



THE UNIVERSITY OF THE WEST INDIES
AT ST. AUGUSTINE, TRINIDAD



DRAFT AGENDA

Caribbean Roundtable with Civil Society

in the framework of the

First Inter-American Meeting of Ministers and High Level Authorities on Sustainable Development

September 19, 2006

University of the West Indies, St. Augustine Campus
Port-of-Spain, Trinidad and Tobago

Context and Background:

The First Inter-American Meeting of Ministers and High Level Authorities on Sustainable Development will identify and advance concrete partnerships at the regional and hemispheric level to integrate environmental considerations into development, poverty alleviation, social and economic policies. This meeting, to be held in Santa Cruz, Bolivia, will take into account progress in implementing sustainable development, including, *inter alia*, the 1992 United Nations Conference on Environment and Development, the 1996 Santa Cruz Summit on Sustainable Development, and the 2002 Johannesburg UN Conference on Sustainable Development.

This ministerial meeting will also serve as part of the follow-up activities of the Fourth Summit of the Americas: “Creating Jobs to Fight Poverty and Strengthen Democratic Governance” that took place in November 2005. The main focus of the meeting will be the environment-economy nexus, and refer to the Millennium Development Goals (MDG) of particular relevance to sustainable development. The meeting will identify specific opportunities for cooperation among OAS Member States in integrating environmental management within core economic development, poverty alleviation, and related goals.

In order to achieve MDGs policy objective to build “a comprehensive approach and a coordinated strategy, tackling many problems simultaneously across a broad front” the meeting shall identify practical, replicable project and policy lessons integrating the three pillars of sustainable development, namely, economic development, social issues, and environmental protection.

The OAS’ Inter-American Strategy for the Promotion of Public Participation in Decision-Making for Sustainable Development recognizes that any development effort requires the active involvement of an informed civil society to be truly sustainable. Public participation in the decision-making process introduces a broader range of ideas, experiences, and expertise that motivate the development of alternative solutions. Public participation provides opportunities for cooperation and coordination between government and civil society. All this is particularly true in dealing with issues related to the environment and sustainable development, since they affect people from all segments of society and can bring them together to work toward common goals.

For this reason, on September 19, 2006, the Department of Sustainable Development, with the support of the Summits of the Americas Secretariat, the Canadian International Development Agency, and the Sustainable Economic Development Unit (SEDU) for Small and Island Developing States (SIDS) of the Department of Economics of the University of the West Indies, St. Augustine Campus, will hold the *Caribbean Roundtable with Civil Society* in order to facilitate broad-based civil society participation during the preparatory process of the Ministerial Meeting, and to facilitate the dialogue between civil society and different community groups to obtain their comments for consideration in the drafting of the *Declaration of Santa Cruz*.

Themes of analysis:

- Integrated water-resource management
- Risk sharing and risk transfer arrangements of natural disasters
- Sustainable agriculture, sustainable forestry and tourism

Relevant documents*:

1. Draft Declaration of Santa Cruz
2. Consultation Process: How will your recommendations be transmitted to the Ministers and High Level Authorities on Sustainable Development
3. Annotated Provisional Agenda
4. Summary of Preparatory Workshops and Key Guiding Questions for Discussion
5. Final Report of the Preparatory Workshop on Integrated Water Resources Management
6. Final Report of the Preparatory Workshop on Managing Risks of Natural Hazards
7. Final Report of the Preparatory Workshop on Sustainable Agriculture, Forestry and Tourism
8. Summary of comments submitted to the Virtual Consultation Forum (updated weekly)

*The documents are available at: <http://www.oas.org/dsd/MinisterialMeeting/VirtualForumCSandIP.htm>

Participants:

- Representatives of civil society organizations and networks and indigenous peoples
- Personnel from the OAS General Secretariat
- Personnel from the University of the West Indies, St. Augustine Campus

September 19, 2006

8:30-9:00am Registration

9:00-9:20am Welcoming Addresses

*Dr. Bhoendradatt Tewarie, Pro Vice Chancellor and Campus Principal,
University of the West Indies, St. Augustine Campus*

*Dr. Luis Alberto Rodríguez, Director, Summits of the Americas
Secretariat, OAS*

9:20-9:40am Special Guest Presentation

Dr. Dennis Pantin, Head, Economics Department, University of the West Indies, St. Augustine Campus

- 9:40-10:00am** **Presentation on the Ministerial Meeting**
Department of Sustainable Development, OAS
- i. Objectives
 - ii. Themes of the Ministerial
 - iii. Transversal Themes
 - Public and citizen participation
 - Governance
 - Gender equality
 - Protection of the rights of indigenous peoples
 - iv. Initiatives for Public Participation (virtual forum, informative bulletin, regional outreach)
 - v. CSO participation in the meeting in Santa Cruz, Bolivia
- 10:00-10:15am** **Coffee Break**
- 10:15-12:15pm** **Session I – Integrated Water Resources Management**
- 10:15-10:30am Presentation of the results of the technical workshop on Integrated Water Resources Management (Quito, Ecuador – April 19-20, 2006)
- 10:30-12:15pm Discussion of topic
Moderator: *Dr. Gyan Shrivastava, Faculty of Engineering, University of the West Indies, St. Augustine Campus*
- 12:15-1:15pm** **Lunch**
- 1:15-3:15pm** **Session II – Managing Risks of Natural Hazards**
- 1:15-1:30pm Presentation of the results of the technical workshop on Managing Risks of Natural Hazards (Kingston, Jamaica – April 18-19, 2006)
- 1:30-3:15pm Discussion of topic
Moderator: *Dr. Marlene Attzs, Sustainable Economic Development Unit (SEDU), Department of Economics, University of the West Indies, St. Augustine Campus*
- 3:15-3:30pm** **Coffee Break**
- 3:30-5:30pm** **Session III – Sustainable Agriculture, Forestry and Tourism**
- 3:30-3:45pm Presentation of the results of the technical workshop on Sustainable Agriculture, Forestry and Tourism (San Jose, Costa Rica – November 2, 2005)
- 3:45-5:30pm Discussion of topic
Moderator: *Dr. Gregory Gouveia, School of Agriculture, University of the West Indies, St. Augustine Campus*

5:30-5:40pm

Closing session

Mr. Joseph Campbell, Director, OAS Country Office, Trinidad and Tobago