



Dear friend,

Greetings from the Summits of the Americas Secretariat of the Organization of American States (OAS). This Secretariat is pleased to announce that the Third Indigenous Leaders' Summit of the Americas (3rd ILSA) with the theme "Implementing the Rights of the Indigenous Peoples of the Americas for Present and Future Generations", will be held at the hotel Riande Continental in Panama City, Republic of Panama, on April 14-15, 2009. The 3rd ILSA is part of activities being undertaken within the framework of the Fifth Summit of the Americas "Securing our Citizens' Future by Promoting Human Prosperity, Energy Security and Environmental Sustainability", which will take place in Port of Spain, Trinidad and Tobago, from April 17 to 19, 2009.

The 3rd ILSA will provide an opportunity for the deliberation and articulation of indigenous perspectives on a range of policy topics related to the work of the OAS and the themes of the Fifth Summit of the Americas as well as it will move forward the policy dialogue initiated in the first two Indigenous Summits held in the framework of the Summits of the Americas, to focus on implementation of the previous Declarations and Plans of Actions. In this framework, indigenous leaders will have the opportunity to discuss and develop an Action Plan and an Implementation Plan addressing current challenges from the perspective of indigenous peoples. This initiative also aims at identifying and building the capacity of indigenous peoples to play a leadership role in the Fifth Summit, while promoting knowledge of and participation in the Fifth Summit among Indigenous peoples.

The 3rd ILSA will bring together indigenous leaders, including women, youth and elder leaders throughout the Americas. The event is being organized by the 3rd ILSA Planning Committee composed of representatives from South, Central and North America and the Caribbean, lead by the Assembly of First Nations (AFN) and the Native Women's Association of Canada (NWAC), with the support of the Summits of the Americas Secretariat of the OAS and the financial support of the Canadian International Development Agency (CIDA), the US State Department, and the Government of Spain.

Results of the 3rd ILSA will be shared with the 34 OAS Member States at the Fifth Summit of the Americas during a Dialogue with Ministers of Foreign Affairs on the morning of April 17, 2009 in Port of Spain.

For more information, please visit www.nwac-hq.org. For further information on this event, please contact Celeste McKay (celeste@mcmckay.ca) or the Summits of the Americas Secretariat (summitcso@oas.org).

Best regards,

Summits of the Americas Secretariat
Organization of American States