SAINT LUCIA
PROGRAM SUMMARY

SUMMITS 101, “Informative session with civil society organizations and other social actors in Saint Lucia on the Summits of the Americas Process”

To achieve a successful Summit, all actors involved need to have comprehensive knowledge of the Summits Process. Therefore, the Summits Secretariat held an informative session with civil society and social actors of Saint Lucia to provide information on implementation of the Process and participation mechanisms.

This informative session was held by videoconference simultaneously with other countries of the Hemisphere and consisted of: (i) a presentation on the Summits Process, its evolution over the years, and its components, the different actors involved, and the participation mechanisms available to civil society and social actors; (ii) a Q&A session that enabled participants to engage in dialogue with Summits Secretariat representatives and other actors involved.

OBJECTIVES

The Summits Secretariat conducted a survey of civil society and social actors of the Hemisphere, whose findings were that a basic level of knowledge of the Summits Process exists, resulting from the lack of effective participation by civil society and social actors in the preparations for and follow-up to the Summits. Therefore, the Summits Secretariat organized the Summits 101 informative session with civil society and social actors of Saint Lucia to increase their knowledge of and active participation in the Summits Process.

RESULTS

At the end of the informative session in Saint Lucia, a survey of civil society and social actors was conducted in which they indicated that their knowledge of the Summits Process had risen from a basic-intermediate level to an intermediate-advanced level.

Owing to the success of the informative session held in Saint Lucia, the interest of civil society and social actors of this country in becoming involved in the preparations and follow-up activities of the Summits Process increased. This was reflected as greater demand for dissemination of information on the VIII Summit and for the organization of national consultations in Saint Lucia.
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PROGRAM SUMMARY

Since 2005, the Youth Forum of the Americas has served as an official platform for young people to take the lead in initiating activities that generate spaces to proactively contribute to the definition of priorities and mandates for states.

As a result of each Forum, the youth adopt a declaration of commitment related to the mandates of each Summit. This is how young people make concrete proposals to governments, while at the same time setting their own agenda for action and follow-up to the agreements reached at the Forum.

From each statement, the youths themselves will take action and present recommendations to the actors involved in the forum and delegations of the participating governments. Young people undertake not only to demand actions from governments, but also to take on responsibilities to meet the challenges of each region.

OBJECTIVES

The forum is a process based on face-to-face and virtual consultations as well as regional and local events in OAS Member States. This is constituted as the participatory component of the Forum; youth have the opportunity to express opinions on a platform created by YABT for them.

The forum has been consolidated as a hemispheric platform and official channel to express its recommendations, suggestions and actions to the leaders responsible for the continent’s policies. The youth thus contributes to the definition of the priorities and mandates of the Summits.

SDG: 1, 5, 8, 10, 13, 16, 17.

RESULTS

The IV Youth Forum of the Americas took place in Panama. As a result of each Forum, the Youth adopt a declaration of commitment related to the mandates of each Summit. This is how young people make concrete proposals to governments, while at the same time setting their own agenda for action and follow-up to the agreements reached at the Forum.

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As part of the Forum process, national dialogues and virtual meetings have been held in Haiti as a follow-up to the declaration and keeping in mind the next Forum to be held in Peru in 2018. This program involves an active network of more than 5,000 young leaders.