



**Civil Society and Social Actors Participation Process
for the
Second Inter-American Meeting of Ministers and High-Level Authorities
on Sustainable Development
Santo Domingo, Dominican Republic
November, 2010**

1. Context and Background

The Second Inter-American Meeting of Ministers and High-Level Authorities on Sustainable Development provides an excellent opportunity to follow up on the issues identified by the Ministers and High-Level Authorities in 2006 during the First Ministerial Meeting on Sustainable Development. This meeting will address the commitments to pursue a range of actions related to sustainable development and, in particular, environmental sustainability in the hemisphere. These actions were agreed upon by the Heads of State and Government from OAS Member States during the Fifth Summit of the Americas held in Trinidad and Tobago in April 2009.

The meeting aims to identify priorities in the hemispheric agenda, established in previous commitments, and address emerging regional challenges and opportunities in sustainable development. The Department of Sustainable Development (DSD) welcomes and encourages your participation and that of all the environmental community in the preparatory process for the Ministerial Meeting.

2. Proposed Objectives of the Meeting

- Advance implementation of the actions agreed upon at the Fifth Summit of the Americas as they relate to energy and environmental sustainability.
- Facilitate dialogue regarding new and emerging threats to environmental sustainability as well as measures to overcome such threats within the context of risk management.
- Promote consensus on key hemispheric issues of global significance.

3. Proposed Agenda Items for the Ministerial

Pursuant to the proposed agenda, the meeting is expected to examine five issues under the umbrella theme “**Towards Sustainable Development in the Americas**”: (1) Follow up on the Santa Cruz + 10 Declaration; (2) Implementation of the Inter-American Program on Sustainable Development (PIDS); (3) Vulnerability in the Context of Sustainable Development; (4) Risk Management and Planning; and (5) Institutional and management aspects related to climate change.

4. Opportunities for Public Participation

The DSD is committed to the development and implementation of policies that ensure civil society (individuals, the private sector, the labor sector, political parties, academics, and other non-governmental organizations) participation in planning, managing, and decision-making for sustainable development.

In order to strengthen and guarantee a wide participation of civil society during the preparatory process of the Second Ministerial Meeting, the DSD, in collaboration with the Department of International Affairs (DIA) and the Summits of the Americas Secretariat, will implement an open and iterative consultation process with civil society organizations and key social actors. To this end, the DSD will conduct different kinds of outreach and public consultations processes, such as informative bulletins, a hemispheric virtual consultation forum, three sub-regional consultations and a hemispheric roundtable, prior to the ministerial meeting. The objectives of the consultations are to:

- Mobilize the support of civil society organizations for the preparation of the Draft Declaration.
- Build consensus positions among representatives of civil society and obtain both recommendations and follow-up activities on the theme and agenda to be considered during the Ministerial Meeting.
- Benefit from the best practices and efforts, including advocacy, of civil society and work on the ministerial theme to be analyzed during the meeting.

Dates, information and reports from these consultations will be available on the www.oas.org/dsd

<p>Regional Consultations with Civil Society Organizations</p>	<p>In order to facilitate both broad-based participation of civil society during the preparatory process of the Ministerial Meeting as well as dialogue on the ministerial theme, three sub-regional consultations are necessary: (i) Caribbean, (ii) Mesoamerica, and (iii) South America. Consultations in these regions have been organized with civil society organizations including those that represent the interests of social actors such as the youth. Civil society consultations were conducted during the months of July and August, 2010.</p>
<p>Hemispheric Virtual Consultation Forum</p>	<p>To further the discussion on the Ministerial Meeting theme, a hemispheric-wide Virtual Consultation Forum with civil society and key social actors is open from September 15 to October 15, 2010. The forum will benefit from materials and input gathered in the sub-regional consultations, which will serve as a basis for discussion and analysis on the issues to be addressed in the Ministerial Meeting.</p>
<p>Private Sector Consultation Panel</p>	<p>During this consultation, challenges and opportunities for public-private collaboration in addressing the issues of <i>Sustainable Development in the Americas</i> were discussed. This panel engaged small and medium enterprises and other private entrepreneurs of the region concerned with sustainable development. The meeting took place in Lima on September 16, 2010.</p>
<p>Hemispheric Roundtable: an opportunity to participate during the Ministerial Meeting</p>	<p>Prior to the Second Ministerial Meeting on November 16, 2010, a roundtable discussion will take place with civil society representatives to discuss the results of the sub-regional consultations, the Private Sector Consultation Panel, and the Hemispheric Virtual Consultation Forum in order to reach a consensus regarding the recommendations that will be presented. This consensus will serve as a basis for dialogue between civil society and the Ministers and High-Level Authorities of Sustainable Development during a Plenary Session during the Ministerial Meeting.</p>

5. How will the contributions in this process be incorporated in the Draft Declaration and Agenda of the Ministerial Meeting?

Civil society is encouraged to take part in these consultations. Comments and recommendations resulting from the sub-regional and private sector consultations as well as those posted on the Virtual Forum are vital to the Member States as they move forward in discussions regarding the Draft Declaration and preparations for the Second Ministerial Meeting. To this end, recommendations will be compiled in reports that will be presented during the preparatory meetings for the consideration of Government Representatives (composed by delegates from the Member States including Permanent Missions to the OAS) scheduled between July and October 2010.



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2010

For more information about the Ministerial Meeting visit our website: <http://www.oas.org/dsd/> and/or http://www.oas.org/dsd/MinisterialMeeting/SecondMeetingSustainableDevelopment_e.htm or Contact:
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