

OAS IN HIGH PROFILE ROLE IN RIO + 20 PROCESS

The General Secretariat of the Organization of American States is to play a high profile role in support of the preparatory process leading up to the United Nations Conference on Sustainable Development (Rio + 20) in Brazil in June 2012.

This follows acceptance by OAS Secretary-General, Jose Miguel Insulza's of an invitation from UNEP Executive Director, Achim Steiner for the Director of the Department of Sustainable Development, Mr. Cletus I Springer to serve on a High Level International Advisory Committee for the [World Congress on Justice, Governance and Law for Environmental Sustainability](#) to be held on 1-3 June 2012 in Rio de Janeiro, Brazil.

The OAS will also serve as a co-sponsor of the World Congress which will be held in conjunction with the Women Leaders Forum on Social Justice and Governance for Environmental Sustainability, to be held on 4 June also in Rio de Janeiro. These two high-level events are expected to contribute to the outcome of Rio+20 by presenting their respective findings to the Conference.

It is expected that the World Congress will generate a Statement of Principles on Justice, Governance and Law for Environmental Sustainability which will be presented to the President of Rio+20 and to the Heads of State and other high level representatives at the Rio+20 Conference.

The Congress will bring together Attorneys-General, Chief Prosecutors, Auditors-General (Cour des Comptes), Chief Justices, Senior Judges and Parliamentarians with the aim of fostering a common vision of how to transform discussions into action and use law, justice and governance to promote sustainable development.

Congress Participants will deliberate on the role and inter-linkages of law, justice and governance as essential dimensions of environmental sustainability, as well as on environmental sustainability as an essential dimension of law, justice and governance for sustainable development. Participants will also be called upon to reflect on their specific roles as leading representatives of fundamental legal and policy functions at the national level in influencing the introduction of appropriate mechanisms and tools to safeguard and promote environmental sustainability, including by promoting and championing the governance changes required at the national, regional and global levels.

In addition to its support for the World Congress, the General Secretariat of the OAS intends to organize a series of hemispheric dialogues of a variety of sustainable development themes, such as Energy and Climate Change, Integrated Water Resources Management, Biodiversity and Sustainable Land Management, Risk Management and Environmental Law, Policy and Governance. Further details of these events will be posted on this website.

Department of Sustainable Development

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