



# **V SUMMIT OF THE AMERICAS PREPARATORY PROCESS**

## **Private Sector Subregional Consultations**

**December, 2008**

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**Introduction**

The Organization of American States General Secretariat, through its Department of Trade and Tourism (DTT) and the Summits of the Americas Secretariat, in coordination with the Trinidad and Tobago National Secretariat for the V Summit, organizes a series of consultations with the private sector with a view to promoting its participation in the V Summit process<sup>1</sup>.

In 2006, OAS Member States adopted the General Assembly Resolution 2244 “Promotion of Private Sector Participation in OAS Activities”, which called for the continued dialogue with the private sector and strengthening the means of dialogue with that sector, at the national level, in OAS activities, and in the Summits of the Americas process. OAS Member States agreed to “continue supporting the dialogue with the Ministers of Foreign Affairs before the inaugural sessions of the OAS General Assembly and the Summits of the Americas, so that the private sector may make recommendations, including proposed initiatives related to the topic of the Assembly or Summit and directed at the member states and the OAS.”

The consultations with the private sector were organized through coordinators representing the institutional private sector structures within the integration groupings as well as regional business associations:

**Caribbean**

Caribbean Association of Industry and Commerce (CAIC)

**Central America, Panama and the Dominican Republic**

Federation of Chambers of Commerce of Central America (FECAMCO)

**Southern Cone**

Business sector of the Economic-Social Consultative Forum of Mercosur (FCES)

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<sup>1</sup> This process of consultations with the private sector was made possible with the financial support of the United States Government and the organization Private Sector of the Americas.

**North America**

Council of the Americas

**Andean Region**

Andean Consultative Business Council

Inputs were also requested from the Business Technical Advisory Committee on Labor Matters (CEATAL), the Latin American Business Council (CEAL), the Latin American Organization for the Micro, Small and Medium Enterprises (OLAMP) and the Latin American and Caribbean Association of Information Technology Entities (ALETI).

The coordinators received the draft Declaration of Commitments of Port of Spain accompanied by a brief survey (see annexes 1 and 2) to guide the discussions and the recommendations within each subregion or organization.

This document includes the inputs from the following organizations:

- √ Federation of Chambers of Commerce of Central America (FECAMCO)
- √ Caribbean Association of Industry and Commerce (CAIC)
- √ Council of the Americas
- √ Latin American Business Council (CEAL)
- √ Business Technical Advisory Committee on Labor Matters (CEATAL)
- √ Latin American and Caribbean Association of Information Technology Entities (ALETI)

Inputs from the Andean Consultative Business Council, the business sector of the Economic-Social Consultative Forum of Mercosur and OLAMP are being prepared and will be distributed in a new document to be circulated among countries as soon as they become available.

In addition to the sub-regional consultations, a virtual consultation will be launched shortly through the Summit of the Americas Virtual Platform.

For additional information, please contact:

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**CONSULTATIONS  
CARIBBEAN  
CAIC**

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## **Recommendations of the Caribbean Association of Industry and Commerce (CAIC)**

### **CEO: Carol Ayoung**

The information contained in this document was compiled based on responses received from the Caribbean private sector. The Caribbean Association of Industry and Commerce undertook the responsibility of conducting sub-regional consultations with the private sector.

#### **ITEM 1: Promoting Human Prosperity**

##### **1. What are the greatest challenges in the Americas related to human**

**prosperity?**

- Crime
- Natural disasters
- Poor government leadership
- Grave Technological divide
- Current global financial crisis
- Breaking the vicious cycle between economic growth in developing countries and the increased demand for energy which is consumed in an inefficient and environmentally unfriendly manner
- Poverty
- Contractual Literacy/Education

##### **2. What should the goals of our governments and private sector be with regards**

**to:**

- **Decent employment**
  - Implement effective Industrial Relations practices / ratify ILO conventions
  - Maximize the percent of the population that is employable and has access to employment. Education, training and on-the-job skills development is essential
  - Sustainable employment via productive work with the opportunity/facilitation to train/retrain or further study thereby creating some degree of social mobility

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- **Health, wellness and nutrition**
    - Improve management and delivery of health services
    - Increase awareness in health education
    - To promote mental health and a healthy lifestyle, which would permeate into a healthy work ethic thereby generating greater levels of productivity and sustainability for all
  
  - **Access to quality education**
    - Recruit and adequately train all current and new teachers according to the needs of the 21<sup>st</sup> century
    - Provide greater access to education via scholarships etc.
    - Integrate IT into the curriculum at all levels in the education system
    - Ensure that all children receive education up to high school diplomas
    - Ensure that anyone who wants to attain a tertiary education should have access to institutions to do so
    - Free education, inclusive of tertiary education, must include the life skills necessary for survival in the field of work; discipline, self respect; healthy lifestyle etc. It may be note worthy to open up education services in our region, such that other international institutions can offer educational options. Competition can breed a high degree of efficiency in our present schooling system. Scholarship programs must be enhanced, both the private sector and public sector must provide such with built in mechanisms to have these trained individuals return and offer their services to the country.
  
  - **Overcoming inequity and promoting social cohesion**
    - Draft and implement and enforce necessary Equality Legislation
    - Embrace diversity in the workplace
    - Provide opportunities for disadvantaged or disenfranchised to improve their station in life
    - Outlaw all forms of discrimination
    - This is a difficult ask, especially given this country's plural society. One is tempted to argue that this may never be totally eliminated or eradicated. The goal could therefore be pre-emptive in nature: - a no tolerance policy to any and all forms of discrimination via the necessary mechanisms, legislation etc. Education is also a key in addressing this perennial problem.
  
  - **Fostering innovation and entrepreneurship**

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- Increase public and private participation in research, development and innovation activities
  - Recognize and reward institutions on a national level for innovation and entrepreneurship
  - Facilitation in the form of investing in education (science and technology), science fairs
  - Revisiting the curriculum in the school system. Mentorship and entrepreneurship training in the work force
  - Sponsorships and scholarships for budding entrepreneurs so that ideas can become reality and imagination and dreams can be fulfilled
- **Business climate**
    - Improve transparency and accountability policies and operations
    - Introduce fiscal and other policies that will provide the development of SMEs (Single Market Economies)
    - Foster ethical and competitive practices
    - Gear towards productivity with the public, private and labor constituencies recognizing the importance of collaborating on this topic to achieve national competitiveness
    - This is a general area that requires revisiting the productivity issue. It is important as a nation that productivity levels are maintained for the very least. It is important to create an enabling environment that would foster this growth and development. This speaks to trade facilitation issues, address crime and other social ill effects that impact on the business climate. Education again is the key.
- 3. What should the private sector commit to doing towards achieving these goals?**
- Where necessary, provide funding, advice and or expertise.
  - Commit to doing its part to provide On the Job Training (OJT) and other forms of training, promote wellness and provide the facilities and opportunities for doing so
  - Make investments and promote entrepreneurship with their companies and conduct business in an ethical manner
  - The private sector should partner with the Government, not necessarily exclusively in the area of providing funds, however, job placement, mentorship programs, framing and influencing general business curriculum, providing scholarships and exchange programs with workers in the public sector.

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**4. What is the role of public-private partnerships in addressing these goals?**

- A fundamental role to ensure all stakeholders are involved...
- Forge public-private partnerships for defining educational objectives that meet the needs for the workforce for the future. Partnership should also extend to laws/regulations and enforcement, as well as public institution functions that would support improved national productivity
- Both parties have to be on board from the policy formulation stage to the implementation stage. What is lacking is that in most instances the private sector are only included in the implementation and advocacy part of such programs. It is important that the private sector work together with the government to ensure that there is buy in and that both the accolades and criticisms, where applicable, are distributed evenly.

**5. What should the timeframe be for achieving these goals?**

- These goals are never fully achieved and it's not possible to set a timeframe for accomplishment. Timeframe of 1-2 years should be set for setting up working private-public groups that are collaborating and implementing initiatives to achieve these objectives.
- 5-10 yrs.

**ITEM 2: Energy Security****➤ What are the greatest challenges in the Americas related to energy security?**

- Cost
- Lack of research on alternative renewable sources
- Unchecked consumption creating a need for commodities which are mostly provided by countries with Petro-dictators whose strength is being increased by more and more consumption in the Americas
- The heavy dependence on non-renewable sources of energy (in particular oil) to meet energy demand
- The cost of energy.
- Rapidly increasing levels of consumption, particularly in the highly industrialized countries – this is not being matched by a commensurate increase in the supply of energy.

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➤ **What should the goals of our governments and private sector be with regards**

**to:**

**1. Energy efficiency and conservation**

- Introducing green technology
- Educating the public on energy conservation
- Reducing the import of foreign used vehicles
- Apply a version of Moore's Law that works in computing and networking technology. Every 2-3 years there should be technological leapfrog that improves efficiency by 25-50%.
- To progressively reduce dependence on non-renewable sources of energy.
- To increase productive efficiency in industries, e.g. progressively utilizing kilowatt hours of electricity in both the goods and services industries.
- To sufficiently educate our societies on the conservation of energy for future generations.
- The widespread utilization of metering systems to ensure that consumers are effectively charged for the use of energy (in particular, electricity) – to act as a deterrent against the over consumption of energy.

**2. Energy diversification**

- Promote research and development for alternative energy sources
- Reduce cost on solar electricity, CNG convert kits etc.
- 20% of consumption should come from Clean Energy generation in 15 years
- To derive a good balance between the uses of renewable versus non-renewable sources of energy.
- To incorporate the use of multiple renewable sources of energy for production and consumption, e.g. Barbados and the use of solar heating panels for water heating for domestic use – this is an example of identifying the most appropriate energy source to fill a specific need.
- To maximize on natural resources, converting all potential energy sources into reality, e.g. Caribbean region – maximize on the abundance of the solar resource and effectively convert this into solar energy for production and consumption
- To develop adequate and permanent Research and Development Facilities to ensure the maintenance of ongoing research into new

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sources of energy – facilitated by increase public and private sector expenditure and government creating the environment and conditions (setting up the technological infrastructure, institutions and human resources etc.

### **3. Clean energy solutions**

- Same as B
- At least 25% of the National R&D budget for the next 10 years should be directed at Clean Energy Solutions
- To derive a good balance between the uses of renewable versus non-renewable sources of energy
- To progressively reduce the use of fossil fuels which have a deleterious effect on the environment
- To convert the abundance of industry and consumer waste into bio-mass energy
- To develop adequate and permanent Research and Development Facilities to ensure the maintenance of ongoing research into cleaner sources of energy.

### **4. Energy Cooperation and Integration**

- Cooperation in the area of funding for R&D in countries that require financial support
- Greater cooperation in the area of information / knowledge exchange and transfer
- To engage in greater, more diverse trade in the area of energy, over and above the emphasis on the import/export of oil and natural gas, so that the less advanced countries of the Americas can have access to adequate, consistent supplies of energy
- The derivation of a good balance between the use of renewable versus non-renewable sources of energy across the Americas, facilitated by near-equal access to information / knowledge and R&D in the Americas.

### **5. Secure access to energy supplies for all**

- Introduce the widespread use of solar and hydro energy sources
- Should be possible in 20 years as Clean Energy Solutions become prevalent and create less dependence on Oil, Gas and Coal
- To progressively reduce dependence on non-renewable sources of energy.
- The widespread utilization of metering systems to ensure that consumers are effectively charged for the use of energy (in particular, electricity) – to act as a deterrent against the over consumption of energy
- R&D.

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- Increase funding for less developed countries.
- **What should the private sector commit to doing towards achieving these goals?**
- Investing in government initiatives
  - Introduce energy saving technologies into their operations through their Corporate Responsibility practices
  - Fund R&D, Innovate
  - To play its role in the areas of Research, Development and Funding.
  - To review and revise, where necessary, its production and hence profit targets as a response to the goal of energy efficiency and conservation.
  - To lobby its respective governments for the creation of the conditions that will facilitate the movement towards accomplishing these goals.
- **What is the role of public-private partnerships in addressing these goals?**
- Public-private partnerships should create common research objectives
  - Governments should create specific incentives to encourage R&D and manufacturing of Clean Energy generators and efficient energy consuming appliances and vehicles
  - Creating the right conditions / environment.
  - To ascertain the right energy mix as it pertains to each country – e.g. Guyana has an abundance of water which is a renewable resource and the appropriate geography to facilitate an energy mix that centres on hydro energy development
  - To ensure that the public is adequately educated.
- **What should the timeframe be for achieving these goals?**
- Incentives should be put in place immediately
  - Five to ten Years.

### **ITEM 3: Environmental Sustainability**

- 1. What are the greatest challenges in the Americas related to environmental sustainability?**
  - Natural disasters
  - Lack of proper Environmental Management Systems
  - Deforestation
  - Growth in use of fossil fuels leading to increasing green-house gas emissions
  - The resultant extreme weather patterns that are emerging are further challenging the environment as heavy rainfalls are eroding soils required to protect forested areas

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- In the LAC countries especially, there is a heavy dependence on natural resources that drives the economy. In many cases, it can be seen that usage of the natural resources is beyond its carrying capacity or consumptions exceed its regeneration. Tourism has been seen as one of the most significant sources of revenue for the Caribbean however natural resources are placed at risk due to the disturbances and lack of care in consumption/usage by tourists. It is essential that resources are used however its remains protected from degradation and in some cases, extinction
  - Embracing a culture of sustainability in our actions is a challenge facing the globe especially in LDCs. It can be accomplished via a top-down approach whereby best practices are accepted and commitment is displayed by management in the private sector as well as by the Government regimes
  - Technological deficiencies and the lack of funding to acquire these new innovations are significant barriers to development of economies in a sustainable manner. Movement towards a knowledge based system is essential to ensure more efficient usage of our resources or possibly the movement towards less polluting resources
  - Poverty/inequitable distribution of funds is a major threat to sustainability due the incapability to avert malpractices to those which are environmentally acceptable due to the inputs required to shift to best practices. Especially in agriculture, unsustainable practices are employed in subsistence farming whereby the farmer produces crops for own use and seldom uses best practices due to focus on production without consideration of future impacts
  - Energy production.

## **2. What should the goals of our governments and private sector be with regards**

**to:**

### **1. Natural disaster preparedness**

- More awareness initiatives
- Both private sector and government must realize that natural disasters are occurring more frequently and with greater force now than ever before in the planets history. Both parties have a responsibility to their employees and citizens to be prepared
- Creation of a national disaster/evacuation plan
- Risk and impact Assessments to determine the mitigation strategies to employ
- Conduct Vulnerability analysis to determine high risk areas and risks of recurrence.

### **2. Climate change**

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- Jointly formulate initiatives for reducing emissions of carbon and other harmful gases
  - We need to recognize that we are at the source of the major climate change that we are seeing evolving before us. Together, government, private sector and civil society must focus on investments and incentives for pursuing alternate technologies for energy generation and changing consumption behaviours to eliminate unnecessary waste
  - To utilize alternative forms of energy available in their country. Prepare necessary infrastructure/framework required to facilitate the conversion to alternative sources
  - Implementation of Air, Water Pollution Legislation as well as the formation of an executive body responsible for the enforcement and monitoring of these laws
  - Planning and execution of carbon reduction programmes. Carbon credit trading can be a feasible option in T&T due to the high level of pollution from the oil and gas industry which leaves much room for projects that will reduce the carbon emissions as well as accrue a monetary benefit through the acquisition of credits.

### **3. Environmental governance**

- Establish effective agencies / bodies to govern environmental practices
- Introduce incentives for observing environmentally friendly practices
- We should seek to establish a common international set of laws and enforcement principles to govern environmental impact of our activities
- Establishment of regulatory/enforcement body of environmental standards. The Government must take this leading role in setting the standards as well as the executive arm responsible for enforcement
- Protocols and mandates established by international bodies such as the United Nations and the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC) must be conformed to by the Governments and the necessary framework (legislation, enforcement, monitoring) must be established.

### **4. Water resources**

- Conservations programs for freshwater ecosystems. Establishment of water pollution legislation is crucial to monitor and take actions to protect water resources from industry and tourism.

### **5. Biodiversity protection**

- We should set a common goal that no human activity should result in a further extinction of species on the planet

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- Establishment of environmentally sensitive areas and species for protection from anthropogenic activities
  - To introduce conservation programmes for forest preservation. Afforestation and Reforestation measures must be employed to ensure that natural resources and ecosystem protected and virtually untouched by humans.

#### **6. Urban environmental management**

- To ensure maximum potential of our lands, land use planning along with zoning of lands (e.g. agricultural, industrial) must be conducted.
- Policies for proper solid waste management, transport and storage.

### **3. What should the private sector commit to doing towards achieving these goals?**

- Private sector should commit to investing in R&D and adopting new technologies and practices to demonstrate leadership in creating sustainable growth strategies
- Private sector must also lead in the adoption of technologies and applications to day-to-day life
- The private sector must be involved in CSR programmes at the organizational level to ensure there is a drive towards environmentally friendly practices through it employees and the operational processes
- A culture that promotes sustainability in our actions must be propagated by employers by ensuring best practices are employed as well as efficient use of our natural resources. Technological innovation can assist in maximizing the efficiency in utilizing resources
- Commitment by top management in the private sector is crucial to achieving these goals. Development of company policies as well as setting approved codes of practices that creates and enables an environment towards sustainability is essential to propagating a culture that promotes sustainability in our actions and conforming to industry best practice and environmental standards.

### **4. What is the role of public-private partnerships in addressing these goals?**

- Private sector leadership would be considerably accelerated with the appropriate incentives and penalties from governments around the world. If governments can adopt similar measures, eliminating loop-holes of shifting operations to other countries, this will go a long way in guiding the private sector in the right direction
- PPP is essential for communicating goals to be met along with creating awareness of the need for sustainability in our actions. The plans must be

communicated with the private sector to ensure that their business needs and profitability are not compromised in addressing the set goals

- The challenges and constraints to achieving these goals must be addressed by the Government to facilitate the process. PPP serves to create an understanding of what are the inhibitors to achieving these goals and what must be done to overcome these barriers and how the Government can assist. This seeks to ensure that change is done in the best interest of stakeholders
- A needs assessment and analysis of the private sector may need to be conducted to determine what their needs are to transform their businesses operations to be more sustainable.

**5. What should the timeframe be for achieving these goals?**

- These goals of having collaboration between governments in place and private sector companies working actively on solutions and changing their operations must be achieved within the next 5-10 years
- These goals must be addressed as soon as possible. Most of which should be completed/at least initiated by the year 2015.

**SUMMARY****Item I: Promoting Human Prosperity**

Priority	Goal	Action/Commitment	Responsible party	Timeframe for execution:
1.	Health, wellness and nutrition	Improve management and delivery of health services	Government	Short
1.	All people should have equal opportunities for furthering their prosperity	Make cheap, clean, reliable energy available to everyone	Governments to create the stability required for investment. Private Sector to create the innovations that would allow this to be possible	Next 10-20 Years
1.	Develop a framework for eradicating poverty	This should be of paramount importance that goes beyond the planning stage	ALL	Short term
1.	Sustainable employment via productive work with the opportunity/facilitation to train/re-train or further study thereby creating some degree of social mobility.	Private Sector use of their resources within reason via caravans, workshops, clinics, and media	Private Sector	3-5 years
2.	Access to quality education	Recruit and adequately train all current and new teachers according to the needs of the 21 <sup>st</sup> century.	Government & Private sector	Medium to long term
2.	Revisiting Education curriculum to make it more participatory and assessment mechanism not solely based on exams.	Joint committee to be established to develop this proposal	ALL	Medium to long term.
2.	To promote mental health and a healthy lifestyle, which would permeate into a healthy work-ethic thereby generating greater levels of productivity.	Public-Private partnerships must create policies that bring into focus viewpoints from both sides.	Government, civil, and private sectors	3-5 years

3.	Business climates	Improve transparency and accountability policies and operations. Introduce fiscal and other policies that will provide the development of SMEs	All of the above	Short-medium
3.	Building and fostering a competitive environment for the private sector to operate in such that jobs can be created.	Ensure that there are mechanisms in place to improve and build upon the regulatory bodies and border agencies to ensure trade is conducted efficiently and effectively across borders.	Government	Short to Medium term
3.	Free education must include the life skills necessary for survival in the field of work; discipline, self-respect; healthy lifestyle, and confidence. Although much of this responsibility is a function of the family, Government must not ignore that it has begun a trend of providing family support esp. given the numerous single parent families.	Public-Private partnerships must create policies that bring into focus viewpoints from both sides.	Government, civil, and private sectors	3-5 years
4.	This is difficult esp. given our plural society and could never be eliminated. The goal could therefore be responsive; a no tolerance policy to any and all forms of discrimination via the necessary mechanisms, legislation and regulatory bodies to ensure implementation.	Public-Private partnerships must create policies that bring into focus viewpoints from both sides.	Government, civil, and private sectors	6-9 years
5.	Facilitation (funding)	Public-Private	Government, civil, and	6-9 years

6.	<p>of the many ideas that T&amp;T citizens create. Lack of funding is the major hindrance to the development of innovation and entrepreneurship.</p> <p>This is a broad topic; creation of an enabling environment requires economic policies that could stabilize the economy; bring about sustained development; and is largely supported by ICTs.</p>	<p>partnerships must create policies that bring into focus viewpoints from both sides.</p> <p>Public-Private partnerships must create policies that bring into focus viewpoints from both sides.</p>	<p>private sectors</p> <p>Government, civil, and private sectors</p>	6-9 years
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### Item II: Energy Security

Priority	Goal	Action/Commitment	Responsible party	Timeframe for execution:
1.	Energy efficiency and conservation	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Introducing green technology</li> <li>Educating the public on energy conservation</li> </ul>	<p>Government and Private sector</p> <p>All of the above</p>	<p>Medium – long term</p> <p>Short</p>
1.	25% of energy generation should come from clean, non-fossil fuel sources	Government incentives for R&D. Government taxes on fossil fuel energy generation and consumption	Governments	Policy implementation within the next 2 years
1.	Developing alternative forms of energy so as to not rely solely on fossil fuels.	Invest in R&D. There are ideas being promoted, it is important to move from the conceptualization stage to the implementation stage.	ALL	Medium term
1.	Energy efficient buildings, i.e. properly insulated buildings, to conserve energy/ reduce energy consumption	The T&T Chamber of Industry and Commerce is on an education drive to address implementation of goals	BSO/Private Sector	7-15 years

2.	Energy diversification	Promote research and development for alternative energy sources	Government and private	Medium to long term
2.	Education of society wrt conservation of energy for use by future generations.	Education/sensitization and advocacy roles	Government	Short to Medium term.
2.	Encourage R&D into Solar/Photovoltaic, Wind etc.	There must be Public-Private partnerships to undertake research projects and implementation strategies via economic cooperation	Government and Private Sector	7-15 years
3.	Secure access to energy supplies for all	Reduce cost on solar electricity, CNG convert kits etc.	Government	Short
		Reduce cost on solar electricity, CNG convert kits etc.	Government and Private	Short
3.	Development of Waste Management program and recycling	Much talk about this has taken place; it is time for action to be taken for the effective implementation of such.	Government	Short to Medium term

### Item III: Environmental Sustainability

Priority	Goal	Action/Commitment	Responsible party	Timeframe for execution:
1.	Natural disaster preparedness	More awareness initiatives	All of the above	Short
1.	Development of CSR programs within the work environment that speak to the use of resources that facilitates environmental sustainability.	Education and seminars to inform users of resources.	Government and Private	Short to medium term.
1.	Government, via the media, regularly inform the public	There must be private sector consultations in the formulation and	Government and Private Sector	3-5 years

	about disaster preparedness and management	implementation of any aspect of an environmental policy		
2.	Environmental governance	Establish effective agencies / bodies to govern environmental practices	Government & private	Medium
2.	Implementation of a common set of laws governing greenhouse emissions, deforestation, biodiversity preservation	Global compact signed by all developed and rapidly emerging market countries	Governments	Within the next 5 years
2.	To have in place an effective monitoring mechanism that has teeth to efficiently address and enforce laws as they pertain to destruction of the environment	Drafting of legislation/regulation	Government	Short term
2.	Manufacturers should become energy efficient in the production process	There must be private sector consultations in the formulation and implementation of any aspect of an environmental policy	Government and Private Sector	3-5 years
3.	Via policies where the “polluter pays”; funding received should seek to inform the public on environmental management i.e. recycling, pollution, bio-diversity and the importance of the eco-system	There must be private sector consultations in the formulation and implementation of any aspect of an environmental policy	Government and Private Sector	3-5 years
4.	Education on the importance of bio-diversity; encourage nature hikes i.e. Asa Wright, Tobago Coral Reef	There must be private sector consultations in the formulation and implementation of any aspect of an environmental policy	Government and Private Sector	3-5 years