recorded unprecedented economic growth and that, for the first time, it had more citizens in the middle class than in poverty.
- However, Ambassador Quiñonez said, economic and social inequity had a much greater effect on the most vulnerable groups of society, who saw their rights trampled upon because of fewer opportunities and because of limited access to such fundamental rights as education, health, and employment, among others.
- Ambassador Quiñonez emphasized that democracy in our region was hampered by inequality and inequity and, consequently, combating those factors was an OAS priority.

b. *Presentation by Ambassador Max José López Cornejo, Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Panama, on the Seventh Summit of the Americas: “Prosperity with Equity: The Challenge of Cooperation in the Americas” – Mandate for Action*

- Ambassador López began his presentation by saying that, in the 20 years since the 1994 hemispheric Summit in Miami, much thought had been given to the changes that had taken place in the Hemisphere and that, as a result of that exercise, important conclusions had been drawn which should serve as the basis for the countries to define areas of hemispheric cooperation, with a view to overcoming obstacles that still existed and to consolidating peace, democratic freedoms, and the well-being of the peoples of the Hemisphere, in a context of human and sustainable development.
- Ambassador López noted that the Hemisphere had grown stronger, had common denominators, and had managed to cope with trends which, in other parts of the globe, gave rise to disintegration and conflict. The region was more diverse and heterogeneous economically, socially, and politically.
- Ambassador López said that remarkable progress had been made in the past 20 years and that many countries had experienced significant growth, in both economic and social terms, which had contributed to a sharp drop in poverty and extreme poverty and to expansion of the middle class. Still, that progress had created new challenges, which all the countries of the region must face.
- Ambassador López highlighted that the “Mandates for Action” document pointed up the need for equity, which was a technical condition for sustainable growth in the countries of the region. Productive inclusion, which required education, health, technological skills, respect for the environment, and access to credit and assets, was key to shared prosperity in each country.
- Ambassador López said that social deficits persisted and that the foundations of stronger economic growth were still weak, as was evident in the lagging infrastructure of various states, educational coverage and quality, the health situation, environmental degradation, and the consequences of climate change, as well as institutional weaknesses that limited transparency in public management, citizen participation, and the full enjoyment of human rights, which were part of the thematic areas to be discussed by the Heads of State at the Seventh Summit of the Americas in Panama.
- Ambassador López pointed out that, in the context of those vulnerabilities and deficiencies, cooperation among countries was called upon to play an important role in achieving prosperity with equity.
- Ambassador López concluded his presentation by reiterating his President’s and Vice President’s special interest in civil society participation in the Summits process.

c. Presentation by Ambassador Alfonso Quiñonez on activities with civil society and social actors on the occasion of the Seventh Summit of the Americas

- Ambassador Quiñonez indicated that the activities of civil society and social actors on the occasion of the Seventh Summit of the Americas would be held in Panama City on April 8, 9, and 10.
- He also pointed out that a **Hemispheric Forum** with a panel of experts would be held on the theme “**Prosperity with Equity: Strengthening Cooperation beyond Panama,**” where examples would be given of constructive and successful cooperation between civil society and governments of the Hemisphere. The participants would then be divided into working groups on the sub-themes of the Seventh Summit: democratic governance, citizen participation, education, health, energy, the environment, migration, and security.
- Ambassador Quiñonez noted that the working groups would exchange ideas and make concrete recommendations and proposals on strategies for collaborating with the governments of the region to follow up on or implement the Summit mandates.
- Ambassador Quiñonez said that, following the working groups, a dialogue would be held between civil society and the participating Heads of State.
- Ambassador Quiñonez drew attention to the factors that would be taken into account in the selection of civil society organizations and social actors who wished to take part in the Seventh Summit:
 - Equitable geographic and gender representation;
 - Experience in and knowledge of the sub-themes of the Seventh Summit;
 - Thematic, regional, sub regional, and national representation; and
 - Active participation in prior civil society activities, in preparation for the Seventh Summit.

II. Questions from participants to panelists of the event “Dialogue on the Road to Panama: Mandates for Action”

a. Argentina

- In mandate 1 under Citizen Participation, where it says: “To establish, without restrictions or limits on participation, the Inter-American Forum of Civil Society and Social Actors, so that the process of participation and consultation with civil society and social actors is continuous . . . ,” what is the scope of the establishment, without restrictions or limits on participation, of the inter-American forum of civil society?
- What explains the absence of specific mandates on justice and especially access to justice by vulnerable and poor groups, the indigenous, ethnic groups, and other minorities?
- Is it possible to propose the creation of a social network at national levels in order to increase civil society participation in the hemispheric context?

- In the mandate on equity, as far as the LGBT community is concerned, will we be able to raise these questions as a civil society organization?
- With respect to the health mandate, is it necessary to include reproductive rights?
- For the host country: Is it expected that measures will be discussed and agreed to by consensus that are aimed at developing public policies on responsible use of the Internet by citizens, to ensure genuine equity and neutrality?

b. El Salvador

- How will the Inter-American Network for the Prevention of Violence and Crime operate and who are the principal actors with whom partnerships on security will be established?
- What is the main obstacle or challenge to becoming effective in terms of equity in the context of cooperation in Latin America?
- How is it intended to include indigenous peoples and women's movements in the crosscutting proposals or themes?
- Should the countries of the region (Heads of State) redirect the dynamics of PARLACEN to make its resolutions binding?

c. Dominican Republic

- Why does the "Mandates for Action" document fail to refer directly to initiatives for raising structural questions about economic models that perpetuate inequality?
 - Fiscal policy
 - Job-creation policies
 - Debt-financed economic growth
 - Productive competitiveness
- Could a further explanation be given of our common concern about the present situation of comprehensive early-childhood care policies?
- Why were statelessness and civil and political rights omitted?

d. Trinidad and Tobago

- What is the procedure for civil society participation in the thematic areas?

e. Washington, D.C.

- Would it be possible to hold a forum at the Seventh Summit of the Americans for the community of persons of African descent?

III. Results of National Consultation with Civil Society and Social Actors in Argentina



General Comments:

- The participants from Argentina also said that “we, the Argentine civil society organizations, wish to convey that the peoples of the Americas want to achieve full social and territorial integration, accepting collective diversity and, as concerns the indigenous, with tolerance by our governments for dissent.”

Recommendations:

1. Migration and Security

1.1. On the understanding that the absence of a specific definition of terrorism impedes its prevention, deterrence, and repression, we agree on the following measures:

- To conclude an international agreement or treaty defining the criminal offence.
- To encourage the exchange of data, statistics, reports, and successful initiatives to help provide a regional approach to the problem.

1.2. The Summit should incorporate the concept of “human security,” on the understanding that it subsumes the proposed topics and that inclusion of this all-embracing topic would increase and strengthen coordination among existing entities.

2. Environment and Energy

- 2.1. To promote diverse methods of producing renewable forms of energy and reducing the consumption of non-renewable energy by 20 percent over three years.
- 2.2. To promote a paradigm shift to the use of renewable energy, cutting nonrenewable energy use by 30 percent, which would improve people's quality of life and the environment in two years.
- 2.3. To reduce the consumption of goods that use nonrenewable products by 40 percent over four years, by complying with the environmental legislation and common standards of the countries of the Hemisphere.

3. Education

- 3.1. To design and implement in at least 25 percent of the countries participating in the Seventh Summit, at national and subnational levels, training plans for teachers in the pedagogical use of ICTs, specifically at the middle-school level, for populations with fewer than 100,000 inhabitants, within a four-year period.
- 3.2. To build educational research and innovation laboratories in three countries of the Hemisphere, within a period of 18 months.
- 3.4. To define public policies to improve the employment skills of young people in at least 20 percent of the countries participating in the Seventh Summit, in six years.
- 3.5. To attract investments to implement tele-work plans and virtual training to facilitate access to jobs and insertion in the labor market for persons with disabilities.

4. Health

- 4.1. To promote the decentralization of health centers through free communal medium- and high-complexity care centers, to facilitate access to preventive health care in the next four years for populations of over 200,000 inhabitants.
- 4.2. Given that mutual insurance is an appropriate vehicle for helping to alleviate poverty in the most vulnerable sectors through the provision of various services and to facilitate access to health and education among those in a vulnerable situation, the member states should foster policies to promote and shore up the Hemisphere's system over the next four years, by increasing by 20 percent the number of persons with access to such services.
- 4.3. To promote the creation of a Universal DNA Bank to make it possible, within the next four years, to reduce trafficking in persons and facilitate access to biological identity.
- 4.4. To gain universal access to medications manufactured outside the countries of the region for patients with chronic diseases, with a view to producing 10 percent of those medications nationally within four years.

5. Economic Governance and Citizen Participation

- 5.1. That the OAS agencies and special secretariats should establish contact with civil society on an annual basis, within the next two years.
- 5.2. That the countries participating in the Seventh Summit that do not yet have laws on free access to information should adopt them within the next two years, taking the following principles into account: free public access, without prior authorization, and the use of open or widely disseminated computer systems. Exceptions to these principles should be established by law, before any requests are made.
- 5.3. That for draft laws, a prior system of consultation with civil society should be established. The system should be initiated sufficiently in advance and ensure broad dissemination of the draft legislation.
- 5.4. That the OAS, through the corresponding area, should organize, within the next two years, annual plenary meetings and other annual meetings, by topic or subject matter, which could be on-site or virtual.
- 5.5. In the “Democratic Governance” section of the “Mandates for Action” document, add the following in point 1 after the words “public administrations: “ensuring a pluralistic system of parties and party organizations,” and at the end insert: “In particular, a system, similar to the MESYCYS, shall be established for following up on implementation of the Inter-American Convention on Human Rights (Pact of San José, Costa Rica); and in point 2, add the following after “. . . electoral institutions in the Hemisphere’s countries”: “and implement e-voting.”
- 5.6. That judicial and administrative investigations into cases of corruption, as well as rulings declaring cases closed because of the statute of limitations, should be reduced by half over the next four years.

IV. Results of National Consultation with Civil Society and Social Actors in Brazil



Recommendations:

1. Education

- 1.1. To promote high-level basic training, for all subject areas and all educational levels, within a period of 10 years.
- 1.2. To implement and strengthen university teacher induction programs, by offering scholarships, with a view to strengthening basic education.
- 1.3. To formulate within 10 years regional educational and monitoring indicators based on UNESCO research on the Americas, in order to improve the quality of education.
- 1.4. To develop a teacher-training plan for the Americas, with reference to jobs and careers (training, capacity-building, and professional development).
- 1.5. To set goals for regular or technical and vocational training for young people and adults, considering the economically active population in each country.

2. Migration and Security

- 2.1. To establish responsible policies for refugee migration, to ensure that refugees have adequate living conditions along with training and employment.
- 2.2. To develop norms to end work situations similar to slavery for both local populations and migration flows.

2.3. In the Inter-American Network for the Prevention of Violence and Crime, to promote data transparency and make data available to the public.

2.4. To adopt a normative framework for the protection of personal data and to regulate national security policies.

2.5. As a supplement to government action to fight terrorism and drug trafficking, to develop intelligence systems that endeavor to use regional territories as a base, with respect for the privacy of citizens.

3. Democratic Governance and Democratic Participation

3.1. To promote the adoption of laws on access to information by the member states.

3.2. To facilitate access to documents and information drawn up by agencies associated with the OAS, where possible.

3.3. To create conditions for investment so that, within 10 years, 80 percent of the population will have access to information and communication technologies, with special attention paid to public areas.

V. Results of National Consultation with Civil Society and Social Actors in El Salvador



Recommendations:

1. Migration and Security

1.1 On migration, it is proposed that greater efforts be made to improve opportunities in the areas of employment, education, health, culture, and security, especially for at-risk youths and the economically active population, in order to dissuade them from their intention to emigrate from their countries of origin.

1.2 In efforts made to adjust laws that protect the human rights of migrants, to promote the creation of national citizen help centers, to which any citizen who feels the need to emigrate can turn as a last resort before doing so. These centers could come under the ministry of foreign affairs, the office of the attorney general of the republic, the secretariat for social inclusion, or other offices and provide economic support by creating job opportunities, mitigating situations of risk resulting from common crime and organized crime, and solving structural problems in the environments from which citizens have decided to emigrate, so that they may be dissuaded from leaving as a result of the help provided in their own countries.

1.3. To increase cooperation among countries by 50 percent over a five-year period, generating job opportunities and human resource training, in order to have a more specialized labor force through a public-private partnership that promotes national and foreign investment to prevent a brain drain and the mass migration of manpower. Given that migration is a deeply entrenched problem in the Central American region, it must be eradicated gradually, generating appropriate working conditions based on gender equity and respectful of migrants' human rights, through an institutional body to monitor their implementation.

1.4. To update by 60 percent over five years the database of migrants who do not have an "official work permit," in an effort to guarantee the labor rights governed by the ILO.

1.5. With respect to security, it is proposed that crime awareness and prevention campaigns be waged on an ongoing basis. This may be done through a country's public security and justice departments, supported by efforts at the national level by all of civil society, and can be achieved by focusing efforts and budget resources on crime prevention rather than suppression.

1.6. It is recommended that genuine social and labor force reintegration programs be promoted and implemented for persons deprived of liberty during their rehabilitation process, if they have shown good behavior or have completed their sentences.

1.7. The problems of migration and transboundary security are closely linked and, for that reason, common solutions should be proposed through the Inter-American Network for the Prevention of Violence and Crime, to establish agreements with five-year goals, and efforts should be coordinated through Central American regional police to eradicate drug trafficking, trafficking in persons, and organized crime.

2. Environment and Energy

2.1. Depending on the realities of each nation, to promote public policies on agriculture to enhance crop and livestock production, by financing the sector through each country's commercial banks, with support from the central government and international financial and monetary institutions. In this connection, training must be provided to the sector through schools and national centers on the use of clean technologies and improved planting and growing methods that do not damage fertile lands and crops.

2.2. As concerns the promotion of renewable and clean energies, the fundamental issue of food security must not be ignored, since mechanisms for the mass production of biofuels are in place in several member countries—a situation that in the long run disregards the production of nationally consumed goods and results in a single-crop system, which would in turn lead to food shortages and cost increases for products in the basic basket of goods.

2.3. Alternative forms of energy not produced from fossil fuels must be modern and complement any that are obsolete or out of date, in order to benefit to the utmost from resources without creating large amounts of pollution in communities neighboring localities where said energies are produced. In this regard, the production of alternative energies must be sustainable and environmentally friendly.

2.4. To strengthen by 50 percent national environmental legislation and to have each member state include in its laws the right to water and food as a human right, within three years.

2.5. To promote, through governments, by 20 percent the culture of respect for the environment and good living, with a view to guaranteeing sustainable development in each member state.

2.6. To reinforce by 30 percent the resilience of each state, through risk prevention, education and training in environmental matters, and the promotion of good living, within five years.

2.7. To entrust the international financial institutions and the governments of the Hemisphere with providing financial and logistical support for future research on environmentally friendly alternative sources of energy, within a five-year period.

2.8. To strengthen by 50 percent each state's institutions and legal frameworks regarding energy obtained through transnational corporations, with a view to controlling exploitation levels within five years.

3. Education

3.1. To commit to gradually increasing the percentage of resources allocated to the education sector by up to 80 percent of the GDP over the next five years.

3.2. To promote the use of education-related ICTs and Internet access in the region, including the use of innovative measures like online education, by 100 percent in primary and secondary schools over the next five years.

3.3. To develop, over the next five years for 100 percent of teachers currently working in primary and secondary schools, teacher-training and capacity-building programs in the use of educational technologies in the Hemisphere, in keeping with new educational methods.

3.4. To define educational models associating teacher training with the development priorities of the countries of the Hemisphere, in order to increase their competitiveness over the next five years.

3.5. To allocate resources equivalent to 3 percent of the GDP over the next five years to promote research, development, and innovation, so as to foster inventiveness and patents in the region.

3.6. As part of the effort to boost quality education, it is proposed that the academic supply of state and private universities be adjusted to the current labor-market demands and national realities. To this end, within a period not greater than three years, efforts should be made to have guidelines issued through the ministries of education, with support from the secretariats of culture, to the various universities and professional training institutes for inclusion in their academic programs state-of-the-art programs (such as robotics, mechatronics, general mechanics, nanotechnology, etc.) together with comprehensive training for professionals to improve human capital. In this connection, it is important to point out that national efforts should be made to increase the budgets of ministries of education and that part of the increase should help provide financial support to universities, through either equipment or technical training, for the implementation of these programs.

3.7. To promote public policies through the ministry of education and the financial system oversight body, designed to improve sources of financing for students who wish to pursue their academic studies; and to promote regionally (at least in the Spanish-speaking Latin American countries) the establishment of an international institution or agency to govern and issue certain parameters for standardizing criteria/regulations/requirements for future professionals to be granted a licenciatura degree or doctorate, and also to create a mechanism for universities and institutions of higher education to be accredited nationally and internationally, so that the academic degrees they confer may enjoy regional validity and recognition, without having to go through the equivalency process in the respective countries.

4. Health

4.1. To commit to gradually increasing the percentage of resources allocated to the health sector by up to 8 percent of the GDP over the next five years.

4.2. To promote hemispheric public health services so that, over the next five years, they may provide preventive health education and services to 100 percent of the population, with a view to ensuring effective use of the sector's resources.

4.3. To promote the integration of hemispheric health systems through health information systems and allocation of resources over the next five years, in order to increase the efficiency and effectiveness of the services provided.

4.4. To achieve universal access to quality health care. This also entails the need to strengthen the promotion and implementation of preventive health care within society. It is proposed that an even greater investment be made in infrastructure and in medical-hospital and clinical equipment for

health care units. Likewise, ongoing training and education should be provided to physicians and support personnel. This can be done by the central government through the ministry of health, with support from other public institutions (ministry of education, secretariat of culture, secretariat for social inclusion, Pan American Health Organization – PAHO, etc.) and private institutions (NGOs, associations and foundations, universities, private enterprises, etc.), and campaigns on the prevention of various diseases should be waged on a permanent basis without waiting to control them once they have emerged and are affecting the population.

4.5 To create a database of epidemic diseases in the region so that it may be used as a basis for investing in adequate infrastructure and equipment to train health personnel and physicians in general, to ensure that they are up to date in the use of medications and procedures for treating the illnesses that afflict our society year after year.

5. Democratic Governance and Democratic Participation

5.1. To open up opportunities for citizen consultation, taking into account such tools as the “REFERENDUM,” in which the opinion of citizens is considered in matters of interest to them.

5.2. To achieve open government, it is proposed that the plan of action the government presents give more weight to proposals made by civil society, including them in the biennial plan, which means that civil society would have a greater vote in, and impact on, final results. Efforts should be made to do this within a two-year period.

5.3. It is recommended that institutions that supervise government management be strengthened, such as the court of accounts, the institute on access to public information, and the government ethics tribunal, among others, over a period not to exceed three years, so that citizens may have access to the necessary information to ascertain the use of public funds.

5.4. Likewise, it is recommended that more forums be created for civil society to express its ideas and concerns, with a view to achieving human development based on the population’s genuine needs.

5.5. To provide opportunities for young people and similarly, in view of gender considerations, for women to increase their political participation, implementing legislation requiring governments to consider every public policy proposal recommended by organized civil society.

5.6. Consideration should be given to reinforcing regional institutions, which entails strengthening integration mechanisms that generate regional norms and ensuring that agreements taken by said mechanisms are binding on the member states. This initiative should be carried out within a period not greater than five years.

5.7. To strengthen citizen involvement in the election of officials of state oversight bodies, which are currently second-level elections, to guarantee that the officials of such institutions as the court of accounts, the institute on access to public information, and the government ethics tribunal, among others, are well suited for their posts.

Special Recommendations:

1. Within a five-year period, the amount of taxes collected by the member states should be increased through progressive tax reforms, in order to obtain the necessary resources to guarantee the economic, social, cultural, and environmental rights of the people and thus narrow the inequality gap.
2. The states should amend their national legislation to create or increase taxes under an equity-based taxation perspective whereby more can be collected from persons with greater economic capacity.
3. The states must improve their domestic legislation to reduce tax evasion by 80 percent over five years.
4. The states must amend legislation that gives tax benefits to those who are economically able to pay taxes and, over a five-year period, reduce tax avoidance.
5. The states must avoid the purchase of luxury, ostentatious, or unnecessary goods in their public administrations and better channel resources to social programs for the people.

Salvadoran civil society is prepared and committed to collaborating with governments to achieve progress, development, and equity for the peoples of the Americas. We therefore submit these technical recommendations, which we deem appropriate, on the part of the diverse sectors of civil society in which we are involved.

VI. Results of National Consultation with Civil Society and Social Actors in the United States



Recommendations:

1. Education

1.1. To amend the introductory paragraph as follows: “Recognizing that access to a quality education at all levels and modalities is essential for strengthening human capital and thereby attaining prosperity with equity, **and acknowledging the fundamental role of parents in the psychological wellbeing of children and the strengthening of their opportunities that ultimately reduces poverty**, we agree to ...”

1.2. To amend third paragraph as follows: “...with innovative initiatives designed to boost standards of learning at the pre-school, primary, and secondary levels, **including the use of adequate technology in any case**. We call upon the Inter-American Development Bank (IDB) to support this initiative”.

1.3. To add a fourth paragraph with the following information: “To foster an interactive cooperation among all the stakeholders both in public and private educational centers, especially parents and teachers, in order to ensure the respect of the rights enshrined in international treaties such as the Convention on the Rights of the Child.”

2. Health

2.1. To amend the introductory paragraph as follows: “Recognizing that, as **it is inherent in the right to life**, the health of the entire population, **without discrimination**, is an essential condition for economic growth...”

2.2. To reformulate first paragraph as follows: “To work toward the attainment of universal access to health and universal health coverage, **including mental health**, as essential elements in achieving prosperity with equality. To that end, we reaffirm our commitment to the Strategy for Universal Access to Health and Universal Health Coverage...implementation. **These measures should prioritize the needs of persons with disabilities, aging populations, and rural communities.**”

2.3. To amend second paragraph as follows: “To strengthen the ability of national health systems **to prevent and** to respond to outbreaks of emerging infectious diseases and other public health risk, ...”

3. Environment and Energy

3.1. Ensure/Guarantee efficient link with UN’s Sustainable Development goals and the inclusion of the Summit of the America’s outcomes/goals in that parallel negotiation.

3.2. Don’t leave the aspect of funding too abstract / superficial. Only mentioning entities such as CAF, WB, IADB, among others without the real involvement of these goals won’t make any difference.

3.3. Pay more attention to the importance of increasing public awareness and knowledge dissemination among all of our communities and countries.

3.4. Support (more) already existing civil society concrete initiatives and programs before coming up with new projects that duplicate efforts. Identify programs that are working and fund them.

3.5. Support innovative and creative solutions proposed by so many social entrepreneurs in the region.

3.6. Modernize and strengthen the OAS and its bodies.

3.7. Promote more efficient incentives (fiscal) to increase the use of renewable energies in the region

3.8. Align goals among different regions inside the Hemisphere related to climate change and sustainable development topics/issues especially towards Paris-2015.

4. Migration

4.1. To reformulate the first paragraph as follows: “...to continue supporting states **and civil society** in their efforts to establish the economic, **fiscal** and social conditions and improved citizen security **and access to justice.**”

4.2. To amend second paragraph as follows: "...to promote the signing of agreements to enable orderly labor migration flows **and prevent child labor**, in accordance with the laws of each country..."

4.3. To amend third paragraph as follows: "...In addition, to adapt laws to protect the human rights of migrants, particularly those of unaccompanied minors **and supporting and protecting the civil society groups and individuals that work with migrant populations**. In particular, we call upon the International Organization ..."

5. Security

5.1. To reformulate the first paragraph as follows: "...violence and crime prevention. We instruct the Organization of American States to establish such a network **as a result of the VII Summit of the Americas** and to coordinate it."

5.2. To amend third paragraph as follows: "...Inter-American Convention on the Prevention, Punishment, and Eradication of Violence Against Women (Convention of Belém do Pará), **and to take into account the precepts of the Declaration on Violence against Women, Girls and Adolescents and their Sexual and Reproductive Rights**. We instruct the OAS..."

5.3. To amend fourth paragraph as follows: "... and to work to reach a common regional position, **taking into account treatment, rehabilitation and human rights' perspectives**, in preparation for the special session of the United Nations General Assembly..."

5.4 To add a fifth paragraph with the following information: "5. To call upon the Inter-American Network for the Prevention of Violence and Crime to increase the focus of Governments and civil society to address corruption, transparency, systematic mechanisms of accountability and prosecution in necessary cases and to report back annually on its progress, to the OAS Permanent Council."

6. Citizen Participation

6.1. To reformulate the introductory paragraph as follows: "**As stated in the Social Charter of the Americas, we recognize** that people, individually and collectively ..."

6.2. To amend first paragraph as follows: "...and does not only occur in periods leading up to Summits of the Americas. We instruct the OAS to establish and manage the Forum **with appropriate funding mechanisms**."

6.3. To amend second paragraph with the following information: "...To that end, to promote open government and accountability and the right to free access to information as key tools for achieving greater transparency and inclusion. In this context and ..."

6.4. To add a third paragraph with the following information: "To continue encouraging citizen participation including citizen engagement in decision-making processes and community-driven development initiatives in the Americas."

7. Democratic Governance

7.1. To reformulate the introductory paragraph as follows: “**As stated in the Inter-American Democratic Charter**, we recognize that democracy and social and economic development are interdependent and mutually reinforcing and, we agree on the following measures: ...”

7.2. To amend first paragraph as follows: “...to enable the involvement of citizens in the entire public-policy cycle, particularly **by promoting civic education**, democratizing access to information and communication technologies. ...”

7.3. To add a fifth paragraph with the following information: “ To respect, protect and defend human rights especially freedom of association, freedom of expression, freedom of information and freedom of assembly in the Americas and keeping the constructive dialogue on these topics with citizen and civil society organizations..”

7.4. To add a sixth paragraph with the following information: “To increase our efforts in combating discrimination based on race, ethnicity, gender, age, nationality, religion, disability, sexual orientation and gender identity or any other grounds of discrimination. We will sign or ratify the Inter-American Convention against Racism, Racial Discrimination and Related forms of Intolerance and the Inter-American Convention against all Forms of Discrimination and Intolerance.”

VII. Results of National Consultation with Civil Society and Social Actors in Guyana



Recommendations:

1. Education

1.1. Revamp the methodology for teaching to encourage interaction and participation of students at all levels

Include the re-training of teachers through Cyril Potter College of Education (CPCE); allow one (1) year for un-trained teachers to be trained through CPCE; Develop standards for teachers training and professional development.

1.2. Revisiting and implementation of workable policies in technical, science and technology areas:

a) Technical - allow for wood working, hydroponics, electrical, mechanical to be taught from 1st Form.

Need for vocational training in High Schools such as garment construction

b) Science - practical science in primary schools.

- Workable labs
- Equip labs
- Technically trained teachers/professors
- Competitions
- Innovations
- Research
- Modern information/text books

c) Technology - Equip the labs with computers for kids to be taught:

- Coding (software) and graphic arts.
- Information technology in primary schools

1.3. Need for career guidance program to be integrated in the school curriculum:

- Development of a Draft Manual (2 years)
- Holding of National Consultations with stakeholders such as schools, private sector and government.
- Implementation of the curriculum
- Training of teachers through CPCE
- Monitoring and implementation of curriculum
- Apprenticeship program on completion

1.4. Need for entrepreneur curriculum to be integrated in High Schools:

- Commencement from Year 1
- Hands-on training in starting your own business.
- Innovative ideas
- Banks to be user-friendly to Youth (young entrepreneurs) who completed high school

2. Health

2.1. Provision of comprehensive sexual and reproductive health education nationwide from primary school

2.2. Provision of easily accessible, comprehensive sexual and reproductive health services (contraceptives, information on STI's, rape kits, pregnancy tests, etc.) nationwide.

2.3. Ensure that gender-based and domestic violence cases are well documented and included confidentially in a database.

2.4. We recommend that the health system pursue ISO certification, in pursuit of better documentation and management.

2.5. Provision of comprehensive mental health services, inclusive of:

- a) Research
- b) Better data collection and management
- c) Adequate financial resources

Due to the high prevalence of suicide rating in Guyana we feel that increased focus on mental health will help reduce these statistics.

2.6. We recommend that member states take cognizance of traditional and indigenous health remedies and recognize their value to the global bodies, while incorporating them into the health systems of the OAS Member States.

2.7. Provision of comprehensive, basic health education in the school system.

2.8. Ensuring access to health services to venerable populations, including:

- Migrants
- LGBTIQ
- Sex workers
- Orphans and venerable children

2.9. In cases where certain health care services are insufficient or unavailable (whether it be cancer treatment or dental care), citizens of OAS member states should be able to access treatment in other member states where the services are available; or health professionals can travel to countries where the services are lacking. For example, Cuba has good cancer treatment centres.

2.10. In a possible case of disease outbreak and the State deciding on closing of border entry, we recommend the collaboration of both health and security agencies to increase a monitoring system at all points of entry, while having qualified medical practitioners to treat possible cases via quarantine, quickly.

3. Environment and Energy

Within the framework of the Sustainable Energy for All (SE4ALL) Initiative and the linkages between renewable energy and the environment, a concerted effort should be made by countries in

the OAS, at the intergovernmental level, particularly in the Caribbean region to maximize the significant natural advantages available through the widespread use of renewable forms of energy specifically Wind, Solar, Hydro and other innovative forms of energy.

We have noted that access to renewable energy is extremely inequitable particularly in rural regions and has significantly affected the development of many communities. Hence these are several recommendations that we believe are important to ensuring this worrying trend is addressed:

3.1. To aggressively pilot research and development initiatives in the area of renewable energy technologies that are best suited to each country in the region. Specific steps such as appropriating a specific percentage of annual budget to renewable energy research and development.

3.2. Engage the academic community and institutions to be engaged in the pursuit of new and innovative forms of energy. This can be done by providing incentives and opportunities for individuals and institutions to develop locally appropriate energy solutions.

3.3. The countries of the OAS should provide strong and specific support in the following areas:

- a. Energy Entrepreneurship – setting up structures to fund and provide technical assistance to persons or entities interest in making renewable energy a viable business option.
- b. Create/expand facilities which would reward countries that implement and enforce policies that address the reduction of harmful emissions in the environment (e.g. Carbon Credits)
- c. Recommend strongly that building codes in member countries are reviewed, possibly reworked and strongly enforced to ensure energy efficiency in buildings. This can also include the use of energy efficient and environmentally friendly/suitable materials.

3.4. To develop robust regional disaster and risk management plans of actions that are focused on inter-regional cooperation to counteract the effects of natural disasters.

4. Migration

4.1. We consider the general trust of ‘Item 1’ under Migration to be discriminatory particularly the phrase “...populations to become firmly rooted in their countries”. We instead recommend that Item 1 should read:

“...States in their efforts to establish the economic and social conditions needed to generate more and better opportunities for advancement, reducing income inequalities and generating wealth among the poor, thereby eliminating the situation that forces persons to make risky migration decisions.”

4.2. To create a hemispheric evaluation mechanism, similar to CICAD, to conduct periodic assessment on member states compliance in relation to respect for the rights of migrant, and the prevention of smuggling of migrants and trafficking in persons

5. Security

5.1. The OAS to ensure that member states observe human rights practices in law enforcement.

5.2. OAS should encourage government to develop people centred development policy with clear pathways to achieving a more equitable society by improving economic opportunity and access to justice for all people especially youths.

5.3. The OAS set-up a Working Group on Climate Justice to identify and recommend actions against Climate Injustice, paying particular attention to vulnerable groups.

5.4. Set-Up an Inter-American Commission for People of African Descent with the main purpose of improving their economic, financial, social and political development.

6. Citizen Participation and Democratic Governance

6.1. We are of the fervent view that in order to promote credible Democratic Governance within the Hemisphere the issue of Campaign financing must be addressed as a matter of urgency. Current campaign finance conditions in many jurisdictions favor incumbents, stifle grassroots activity, distort and most of all create fertile grounds for individuals and interest groups to influence the outcome of the democratic process.

In this regard we are recommending that the OAS urge member states to strengthen laws where there exist and or adopt modern legislation that will monitor and regulate campaign financing within their respective countries

6.2. To preserve and renew democracy within the Hemisphere citizen participation is critical, thus a conducive environment must be created to nurture, preserve and promote such participation.

In this regard we are recommending that the OAS urge member states to development and implement civic education curriculums within the formal and informal education system in their respective jurisdiction as part of their effort to foster greater citizen participation.

6.3. On numerous occasions the OAS will send observer missions to member states to observe their elections. Most time these missions arrive in the various jurisdiction mere weeks or days before polling day and certify those elections. We are of the view that such time frame is not adequate to allow for a holistic understanding of the entire process and to facilitate an informed conclusion of the elections.

In this regard we are recommending that these missions be dispatch long in advance of those elections to observe the processes leading up to those elections.

To buttress recommendation three and to maximize the use of financial and human resources we are further recommending a collaborative process with other international organization observing the said elections.

VIII. Results of National Consultation with Civil Society and Social Actors in Haiti



Recommendations:

1. Education

The following is recommended:

- To amend the introductory paragraph as follows: “Recognizing that access to an **effective** quality education”
- (Action 2) To amend the following sentence: “. . . . to meet labor market needs, **boost productivity, train good citizens, and combat poverty.**”
- (Action 3) To change the last sentence to read: “. . . . to support this initiative **and promote adequate university education.**”
- To place emphasis not only on secondary education but also on primary and especially pre-school education.
- To facilitate innovative experiences designed to enhance not only preschool, primary, and secondary learning but also learning at the university level.

- To insist on efforts to standardize (i) the period of schooling and (ii) content at the different levels of education (primary and secondary).
- To facilitate the creation of a communication network of regional educational partners.
- To identify and disseminate regional best practices as well as innovative regional educational experiences.
- To effectively promote practical skills in addition to theoretical knowledge in the school environment.
- To favor gender parity as early as the pre-school level as well as at higher levels.
- To enhance the status of technical schools.
- To shore up university cooperation and university exchanges for students as well as for professors.
- To strengthen scholarship programs.
- To focus or refocus on civic education.
- To focus on literacy programs.
- To take stock of teacher training schools and teacher training.
- To emphasize research and development at the university level.
- To insist on developing comprehensive national plans on education.

2. Health

2.1 Action 1: To work toward the attainment of universal access to health and universal health coverage as essential elements in achieving prosperity with equity.

The following is recommended:

- To strengthen governance and the management and leadership capacity of national health authorities in order to influence policies, plans, and legislation and thus facilitate a multisectoral approach to health.
- To develop a national health policy that includes well defined objectives, together with indicators that must be regularly monitored and evaluated, and to strengthen the health information system.
- To increase the budget allocated directly or indirectly to health (include a line item for health in each sector's budget).
- To expand public-private partnerships for improved health coverage and the pooling of resources.
- To coordinate actions taken by both national and international partners working in the health sector under a regulatory body's leadership, so as to avoid duplication and overlap.
- To make well informed choices about intervention strategies in order to better meet the unmet needs of the population in general and of vulnerable groups in particular.
- To appropriately deploy competent human resources who receive ongoing training at all health levels (in both urban and rural areas); to consider incentives (isolated-post allowances, social benefits, to cite just a few), while ensuring that infrastructures considered appealing (schools, power, roads, etc.) are available.
- To improve central and peripheral health-care facilities, in terms of construction and equipment as well as the provision of human, financial, and material resources (regular supply of inputs and other consumables); to update the health map on an ongoing basis.
- To promote a culture of accountability, transparency, and professional responsibility.
- To promote health among the population to prepare it to be better able to manage its own health as well as that of its family members and close friends and assume responsibility for expenditures (establishment of mutual health insurance, fundraising activities to support health facilities).

- To develop a special approach to strategies for access to health services in countries with difficult topography.
- To reinforce strategies, efforts, and public policies to considerably reduce violence against women from a health, social, and safety perspective.
- To create a fund similar to the epidemiological prevention fund to implement “the strategy for universal access to health and universal health coverage.”
- To reformulate the last sentence as follows: “. . . **for its implementation, taking into account the particular situation of certain countries.**”
- To reword the first sentence as follows: “. . . prosperity with equity, **in keeping with democratic governance.**”

2.2. Action 2: To strengthen the ability of national health systems to respond to outbreaks of emerging infectious diseases and other public health risks

The following is recommended:

- To coordinate intervention plans so as to standardize their contextual content and thus avoid their being “diluted” across borders.
- To continue to improve drinking water systems.
- To address the question of recovery from the introduction of cholera.
- To reformulate the last sentence as follows: **It is gratifying that PAHO, the IDB, and the OAS took this initiative and we encourage its continuation and call upon the countries and institutions to contribute to this fund.**

2.3. Insertar una tercera acción: Fortalecer la capacidad para combatir la mortalidad materna e infantil (campaña de sensibilización, reducir la tasa de nacimientos).

3. Energy

The following is recommended:

- (Action 2) To amend the last sentence as follows: “. . . the development of such a system, in close collaboration with national committees.”
- To diversify sources of energy production, including renewable energies.
- To create micro-hydropower plants when deemed necessary.
- To create a national energy interface at ECLAC.
- To define a genuine energy policy.

4. Environment

The following is recommended:

- (Action 3) To add a reference to the technical strengthening of national operational actors
- (Action 3) To include the IDB in addition to IICA and CATHALAC.
- To insert a fifth action on the protection of biodiversity, a systematic reforestation program, and an information and awareness-raising program in environmental education.

5. Migration

The following is recommended:

- To amend the introductory paragraph as follows: Recognizing that poverty is an important factor behind migration in the region and recognizing the . . . contributions
- Insert a fourth action that would include: (i) To call upon the states of the region to respect their international commitments on the rights of both legal and illegal migrants; and (ii) To call for the effective implementation of judgments of the Inter-American Court on the matter, in particular the one condemning the Dominican Republic on the question of Haitian migrants.

6. Security

The following is recommended:

- Action 3) To amend the following sentence: “. . . within the framework of the Inter-American Convention on the Prevention, Punishment, and Eradication of Violence **against vulnerable groups (women, children, persons with physical or mental disabilities, older persons, etc).** As **concerns violence against women,** we instruct the OAS . . . to continue . . . by strengthening the Convention’s follow-up mechanism (**“Convention of Belém do Para”**).
- (Action 1) To clarify and specify the mandate and the nature of the inter-American network for the prevention of violence and crime (exchange of information versus intervention, risks of interference).
- (Action 4) To strengthen drug-control efforts at the regional level (health, judicial, and security).
- To strengthen laws and controls regarding repatriates and deportees, who are often a source of insecurity; to implement a welcome and reintegration system for repatriates following their expulsion (deportees).
- To shore up and promote forensic medicine and forensic services.

7. Citizen Participation

The following is recommended:

- (Action 2) To amend the sentence as follows: “. . . high . . . political costs of corruption **and poor governance**”
- To strengthen laws and establish structures to integrate young people in political affairs.
- To continue to foster access to information.
- To provide training in data collection.
- To invest in technological means of facilitating access to information.
- To narrow the technology gap within countries and among countries in the region.
- To support within the respective countries institutions that assess and reflect on the extent of this gap.

8. Democratic Governance

The following is recommended:

- To reword Action 2 to emphasize the responsibility of states and not the OAS.
- To insert a fifth action: To encourage states to fight effectively against extreme poverty, which is an obstacle to democratic governance and to prosperity with equity.
- To develop better instruments for measuring good governance.
- To provide necessary resources to promote the right to identity in states that lag farthest behind in this area, and to ensure follow-up by the OAS together with national agencies.
- To establish a regional institution to monitor financial flows in order to curb corruption.

Additional Recommendations:

- To amend the introductory paragraph to read: “We, the Heads of State and Government of the Americas, mindful that most of our countries have experienced significant economic and social progress”
- To include a paragraph on “the fight against poverty.”
- To qualify the headings of existing paragraphs instead of simply identifying the sectors concerned. For example, instead of just saying Education or Energy, say “Improving the quality of education” or “Promoting renewable energies.”
- Addition of a specific mandate on justice or inclusion of justice as a cross-cutting theme in other mandates.
- Culture and tourism: Recognizing that the Americas is the world’s richest continent in cultural diversity, which is a legacy of colonization that resulted in a mixing of the indigenous Taino peoples, Europeans, and Africans, it is necessary to transform this unfortunate phenomenon into a resource to be tapped.
 1. To pay special attention to the arts and crafts produced by individuals in the region.
 2. To promote cultural exchange (regional fairs) among the different countries of the region.
 3. To create a regional structure and fund to promote and protect historical and natural heritage.
 4. To ensure protection of the region’s ethnic minorities during large-scale modernization projects.
 5. To strengthen laws on cultural protection and tourism promotion.

- On the Inter-American Civil Society Forum:

Given that the Seventh Summit instructed the OAS to establish and manage this forum, it is recommended that:

1. Appropriate terms of reference be discussed in advance.
2. The methodology chosen for the design and implementation of the forum also be discussed in advance.

IX. Results of National Consultation with Civil Society and Social Actors in the Dominican Republic



General Comments and Recommendations:

1. The document must contain gender-inclusive language (the language now used is non-inclusive and sexist.)
2. With respect to the section on education:
 - Education is presented from a collective perspective based on the premise that everyone has the same profile and potential. However, this is not consistent with reality. The notion of moving toward individualized education is being disregarded.
 - The text refers to education focused on the search for employment and omits citizen preparation and training. The model must include the training of citizens and focus on the development of critical thinking in students.
 - Education is viewed from a policy viewpoint: to address the topic of inequality through the education programs, citizens are needed who understand public policy and are able to avail themselves of their rights and challenge fiscal and judicial policies.
3. Create a section on poverty.
4. Health section
 - Health must be referred to as a human right and not an essential condition.
5. A section should be created on: **Strengthening Guarantees of the Rights of Children and Adolescents** (as established in the various inter-American human rights instruments).
 - Strengthening of mechanisms for protecting children and adolescents against all forms of violence, abandonment, and exploitation.

- Insistence on including a reference to reinforcing comprehensive early-childhood care policies.

Recommendations:

In the introductory paragraph of the “Mandates for Action” document, the participants in the National Consultation in the Dominican Republic made the following change:

“ . . . there are still many unmet needs and great challenges for achieving prosperity **with equity**,^{1/} have resolved”

1. Education

1.1 In the first paragraph under the sub-theme Education, the participants from the Dominican Republic added the following:

“To implement initiatives to improve the quality of education by training teachers **and all actors associated with education** and enhancing their technical skills. In pursuit thereof, to develop standards for ~~teacher~~-training and professional development **of teachers and others**—including identification of skills, competencies, and key practices—and for evaluation of teachers and students, so that the results strengthen educational practices. To instruct the Inter-American Committee on Education to work on this effort, and governments, to continue increasing educational coverage (**including problems related to school desertion, low pass rates, age, and equality in the receipt of school supplies**), **thus facilitating the eradication of discrimination and exclusion**,^{2/} **at all levels** and with quality standards commensurate with the productivity, ~~and~~ innovation, **critical thinking, and human-rights education** needs for our countries’ development”

1.2. In the second paragraph under the sub-theme Education, the participants from the Dominican Republic added the following:

“ . . . and improves the supply of skilled workers ahead of demand, optimizing them to meet labor market needs and boost productivity **and social awareness**. Accordingly, to strengthen technical and vocational education to enable successful transitions from education to the world of work, **achieving universal coverage of this quality educational level**. . . .”

1.3. In the third paragraph under the sub-theme Education, the participants from the Dominican Republic added the following:

“ . . . We call upon the Inter-American Development Bank (IDB) **and the states parties** to support **and follow up on** this initiative.”

^{1.} Thus including vulnerable groups. The term “vulnerable groups” is understood to mean minorities, persons living in extreme poverty, drug-dependent persons, documented and undocumented persons, and patients with infectious, contagious, and/or catastrophic diseases.

^{2.} For reasons of race, ethnic group, disability, teen pregnancy, age, sexual orientation, gender identity, migration status, and under-registration.

1.4. The participants from the Dominican Republic added an additional paragraph, which reads as follows:

To design policies and programs to guarantee universal coverage of comprehensive, scientific, and age-appropriate sex education in public and private schools.

2. Health

2.1. In the introductory paragraph under the sub-theme Health, the participants from the Dominican Republic added the following:

“Recognizing that the health of the entire population is **a human right as it is** an essential condition for economic growth”

2.2 In the second paragraph under the sub-theme Health, the participants from the Dominican Republic added the following:

“. . . Accordingly, we welcome the initiative to create an Inter-American Fund for Preparedness and Response to Emerging Infectious Disease Outbreaks, intended to support the countries in their efforts” [Translator’s note: No changes were needed in English.]

2.3 The participants from the Dominican Republic added the following five additional paragraphs:

- To promote better training on preventive measures in public policies. To understand health as a preventive system that goes well beyond existing situations of disease and pharmaceutical treatments.
- To mention guarantees of health coverage and access for persons in a vulnerable situation (foreigners; migrants, whether legal or illegal), including undocumented persons.
- On health coverage and health guarantees in the workplace, to emphasize the lack of adequate equipment in some jobs that would prevent health conditions (especially in the agricultural and industrial sectors).
- Food control.
- To develop and implement public policies aimed at reducing maternal mortality **rates and at providing access to sexual and reproductive health.**

3. Energy

3.1 In the first paragraph under the sub-theme Energy, the participants from the Dominican Republic added the following:

“. . . clean, renewable-energy use; the adaptation of legal and regulatory frameworks; and promotion of regional integration.”

3.2 In the third paragraph under the sub-theme Energy, the participants from the Dominican Republic added the following:

“. . . to satisfy basic human needs at affordable costs and ensure follow-up by state authorities. . . .”

4. Environment

4.1 In the fourth paragraph under the sub-theme Environment, the participants from the Dominican Republic added the following:

To work to ensure that planning and zoning processes carried out at the national, ~~and~~-subnational, and **transnational** levels include”

4.2 The participants from the Dominican Republic added an additional paragraph, which states the following:

- On corporate responsibility (land use, water, waste management, and environmental liabilities).

5. Migration

5.1 In the first paragraph under the sub-theme Migration, the participants from the Dominican Republic added the following:

To instruct all the institutions of the Joint Summit Working Group (JSWG), particularly the financial institutions, to continue supporting states in their efforts to establish the economic, **political**, and social conditions needed to generate more and better opportunities”

5.2 In the second paragraph, they added the following:

“To develop social dialogue processes at the national and regional levels for the adoption of labor migration policies, actively involving ~~labor~~-ministries **of labor, education, and foreign affairs; civil society organizations; social security and law-enforcement agencies and institutions in countries;** and employers’ and workers’ organizations and, in that context, to promote the signing of agreements to enable orderly labor migration flows, in accordance with the laws of each country **and international human rights law.**”

5.3 In the third paragraph the following was added:

“In particular, we call upon the International Organization for Migration, ~~and~~ the International Labour Organization, **the Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR), and UNICEF** to support this initiative.”

5.4 The participants from the Dominican Republic added a fourth paragraph, which reads as follows:

It is recommended that mechanisms and programs be developed that recognize the cultural, social, and economic contributions of migrants in their destination countries to guarantee their rights, and that agreements be concluded to strengthen their social security, including in their countries of origin.

6. Security

6.1 In the second paragraph under the sub-theme Migration, the participants from the Dominican Republic made the following changes:

“To invest in better data-gathering, in harmonizing statistics, and in strengthening evaluations to better understand the phenomenon and, thus, be better able to address **violence and common and organized crime, so that preventive dynamics may prevail. . . .**”

6.2 In the third paragraph, the participants in the National Consultation in the Dominican Republic added the following:

“To make special efforts to **eliminate domestic** violence against women, particularly through the implementation of effective public policies, training for public officials, and collection of data and statistics”

7. Citizen Participation

7.1 In the second paragraph of the sub-theme on citizen participation, the participants added the following:

“. . . To that end, to promote open government and the right to **public** information as key tools for achieving greater transparency and inclusion.”

7.2 The participants propose that the following additional paragraphs be added under the sub-theme Citizen Participation:

- To guarantee an enabling working environment that includes favorable legal frameworks, financial support to strengthen citizen participation, and general access to public information.
- To instruct the OAS to continue to support countries in following up on the provisions of the international Convention against Corruption, in view of the high social, economic, and political costs of corruption and impunity.
- To take special measures to facilitate women’s political participation.

8. Democratic Governance

8.1 In the first paragraph of the sub-theme on democratic governance, the participants added the following:

“. . . to enable the involvement of citizens in the entire public-policy cycle, particularly **through access to public information and accountability as well as** by democratizing access to information and communication technologies.

8.2 In the second paragraph, they added the following:

“To support multilateral mechanisms that pursue the modernization of electoral institutions in the Hemisphere’s countries, in order to strengthen their capacity to ensure transparency, legality,

legitimacy, and equity in electoral processes, placing particular emphasis on the appropriate regulation of funding for political activities, as a necessary condition for protecting the integrity of elections **and the rule of law**”

8.3 The participants added a fourth paragraph on the sub-theme Democratic Governance:

- To promote the elimination of statelessness by adopting and promoting prevention measures, with technical support from the UNHCR and the Inter-American Commission on Human Rights.

X. Results of National Consultation with Civil Society and Social Actors in Trinidad and Tobago



General Comments:

Participants made the following observation: “lack of focus on housing in the context of poverty”.

Recommendations:

To amend the introductory paragraph with the following information: “... that there are still many unsatisfied needs and great challenges for achieving prosperity with equity **and social inclusion, with particular attention to gender inequality and people with impairments**, have resolved to undertake the following actions...”

1. Education

1.1 To amend second paragraph as follows: “To design and implement public policies and make investments to improve **lifelong learning and livelihoods** through education that prepares young people **and marginalized groups** for the challenges of the future ...”

2. Health

2.1 To reformulate first paragraph as follows: “To work in pursuit of attaining universal access to health and universal health coverage as essential elements in achieving prosperity with equality **including infant and maternal mortality and continued focus on HIV/AIDS**. For that, we reaffirm ...”

3. Energy

3.1 To amend second paragraph as follows: “...for measuring **and monitoring** the situation of energy efficiency and their progress with it, so they can adopt the measures needed to achieve greater coverage **in addition to establishing monitoring agencies to optimize national returns from natural resources**. We instruct ...”

4. Environment

4.1 To amend third paragraph as follows: “To promote the development and implementation of programs to build **community and** national capacities for identifying options for policies ...”

4.2 To reformulate fourth paragraph as follows “...the prevention and mitigation of environmental risks **particularly the effects of climate change on agriculture and coastal communities**. In addition ...”

5. Migration

5.1 To amend third paragraph of the theme of Migration as follows: “...the laws that protect the human rights of migrants, particularly those of unaccompanied minors **and to create appropriate institutional mechanisms to address issues of migrant domestic workers**. In particular, ...”

6. Security

6.1 To add a fifth paragraph with information as follows: “To instruct the UNDP and the OAS to pay greater attention to improving juvenile justice systems.”

7. Citizen Participation

7.1 To add a third paragraph with the following information: “To facilitate increased capacity building of civil society groups in lobbying and advocacy skills for CSOs”.

8. Democratic Governance

8.1 To amend first paragraph as follows: "...chiefly by democratizing access to information and communications technologies, **equitable funding and monitoring mechanisms**. We instruct the OAS to follow up on this topic...."

8.2 To add a fifth paragraph with information as follows: "To instruct OAS to establish a hemispheric network for local governance to allow for greater citizen participation in decision making, eg. Budgeting. Strengthening and building capacities at the Local Governance level and the promotion of CSO inclusion in all levels of governance."

REPORT OF VIRTUAL FORUM WITH CIVIL SOCIETY AND SOCIAL ACTORS THE ROAD TO PANAMA: MANDATES FOR ACTION

(February 6-18, 2015)

I. Introduction

The Seventh Summit of the Americas will take place in Panama on April 10-11, 2015 where the Heads of State and Governments will address the theme “**Prosperity with Equity: The Challenge of Cooperation in the Americas**”.

In preparation for this event, the Summits of the Americas Secretariat and the Department of International Affairs of the Organization of American States (OAS) hosted a second round of activities with civil society and social actors of the hemisphere to formulate recommendations on the document, [Mandates for Action](#) that are being negotiated by States prior to the Summit.

The second round of activities was as follows:

1. **Policy Dialogue:** Open forums in which experts present their perspectives and debate on the theme of the VII Summit, “Prosperity with Equity: The Challenge of Cooperation in the Americas.”
2. **National Consultations** in several OAS Member States.³
3. **Virtual Forum:** This [online space](#) gave participants, who were unable to attend the Policy Dialogue or National Consultations, the opportunity to exchange ideas and offer comments and recommendations on topics related to the Mandate for Action document.
4. **Hemispheric Civil Society and Social Actors Forum | Dialogue between the Heads of Delegation, Civil Society and Social Actors:** This face to face meeting will take place in Panama on April 8, 9 and 10 of 2015, and will allow participants to exchange ideas and experiences on the implementation of the mandates of the Summit, with senior government officials of the Americas.

II. Objective of the Forum

The forum was opened in English and Spanish, from February 6-18, 2015. The virtual forum was focused on the 8 sub-themes of the Summit, detailed in the [Mandates for Action](#) document: **Education, Health, Energy, Environment, Migration, Security, Citizen Participation and Democratic Governance.**

The objective of the forum was to provide civil society and social actor representatives the opportunity to dialogue, as well as offer comments and recommendations to the States on topics related to this document. The moderator for this forum was Luciana Campello Ribeiro de Almeida, a

³ The second round of consultations took place in Argentina, Brazil, El Salvador, USA, Guyana, Haiti, Dominican Republic and Trinidad and Tobago, on February 6, 2015. The Consultations was focused on key themes within the document, Mandates for Action.

researcher from Brazil with extensive experience on issues related to the trafficking in persons, violence prevention and labor exploitation, among others.

III. General synthesis of the forum results

Recognizing the efforts of the Heads of State and Governments of the Americas in addressing the unmet needs and challenges for achieving prosperity with equity, and the commitment of the Summits of the Americas Secretariat and the Department of International Affairs of the Organization of American States (OAS) in launching an online discussion forum to promote and facilitate civil society participation in the preparation of the Seventh Summit of the Americas, this report summarizes the recommendations of civil society representatives on the document Mandates for Action, that is being negotiated by the Member States prior to the Summit.

Bearing in mind that the online discussion forum received contributions from **31 civil society representatives and social actors** based in **13 countries**⁴, this report includes the overall recommendations of participants on the 8 sub-themes of the Summit: **Education, Health, Energy, Environment, Migration, Security, Citizen Participation and Democratic Governance**.

1. Education

1.1. Civil society and social actors welcome the commitment (#1) stated in the document of improving the quality of education by training teachers and enhancing their technical skills. Nonetheless, participants underscored the fact that the quality of education in the Americas depends not only on the training of teachers, but also requires structural reforms that recognize the multiethnic, multiracial and multi-diverse nations in the region, which would lead to changes in the homogeneous and Western educational model; and focus on an inquiry-based learning approach.

1.2. Likewise, physical infrastructure in Education is referred as another pillar for Prosperity with Equity. In the most vulnerable areas, ethnic and rural populations lack access to schools, colleges and universities. It is recommended to strengthen the provision of education in rural areas as well as establish school nutrition programs in rural and other vulnerable areas.

1.3. An additional key commitment in terms of raising the quality of education should be the use of ICTs (Information and Communication Technologies) as learning tools, and to promote knowledge transfer and democratization of scientific knowledge. In this perspective, Heads of State and Governments must invest in adequate infrastructure and advanced training especially for the most vulnerable sectors of the population in need of access to innovative methodologies and technologies. Access to ICTs is inequitable in terms of coverage, quality and sustainability for rural populations and in indigenous territories. The need to establish communication alternatives, using antennas, to cover remote indigenous communities was recommended in terms of coverage connectivity.

1.4. The commitment (#2) to strengthen technical and vocational education to enable successful transitions from education to the world of work was highly approved by civil society representatives. A suggestion here refers to adding a merit-based financial support and initiatives that target low

⁴ Argentina, Bolivia, Canada, Colombia, Guatemala, Guyana, Mexico, Panama, Peru, Puerto Rico, Trinidad and Tobago, USA and Venezuela.

income students considering that the transition to the world of work is important not just for university graduates pursuing highly-skilled professions.

1.5. Civil society representatives welcome the commitment (#3) to invest in an educational research and innovation laboratory for Latin America and the Caribbean. In this perspective, the creation of an inter-nation academic interchange system is recommended to allow students to study in another country in the region.

1.6. A final recommendation was issued, with regards to the urgent need to advance on the consolidation of an Educational Agenda adapted to the reality of African Descent and indigenous communities, establishing specific mechanisms to enhance their access to education, which will help to close the gaps and disadvantages of Education in the Americas, promoting relevant quality education that recognizes the cultural practices and potentialities of ethnic groups, African descents and indigenous communities.

2. Health

2.1. Civil society and social actors welcome the creation of the Inter-American Fund for Responding to Outbreaks of Epidemic Diseases (commitment #2) as it can promote multilateral joint efforts in disease control. In this perspective, the following recommendations were highlighted:

2.2. The public health agencies and health Ministries must be provided with adequate funding to prevent all natural and manmade infectious disease threats.

2.3. Greater investment resources in education and training in the areas of public health preparedness, worker protection, and hospital preparedness.

2.4. Direct funding to the development of innovative new technologies and other protective apparel used to eliminate or minimize exposures to microorganisms that cause infectious diseases.

2.5. The funding should include the creation of collaborative partnerships among public and private entities. There should be a specific hemispheric protocol on quarantines and travel ban policies, which have detrimental effects in terms of encouraging health professionals to fight the disease at its source.

2.6. Finally, the Fund should enhance initiatives focusing on preventative healthcare, including access to affordable, high quality medical services; and greater support for early childhood development.

2.7. Civil society representatives also welcome the initiative toward the attainment of universal access to health and universal health coverage (commitment #1) and emphasize the need to strengthen and implement health services in both in terms of human resources as well as the creation of high technology laboratory in different areas.

2.8. In terms of women's health and in order to attain universal access to health, civil society and social actors emphasize the need to provide quality programs to improve maternal health and reduce mortality rates to women in remote areas by ensuring they get the necessary attention during pregnancy.

2.9. In this perspective, it is recommended that emphasis be placed on the promotion of sexual and reproductive health with a special attention on youth, for the full exercise of their sexual and reproductive rights.

3. Energy

3.1. Civil society and social actors welcome the commitment (#3) to attain universal access to modern energy services by the year of 2022. In this perspective, it is recommended to set a period of one year to establish the development of a Regional Action of Plan to achieve this goal.

3.2. Considering the three commitments mentioned in the document “Mandate for Action”, the addition of a clear commitment to sustainability is suggested, to ensure that energy development be accompanied by economic diversification, sound environmental stewardship and, wherever possible, investment in funds intended to preserve energy wealth for future generations. It is further recommended the enhancement of energy innovations for the benefit of all citizens.

3.3. The design of CDM (Clean Development Mechanism) projects and initiatives of sustainable energy is also recommended as well as the implementation of sustainable energy solutions that prioritize incentives for energy efficiency and decentralize renewable energies such as solar, wind, geothermal and biomass. Social actors emphasized that hydroelectric dams must not be considered as sustainable energy and clean energy sources.

3.4. Finally, social actors urge the Heads of States and Government of the Americas to adopt participatory and transparent processes of decision, in identifying the most appropriate solutions to meet the needs of societies and community options and avoiding harmful and unnecessary projects.

4. Environment

4.1. Civil society and social actors welcome the commitments to preserve and improve the environment and highlight that all efforts must refer to climate change adaptation and mitigation, addressing the commitment to mitigate the impacts of climate change, in compliance with the principle of common responsibilities. In this perspective, it is recommended to investigate the potential impacts of climate change and promote the ecosystem approach for the integrated management of land, preservation of biodiversity and transboundary waters.

4.2. Likewise, civil society representatives urge the Heads of State and Governments of the Americas to push an agenda of Human Rights in the axis of Environment and Climate Change.

4.3. Civil society and social actors also recommend that OAS member states incorporate cultural aspects as strategic elements in designing strategies for the reduction of disproportionate effects of climate change, especially, on vulnerable populations. The originality, knowledge and pluralities of indigenous and afro communities should be recognized as strategies for recovery and sustainability of natural resources.

4.4. In this perspective, the contribution of rural women in the development process through their participation in agricultural activities and conservation of resources must be recognized.

4.5. With regards to the development and implementation of programs to build national capacities for identifying options in the area of sustainable use of water (commitment #3), civil society

representatives recommend the investment in clean technologies and the use of alternative energy sources.

4.6. A final recommendation was made regarding the development of an Intended Regional Determined Contribution in reference to the INDCs (Intended Nationally Determined Contributions), whereby OAS member states would outline regional commitments toward a low-carbon and climate resilient future.

5. Migration

5.1. Civil society and social actors urge the Heads of State and Governments of the Americas to avoid any simplistic focus on reducing migration and recognize the positive aspects of migration.

5.2. In regard to the commitment (#1) of instructing all institutions of the Joint Summit Working Group (JSWG) to continue supporting states in their efforts to establish the economic and social conditions needed to generate more and better opportunities for their populations, it is recommended to focus on enhancing the temporary nature of migration.

5.3. In this perspective, civil society and social actors recommend an additional commitment to enhance opportunities for temporary, legal migration, particularly for young people.

5.4. Civil society actors welcome the commitment (#2) of developing social dialogue processes for the adoption of labor migration policies to promote the signing of agreements to enable orderly labor migration flows, and recommend the development of appropriate measures to ensure an orderly, regular and safe migration, including through bilateral and / or regional agreements strengthening labor mobility as well as the promotion of circular migration.

5.5. In this perspective, the need to promote and protect the human rights of migrants and their families was highlighted. Civil society representatives called on the Heads of State and Governments of the Americas to recognize the human rights of migrants, especially the rights of migrant workers in the domestic legislation of each country as migrants continue to face significant challenges in the labor market, in particular those that are most vulnerable to exploitation such as youth and women.

5.6. In reference to the commitment (#3) of preventing and fighting the smuggling of migrants and trafficking in persons, civil society representatives stressed the call for OAS Member States to develop bilateral agreements and protocols to promote adequate attention and care to victims of trafficking and ensuring the rights of victims and possibility of asylum when appropriate. Additionally, the development of initiatives to forfeit assets of person found guilty of trafficking was recommended as well as using these assets to develop training and economic reintegration scheme to help victims.

5.7. Considering that some migrants are victims of forced displacement and cannot find safety in their home countries, civil society and social actors recommend the identification of countries in the region that might be willing to accept refugees and / or to finance refugee resettlement initiatives. All countries' migration authorities may improve practices for screening and quickly processing migrants who need protection.

5.8. Civil society and social actor also emphasize the need to design better strategies to combat and prevent the smuggling of migrants, with clear distinction from trafficking in persons at national and regional levels.

6. Security

6.1. Civil society and social actors highlighted the need to develop initiatives to reduce violence against children, adolescents and the youth.

6.2. An additional measure recommended by civil society and social actors referred to the need to define and differentiate incarceration from juvenile rehabilitation as well as to develop employment strategies for marginalized youth and at risk in urban centers.

7. Citizen Participation

7.1. Civil society representatives welcome the commitment (#1) to establish an Inter-American Forum of Civil Society and Social Actors. The Forum shall constitute the starting point to articulate, interact and monitor public policies and democratic governance in the Americas.

7.2. In this perspective, it is recommended to establish of meaningful, accountable mechanism for engaging social actors in most vulnerable situations such as youth, women, Afro descendants, indigenous and aboriginal peoples. Likewise, promoting gender equality and the empowerment of women is pivotal to accelerating the process of social development and citizen participation.

7.3. In regards to the commitment (#2) to facilitate new forms of citizen participation through the use of technology, the development and dissemination of accessible, user friendly information and data is recommended.

7.4. A third recommendation was made to enhance accountability and create channels for social groups to be heard, including the possibility for faith-based organizations to participate and contribute to the forums.

7.5. Likewise, civil society representatives recommend that the OAS compiles a list of organizations and inform them of upcoming events and meetings, where social actors can communicate either directly in virtual forums or communicate their suggestions and recommendations to their local OAS Office. An alternative to the use of virtual forums would be local preliminary meetings. In this perspective, social actors urge that all local offices of the OAS be the key link to all registered and interested civil society organizations and social actors in order to increase co-operations, participation and effectiveness.

8. Democratic Governance

8.1. The commitment (#2) to support modernization mechanisms of electoral institutions, in order to strengthen their capacity to ensure transparency is highly supported by civil society representatives. In this perspective, participants recommend for an amendment to prevent vote buying and regulate private contributions as well as political propaganda.

8.2. Civil society actors also believe that it should be an absolute priority of Heads of States and Governments of the Americas to focus on provisions regarding the need to respect the rights and interests of all groups, and pay particular attention to equity in electoral processes.

8.3. Civil society and social actors welcome the commitment (#4) to establish and monitor indicators to assist countries in enhancing their democratic institutions. The following topics and indicators are suggested for inclusion:

1. Integrity and conduct in public life;
2. Financial management;
3. Management styles;
4. Productivity levels;
5. Familiarity with OAS documents/guidelines;
6. Level of volunteerism;
7. Levels of Inclusive Governance.

8.4. Finally, civil society representatives urge the Heads of State and Governments of the Americas to include very concrete commitments to transparency, publishing audited public accounts at all levels of government, and publishing periodic evaluations of government initiatives.

9. General/crosscutting recommendations

9.1. In addition to the 8 sub-themes of the Summit, civil society and social actors highlighted general recommendations that should be included in the “Mandate for Action” document.

9.2. All measures and commitments assumed by the Heads of State and Governments of the Americas shall be governed from a human rights perspective and take into account gender, age and ethnicity as essential to achieve prosperity with equity.

9.3. Civil society and social actors urge the Heads of the State and Governments of the Americas to respect and accommodate the needs of over 200 million Afro descendants on equal terms as those provided to Indigenous peoples and the rest of society in the Americas. In this regard, a special request was made to the Secretariat of the Summits of the Americas, to launch the Hemispheric Forum on Afro descendants at the Seventh Summit of the Americas. In the framework of the Seventh Summit of the Americas, different social organizations emphasized the need to focus on addressing social inequities for the most disadvantaged and combating racism and racial discrimination, which are the main driver of inequality and invisibility of Afro descendants in the Americas. In this perspective, civil society and social actors call on OAS Member States to sign and ratify the Inter-American Convention against Racism, Racial Discrimination and Related Intolerance, as a true instrument for the consolidation of democracy.

9.4. Finally, taking into account the different concepts mentioned in the document, a recommendation was made to include a glossary of terms in the preamble of the “Mandate for Action” document.



CIVIL SOCIETY AND SOCIAL ACTORS HEMISPHERIC FORUM PANAMA, APRIL 8-10, 2015

CONCLUSIONS

The civil society organizations meeting in Panama City on April 8-10, 2015 hereby present to the Presidents and Heads of State of the Americas the conclusions of the Hemispheric Civil Society Forum held within the framework of the Summit of the Americas, in Panama, 2015.

The recommendations were the fruit of two days of deliberations and dialogue in seven panels on a variety of topics.

EDUCATION

Education and Culture

Recognizing that high quality education and culture are human rights that should be prioritized from early childhood on, we propose the following to the governments of the Hemisphere:

Establishment and Implementation of Public Policies

- Without political will, there will be no progress in the development of our peoples. States are therefore duty-bound to guarantee the provision of comprehensive, liberating education, with equity and dignity, and without any discrimination or exclusion of any kind.
- States should render accounts each year and set concrete targets for narrowing today's gaps. Their rendering of accounts needs to include specifics, evaluation of institutions, and follow-up.
- Education will serve to restore the historical memory, culture, and identity of peoples. Public policies need to be in sync with social policies, civic education, and sustainable development.
- Together with society, States will establish a Hemispheric Forum for Education that will meet in each country on a standing basis, along with an educational observatory to monitor progress.
- The proposals it puts forward need to be mindful of inclusion, equity, inclusive family participation, and adult and early education geared to fostering a culture of peace.

Dissenting comment: "Family" should read: fathers, mother, and guardians.

Inclusive Education and Culture

- [We recommend] That States commit to education and culture for the all-round development of human beings.
- That they integrate the family into the teaching and learning process, proactively, and welcoming its suggestions for the education of the children.

- That values be imparted that conveys the responsibility of parents and society in the forging of a multi-cultural and multi-ethnic State.
- Eliminating all forms of discrimination, as required by international instruments, be they based on cultural identity, race, social class, belief, religion, sexual orientation, disability, abilities, skills, gender identity, ethnic origin, age, migration status, nationality, cultural origins, subculture, marital status, language, profession, political position, state of health, wage inequality, pregnancy, or genes.
- Access-friendly infrastructure, based on global standards.
- Age-appropriate education about sexuality and emotions.
- Guaranteeing access to information, communication, alternative media and implementation of the Marrakesh Treaty to Facilitate Access to Published Works for Persons Who Are Blind, Visually Impaired or Otherwise Print Disabled.
- Re-examining and updating curricula at every level.
- Decentralized planning of educational establishments.
- More in-depth environmental education.
- Validation of the knowledge acquired through non-formal education.

Dissenting comment: Include both traditional and nontraditional families in the teaching-learning process.

Teacher Training

- Determine what needs to be done to ensure comprehensive initial teacher training: specific training and the implementation of mechanisms for acknowledging future educators' vocations. The media need to play an important part in this. The training imparted needs to be of a very high level and demanding with respect to both theoretical and practical aspects, the use of new technologies and best practices, as implemented by the countries in the region through pedagogical conferences. The idea is to train "inclusiveness-conscious" teachers.
- Ongoing training and teacher evaluation should be based on quality indicators derived from the identification of skills, competencies, and key practices.
- The evaluation mechanisms need to be participatory and they should be conducted by teachers, administrative staff, and families. The findings of the evaluation should be used to provide feedback for teacher training needs.

Investment

In this case, investment is construed to mean equitable distribution of human, financial, and technological capital, in such a way as to guarantee equal opportunity and capacity through:

- Sustainable infrastructure with high-quality, basic, Twenty-First Century services.
- An increase in the GDP subject to impact assessment and accountability.
- Sustained enhancement of teaching as a career with high social status.
- Social coordination of all the actors involved to ensure that priority is accorded to education and culture as catalysts for social change.

We urge the Presidents and Heads of State -- as a manifestation of their determination to fulfill the mandates of the Summit of the Americas in Panama, 2015 -- to propose to the governments represented at said Summit that, in the next three months, they submit to the SIRG the targets to be met for each mandate over the next three years, so that citizens can monitor their progress and hold governments accountable before the next Summit.

HEALTH

At the Civil Society Forum held during the 7th Summit of the Americas, the members of the Working Group on HEALTH, representing 16 countries, have voted on and agreed to send the following recommendations to the participating heads of state:

1. Civil society **DENOUNCES** that a high percentage of the population in the regions states lack basic health care. **WE DEMAND** respect for health as an inalienable human right and compliance with the state's responsibility of guaranteeing universal, free, and equitable access to health care, without discrimination or stigmatization of any kind, based on preventive and community medicine, and to safe treatments to guarantee quality in health with respect for interculturality and with protection for vulnerable groups.
2. **WE DEMAND** that states manage the financial resources earmarked for health with transparency and that they give society due account of the planning, use, management, and results thereof. This will be achieved by implementing a monitoring and evaluation system to allow compliance and progress with baseline indicators to be measured.
3. **STRENGTHEN** international, multisectoral, and interdisciplinary cooperation to deal with emergency situations, disasters, and epidemic outbreaks, and in comprehensive attention for the entire population, encouraging the participation of organized civil society.
4. **GUARANTEE** universal access to drinking water and the protection by the state of water resources.
5. **PRIORITIZE** the comprehensive protection of health and nutrition for mothers and babies through education, promotion, prevention, and care strategies.
6. **GUARANTEE** access to sexual and reproductive health with a rights-based approach for all persons.
7. **WE RECOMMEND** that states take the steps necessary to prevent smuggling of medicines, which threatens the lives of citizens.

We therefore request that the states, at the next Summit, present a report on progress with health issues, with these RECOMMENDATIONS, and with the agreements of this Summit.

ENVIRONMENT, ENERGY, AND SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT

We, the members of the Panel on Energy, Sustainable Development and Environment of the Seventh Summit of the Americas, having gathered in Panama City, Panama, on April 10, 2015, pursuant to the mandates agreed upon for this historic summit, have reached consensus on the following:

We affirm that in order to attain a high level of human development it is necessary to foster environmental sustainability in the economic activities and public policies of States, as well as

alignment of markets and social actors in the interests of ensuring the sustainability of life on the planet.

We propose that the governance of countries be oriented toward the sustainable use of ecosystems and species.

We request that the human right to a healthy environment be observed, in particular for indigenous peoples, rural communities, and people of African descent, as the basis of environmental good governance in countries; we demand genuine free and informed prior consultation and their consent with regard to extractivist activities and megaprojects in our hemisphere.

We demand an end to environmental racism and criminalization of the work of activists by states and large corporations—particularly transnational ones—especially that done in defense of the most fragile ecosystems and the most vulnerable populations.

We recognize community-based watchdogs as an oversight, monitoring, and reporting mechanism. We also request the creation and funding of a hemispheric civil society agency to monitor compliance with environmental standards, with authority to take up complaints and to issue technical and scientific recommendations.

We acknowledge that climate change is the main environmental threat to sustainable development in the Americas. We urge governments to participate in COP21 (Paris 2015) and to adopt binding and effective commitments to mitigation, adaptation, risk management, financing, development, and technology transfer in keeping with their historical responsibilities. We also ask that States and multilateral finance institutions align all their actions in order to address climate change effectively. We demand the elimination of unilateral business and financial activities that undermine how climate change is confronted.

We reiterate that equitable access to water is a human right and, therefore, that preserving, restoring and protecting aquifer recharge areas as the basis of the water cycle is a priority for meeting human needs, particularly where food production is concerned. We request that governments implement environmental sanitation programs as a critically urgent strategy for protecting water sources.

We urge governments, multilateral finance institutions, international agencies and public and private actors to implement sustainable-energy systems as a strategy for modifying consumption patterns and averting ecosystem degradation, while simultaneously diversifying the energy matrix, facilitating community-based generation and co-generation of clean energy.

Advancing this agenda requires strengthening environmental cooperation, education and research actions under an equity-aware perspective.

We regard all of the above as essential steps in joint environmental stewardship for ensuring prosperity with environmental equity for current and future generations throughout the Hemisphere.

SECURITY

States must recognize that security is a concern for individuals because it affects their daily lives and overall development, as well as the effective fulfillment of human rights. Governments must guarantee protection against chronic threats, such as hunger, disease and violence in all forms, while abiding by the principle of self-determination and sovereignty of peoples, and preventing violation of their rights, either by their governments or other states.

States should recognize that prevention, particularly of social inequality, is critical to public policies on security. We recommend the reduction of inequity through the generation of decent work, quality education, the fostering of a culture of peace, and the declaration of the entire Americas region as a zone of peace. In a participatory democracy the functional family is the engine of prevention, and the State its guarantor.

We recommend the adoption of prevention policies on use of the Internet and social media as vehicles for spreading hate speech, while safeguarding freedom of expression.

We recommend the creation of the position of Rapporteur on Human Security, who would be elected in consultation with civil society organizations, in order to follow up and promote institution-building in States in a framework of independence, legality, and respect for human rights, with a view to monitoring public policies on security, identifying their initial effects and impacts, and measuring criminality.

The freedom of human-rights defenders to carry out their work should be facilitated and guaranteed, as should protection for victims of crime, witnesses, and whistleblowers.

States must recognize that people deprived of their liberty are possessed of rights, and should apply best correctional practices, eradicating torture and cruel, inhuman and degrading treatment. We demand that States make sure that no one else dies due to violence and lack of medical assistance. We request that States allow the IACHR to conduct visits to assess prison conditions and ensure that prisons are genuine reintegration facilities managed with a commitment to lawfulness and human rights.

Dissenting comment 1. We recommend the development of protocols and mechanisms that would allow the creation of a regional DNA and anti-trafficking in person's database.

Dissenting comment 2. Some members of the panel expressed disagreement with the majority proposal concerning prevention policies on use of the Internet as a vehicle for spreading hate speech.

MIGRATION

We approach migration with a rights-based approach and we therefore propose comprehensive public policies that address points of origin, transit, destination, and return, created and implemented with the participation of civil society and other stakeholders, with adequate budgetary allocations.

The interculturality that enriches our peoples must be promoted and respected. All forms of discrimination and xenophobia – particularly by reason of nationality, professional qualifications, sexual orientation, gender identity, race, political preferences, beliefs, and religion – are inadmissible.

We suggest policies to address mixed migratory flows. The greatest challenge is to produce a model that can guarantee employment and allow mobility and human security, respect for and the maintenance of labor rights, and support for small economies, while demanding greater regional integration and endogenous development processes.

The following are among the premises that states should consider:

- States should avail themselves of information and research to update their policies and laws and to modernize the management of migration in order to make it ethically and socially responsible.
- Establish accessible and swift regularization processes.
- That includes agreements between countries to promote labor mobility, such as circular flows, while respecting rights guarantees and the precepts of family reunification.
- Create appropriate national mechanisms to protect such vulnerable groups as human trafficking victims, unaccompanied children, asylum seekers and refugees, etc.
- States should refrain from enacting laws or maintaining practices that create statelessness and, in general, any legislation that is in violation of the obligations they have assumed under international agreements.

We urge the strengthening of access to justice at both the national and international levels; thus, we call for the decisions of international agencies, such as the IACHR and the Inter-American Court, to be timely, effective, and binding and to be complied with to the benefit of at-risk populations, with the creation of permanent monitoring procedures.

CITIZEN PARTICIPATION

PANEL'S RECOMMENDATIONS

In light of the weakened exercise of democracy, we ask the states to effectively recognize civil society and citizen participation as fundamental human rights. That recognition must be expressed through the creation and improvement of legal frameworks, along with their corresponding institutional mechanisms and forums for training in values and civic capacities, which must start from early childhood.

Guarantee the right to and respect for inclusive citizen participation, free of all forms of discrimination, with consideration of the following groups: people with disabilities, lesbians, gays, bisexuals, and transgender and intersex people (LGBTI), people working to defend life and the family, sex workers, women, indigenous peoples and people of African descent, senior citizens, youth, members of organized religions, and political pluralism.

We believe that the following are imperatives for our democracies:

- Strengthening their institutions and the legitimacy of governments elected by means of free, plural, direct, fair, and transparent elections.

- Implementing binding mechanisms for public consultation, such as plebiscites and referendums.
- Protecting the due independence of the branches of government.
- Ensuring regulatory frameworks that guarantee transparency in public information, the right of free association, and universal access to information, and that protect the right of peaceful demonstration without repression.
- Institutionalizing permanent working forums between authorities and civil society.
- Creating accountability mechanisms in the public administration.
- Promoting the development of democratic ethics in the Americas through the implementation of formal and informal education programs that encourage free, informed, and responsible participation.

We therefore recommend creating, without any limitations on participation and with the guaranteed inclusion of all persons, the Permanent Inter-American Forum of Civil Society and Social Actors, to provide a continuous process of consultations, recommendations, and proposals, together with follow-up of the implementation of the agreements reached. We instruct the OAS to establish a participatory mechanism for the design and implementation of the Permanent Inter-American Forum of Civil Society and Social Actors.

DEMOCRATIC GOVERNANCE

Considering peace as a vital aspect of democratic governance in the Hemisphere, where a marked deterioration in human rights and a weakening of democracy coexist, we propose:

Hemispheric Level

1. To call on the OAS to fulfill its role as guarantor democracy and respect for human rights.
2. The creation of a special rapporteurship for democracy, under the IACHR, providing it with effective mechanisms for monitoring and compliance with the principles of the Inter-American Democratic Charter and integrity of elections.
3. To create a civil society forum as a mechanism for dialogue with the OAS Permanent Council.
4. To commit to strengthening the inter-American system (IAHRS) by abiding by its decisions, giving it needed resources, and getting all countries to ratify the American Convention on Human Rights.
5. To really commit to ensuring inclusion, equality, and non-discrimination; and to urge states of the Americas that has not signed the Inter-American Convention against Racism, Racial Discrimination, and Related Forms of Intolerance to do so.
6. To recognize, protect, and respect the work of human rights defenders and to adopt an American Declaration to that end.

National Level

1. To establish mechanisms to ensure ongoing dialogue between civil society and governments toward effective citizen participation in defining public policies and building citizenship and a culture of peace from childhood.
2. To establish mechanisms for an independent and autonomous judiciary and eradication of

corruption and impunity.

3. To call on governments to pursue foreign policy based on international law and the United Nations Charter, real separation and independence of the branches of government, and peaceful settlement of disputes; to stop criminalizing social protest, stop police abuse, racial profiling, and arbitrary arrests; and to release political prisoners.
4. To create synergy between institutions and oversight bodies in order to foster good governance based on accountability.
5. To demand of governments a more equitable distribution of wealth and sources of income that enable full access to basic services, quality education, and decent housing and work.

REPORT ON THE VIRTUAL FORUM WITH CIVIL SOCIETY AND SOCIAL ACTORS IN FOLLOW-UP TO THE SEVENTH SUMMIT OF THE AMERICAS

(March 7 - 31, 2016)

I. Introduction

The Seventh Summit of the Americas was held in Panama City on April 10 and 11, 2015, at which the Heads of State and of Government addressed the theme **“Prosperity with Equity: The Challenge of Cooperation in the Americas”** and focused their discussions on education, health, energy, the environment, migration, security, citizen participation, and democratic governance.

To follow up on the Seventh Summit, the Summits of the Americas Secretariat organized a virtual forum with civil society and social actors from the Hemisphere through the Summits Virtual Community.

II. Purpose of the virtual forum

The virtual forum was held from March 7 to 31, 2016, in English, Spanish, French and Portuguese. The virtual discussion addressed the eight subtopics of the Summit, detailed in the document **“Mandates for Action”: Education, Health, Energy, Environment, Migration, Security, Citizen Participation, and Democratic Governance.**

The purpose of the forum was to provide representatives of civil society organizations and social actors with an opportunity to hold a dialogue, share best practices, network with representatives from organizations from all over the region, and offer observations and recommendations to the OAS member states on topics related to the document.

The forum’s moderator was Luis Egusquiza, a Peruvian lawyer whose areas of expertise include political and electoral reform. Mr. Egusquiza is both a professor at the Peruvian University of Applied Sciences and coordinator of the Policy Dialogue Program at the International Institute for Democracy and Electoral Assistance (IDEA).

III. General summary of the results of the forum

Recognizing the efforts of the Heads of State and Government of the Americas in addressing unmet needs and confronting obstacles to prosperity with equity, as well as the commitment of the Summits of the Americas Secretariat to promoting and facilitating participation by civil society and social actors in the Summits of the Americas process, this report summarizes the recommendations of the forum’s participants on the aforementioned topics.

The virtual forum received contributions from **28 representatives of civil society organizations and social actors in 12 countries.**⁵ It is also important to mention that of the participants in the virtual forum **13 (46 %) were women and 15 (54%) were men.**

⁵. Argentina, Bolivia, Canada, Colombia, Guatemala, Guyana, Mexico, Panama, Peru, Puerto Rico, Trinidad and Tobago, United States, and Venezuela.

1. Education

1.1. Recognizing that teacher training and pay are among the underlying problems that affect education, civil society and social actors particularly emphasized the need to invest in training and improve salaries for this sector of the population.

1.2. Civil society and social actors recommend updating and diversifying curricular content in public education as well as strengthening competency-based education and modernizing behaviorist education methods.

1.3. Enrich education through an environmental approach with a holistic vision of natural-resource conservation in the Hemisphere.

1.4. Advocate the need to incorporate new approaches that reinforce the pluricultural and inclusive nature of education so that the lore and cultural legacies of indigenous peoples are welcomed, in addition to highlighting the existence of communities such as the LGBT community and education policies with a gender perspective.

2. Health

2.1. Civil society and social actors reaffirm that universal access to health is a priority for the region's development. The need is underscored to invest in public health facilities, in terms of both infrastructure and the purchase and maintenance of equipment.

2.2. Health sector workers should be paid a decent wage and oversight mechanisms should be introduced for the procurement and management of inputs such as surgical and medical supplies and drugs.

3. Energy and the Environment

3.1. Civil society and social actors also drew attention to the need to change the energy mix to cleaner, environment-friendly sources.

3.2. It is recommended that a commitment to technology transfer and support for sustainable development be adopted.

3.3. The importance was underscored of investing in educational research and projects aimed at creating renewable-energy technologies.

4. Migration

4.1. Civil society and social actors recommend that immigration rules be modernized to ensure the rights of migrants and their options for advancement. The importance was emphasized of viewing the migration phenomenon not only from the point of view of control, but also in a way that takes account of the social problems that it implies, since that can lead to the fundamental rights of the migrant population being overlooked.

4.2. As regards the advancement opportunities that exist for migrants, at present there are not enough arrangements in place to facilitate the migration process for professionals. In that regard, civil society and social actors urge the Heads of State and Government of the Americas to establish inter-university agreements, approved by education ministries, in order to facilitate migration processes for professionals.

5. Indigenous Peoples

5.1 The need was also stressed to recognize and value indigenous peoples, acknowledge their values and interests, and respect their historical presence.

5.2. Civil society representatives and social actors also call on OAS member states to adopt public policies that expressly address indigenous peoples. They underscored that it is vitally important to establish forums and rules to include this sector's participation in politics through representation. Taking into account their diversity, each country should establish rules that better ensure their representation.

5.3. In the area of education, it is recommended that indigenous peoples be assisted in developing the necessary capacities and knowledge to allow them to operate easily in a culturally diverse and interactive society as consciously interdependent stakeholders.

6. Citizen participation

6.1. Civil society and social actors recommend that virtual interaction forums be continued and on-site dialogue forums promoted. Such forums encourage the participation of governments, civil society representatives, and social actors from all the countries of the Hemisphere, as well as other actors; they also serve to follow up on decisions, pronouncements, reports, and documents of the Summits of the Americas.

7. Democratic Governance

7.1 The need is underscored for follow-up on measures that benefit the people of the Americas, who aspire to greater participation in the decision-making process at the political level.

7.2. Civil society organizations and social actors stress the importance of the Inter-American Democratic Charter. They also recommend promoting its implementation so as to have in place reliable rules and mechanisms for its application; in other words, codified considerations that establish what circumstances come into play in enforcing the agreements and penalties set forth in the Democratic Charter. It is emphasized, furthermore, that penalties on authoritarian governments, even if only declarative, are highly positive. The importance is also stressed of the role of OAS electoral observation missions.



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