



ORGANIZATION OF AMERICAN STATES
WASHINGTON, D.C



DRAFT

Panel of Experts with Private Sector in the Preparatory Process of the First Inter-American Meeting of Ministers and High Level Authorities on Sustainable Development

Public-Private Partnerships for Sustainable Development in the Americas

Background and Overview

The OAS General Secretariat has initiated a process of private sector involvement and public-private sector dialogue on the Inter-American development agenda through the OAS Private Sector Forums. OAS General Assembly Resolution AG/RES.2244 (XXXVI-O/06) invites Member States to continue dialogue to explore linkages with the private sector and to strengthen in particular those programs within the OAS framework, that together with private sector participation, contribute to the integral development of Member States. This resolution also instructed the General Secretariat to provide, as appropriate, technical support for private sector participation in activities and projects in the framework of the OAS.

In the context of the preparatory process of the First Inter-American Meeting of Ministers and High Level Authorities on Sustainable Development to be held in Santa Cruz de la Sierra on December 4-5, 2006, the Department of Sustainable Development has conducted three technical preparatory workshops with participation of government, academia and private sector experts. Additionally a series of consultations with civil society and indigenous peoples have taken place in Buenos Aires, Trinidad and Tobago, Panama and Washington DC to provide recommendations to the preparatory process.

The experts' workshops and civil society recommendations regarding the main themes of the Ministerial include the need for a stronger involvement of the private sector in the preparatory process. Moreover some of the key areas highlighted in the agenda for the ministerial (CEPCIDI/doc. 760/06), include:

- *Enhancing synergies to strengthen cooperative mechanisms in water management;*
- *Supporting cooperative partnerships and best practices that make progress in both risk mitigation and risk transfer of natural disasters;*
- *Advancing partnerships and innovative mechanisms for financing in support of job creation and sustainable development of agriculture, forestry, and tourism;*

Proposal

The Department of Sustainable Development (DSD), the Department of Trade, Tourism and Competitiveness (DTTC), jointly with the Private Sector of the Americas, proposes to complement the preparatory process with technical experts and civil society, by organizing a small panel of experts, with the objective of highlighting at the policy and operational level recent public-private sector initiatives in the area of sustainable development and providing input to the ministerial process. The Secretariat will prepare a background paper for discussion and identify participants from the five sub regions of the Hemisphere the meeting will have about 40 private sector participants.



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Experts in the panel will address *the role of strategic alliances and corporate social responsibility in sustainable development* with particular emphasis on two of the main themes of the Ministerial meeting: integrated water resource management, disaster risk reduction, and sustainable agriculture and forestry. This panel would be held immediately prior to the Ministerial preparatory meeting and will have a panel of experts and one discussion session (see below); where participants will discuss concrete recommendations for the Ministerial preparatory process.

Draft Program

Public-Private Partnerships for Sustainable Development in the Americas: Consultations with the Private Sector

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| 9:00-10:15 | Enhancing synergies to strengthen cooperative mechanisms in sustainable development of agriculture and forestry. |
| 10:15 | Coffee Break |
| 10:30 -11:45 | Emerging partnerships with the insurance and re-insurance sector in natural disaster risk reduction |
| 11:45 - 12:15 | Q& A and Comments |
| 12:15 to 12:30 | Close |