



# **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  
NORTH AMERICA  
Council of the Americas**



## **North America Recommendations**

Compiled by

*Council of the Americas*

North America Private Sector Coordinator for the Fifth Summit of the Americas

### **Secure Financial Markets**

- Institute a comprehensive financial recovery plan based on coordination among central banks, recapitalization, and stimulus packages as needed. Dialogue and cooperation among leaders is essential to hemispheric economic recovery.
- Avoid protectionism and maintain a firm commitment to keeping markets open to trade and investment.
- Create and implement mechanisms and safeguards to mitigate the effects of future financial crises.

### **Implement a Growth Agenda**

- Establish consistent policy and regulatory frameworks reduce corruption, and guarantee transparency and the rule of law.
- Guarantee the sanctity of contracts and adopt effective dispute resolution procedures and enforcement.
- Develop a hemispheric framework for best practices in regional taxation, including tax treaties.
- Improve the investment climate through public services such as commercial courts, investment facilitation agencies, infrastructure projects, and efficient customs operations.
- Develop a hemispheric approach to workforce development, infrastructure improvement, and innovation to stimulate economic growth.

### **Strengthen Trade for Greater Prosperity**

- Rebuild the hemispheric trade agenda with bilateral and multilateral trade agreements and work to finalize the World Trade Organization Doha development round.
- Develop a framework for economic cooperation—building on the “Pathways to Prosperity in the Americas” initiative—that establishes a clear path forward in expanding and integrating markets.
- Uphold commitments to existing trade agreements and work to deepen the trade and investment relationships that businesses rely on for growth in an ever-changing economic environment.
- Implement the World Customs Organization’s *Immediate Release Guidelines* to facilitate trade by increasing efficiency and encouraging strong public/private sector partnerships in customs processing.

#### **Create Opportunity through Social Development**

- Expand development assistance and foreign aid programs that work to create jobs, foster competition, and increase productivity. Engage in bilateral and multilateral development efforts and increase support for regional development institutions such as the Inter-American Development Bank.
- Reduce criminal activity in regions with high crime rates. Reducing crime rates and tackling corruption will increase investor confidence in a safe and secure work environment.
- Develop a world-class labor force through education and jobs skills training.
- Offer tax and other incentives for cooperation among civil society and the public and private sectors to promote social and economic development.
- Liberalize labor laws to encourage job creation in the formal economy.

#### **Strengthen Cooperation on Energy and the Environment**

- Develop a comprehensive, long-term strategy for cooperation among nations, international organizations, and the private sector on sustainable energy development by 2010 at the latest. This strategy should build on and reinvigorate action toward achieving prior Summit energy mandates.

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- Develop actionable energy policies with appropriate benchmarks that include the appropriate mix of alternative, renewable, and conventional energy sources, and balance production and consumption needs.
  - Reduce greenhouse gas emissions consistent with the goals agreed to at the UN Framework Convention on Climate Change meeting in Copenhagen in 2009.
  - Integrate subregional power grids and achieve universal access to electricity in the Western Hemisphere by 2015.
  - Harmonize regulations and adopt internationally accepted standards, including but not limited to fuel quality (including gasoline/ethanol/biodiesel blends), vehicle emissions, and energy efficiency and conservation targets.
  - Increase energy efficiency with appropriate benchmarks through the adoption of electricity usage standards, smart metering/smart power grid systems, cogeneration (combined heat and power units), and other methods.
  - Implement specific energy demand reduction measures through public outreach campaigns and appropriate incentives.
  - Reduce or eliminate trade barriers on energy and energy-related equipment and services.
  - Work with the IDB and other multilateral financial organizations to advance energy infrastructure development, including for alternative and renewable energy.
  - Support, in collaboration with the private sector, the development of new energy and carbon mitigation technologies, such as carbon capture and sequestration, second generation biofuels, safe storage of nuclear waste, among others.
  - Form regional public-private partnerships to research, develop, and disseminate new environmentally sound methods, tools, and technologies in the energy sector.
  - Build capacity in science, technology, engineering, and mathematics by investing in education, expanding vocational training, and increasing the number of graduates in these fields by 30 percent by 2015.
  - Establish a prestigious hemispheric energy innovation prize to be awarded periodically to individuals who have significantly advanced the field.