



Background and Recommendations of Recent OAS initiatives in the area of Environmental Law

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- ◆ Conceived and established pursuant to 1996 Summit of the Americas for Sustainable Development in Santa Cruz Bolivia in coordination with OAS to:
- ◆ Exchange knowledge and experiences in environmental law;
- ◆ Serve as a focal point for cooperative efforts to develop and strengthen environmental laws, policies and institutions, and to promote compliance; and
- ◆ Facilitate training and capacity building in environmental law and its implementation and enforcement.



- Two Themes selected for work plan: *Water Policy and Trade, Investment and the Environment.*
- Working groups in four areas of work linked five strategic approaches:
- Environmental Liability
- Economic and regulatory instruments for environmental management
- Clean production (and eco-certification)
- Strengthening judicial institutions and jurisprudence



Strategic Approaches:

- Education
- Public Participation
- Enforcement
- Development of National Laws
- Alternative Dispute Resolution



Environment Committee of PC

- ◆ Environmental Law as a priority of OAS
- ◆ Gradual incorporation in the Environmental Law field through activities related to exchange of information and support for MEA implementation.
- ◆ Coordination with other IGO's

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◆ **Santa Cruz Meeting and Special Session of PC**

- ✓ Address transboundary Environmental Challenges (Need for Framework)
- ◆ Strengthen Scientific Information
- ◆ EIAs
- ◆ Develop Environmental Law and Monitoring Systems
- ◆ Enforcement and Compliance
- ◆ Strengthen Civil Society participation Mechanisms, ensuring access and transparency. Fight of corruption
- ◆ Regional Cooperation, Develop Consensus in positions on themes
- ◆ Work with CSOs and Private Sector



Consistent Thematic Approach

- Water
- Climate Change
- Energy
- Biodiversity
- Economic Instruments
- Land use-change



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