

**In the Dominican Republic, the preparations have started for the Second Inter-American Meeting of Ministers and High Authorities on Sustainable Development, organized by the OAS.**

On March 22 and 23, several institutions of the Dominican Republic and representatives of the Department of Sustainable Development of the OAS came together to start the preparatory work of the Second Ministerial Meeting on Sustainable Development, which will be held in this country in early October 2010.

An Inter-Institutional Committee chaired by the Ministry of Economy, Planning and Development was formed to carry out the preparatory work of the Meeting, including the Ministry of Environment and Natural Resources, whose delegation is headed by Vice-Minister Ernesto Reyna; the Ministry of External Relations, represented by Ambassador Venecia Álvarez; the National Council for Climate Change and the Clean Development Mechanism represented by its Executive Vice President Dr. Omar Ramírez; and the Civil Defense represented by General Luna Paulino. This committee presents a further step in the integrated notion that this country has on Sustainable Development and its three dimensions of environmental, economic and social development.

“ The Ministerial Meeting will be a great opportunity for inter-American dialogue on sustainable development since it will bring together the Ministers and High Authorities of Development with the goal of discussing the large emerging challenges in the hemisphere and promoting several concrete actions on risk management and climate change, which will be the focus of the Meeting.” commented Minister Temístocles Montás at the end of the meeting.

In addition to the preparatory meetings for the Ministerial Meeting that will be held in various countries on the continent during this year, a series of consultations are scheduled with civil society organizations and the private sector, as well as parallel activities directed at the population in order to generate awareness on the topic of sustainable development. Among these activities, last Sunday the representatives of the Department of Sustainable Development of the OAS participated in the Afforestation Day organized by the Ministry of Environment and Natural Resources in the Los Alcarrizos ecological park.