

PERMANENT COUNCIL OF THE
ORGANIZATION OF AMERICAN STATES

COMMITTEE ON INTER-AMERICAN SUMMITS MANAGEMENT
AND CIVIL SOCIETY PARTICIPATION
IN OAS ACTIVITIES

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SPECIAL MEETING OF THE COMMITTEE ON
INTER-AMERICAN SUMMITS MANAGEMENT AND
CIVIL SOCIETY PARTICIPATION IN OAS ACTIVITIES (CISC)
WITH CIVIL SOCIETY AND SOCIAL ACTORS

11TH HEMISPHERIC FORUM WITH CIVIL SOCIETY AND SOCIAL ACTORS
“Development with Social Inclusion”

Washington, DC – April 24, 2014



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The Eleventh Hemispheric Forum with Civil Society and Social Actors was held on April 24, 2014 at OAS Headquarters, in the framework of the preparatory process of the Forty-fourth Regular Session of the OAS General Assembly “Development with Social Inclusion” with the objective to offer civil society the opportunity to exchange ideas and develop recommendations on the main theme of the General Assembly, with emphasis on its challenges to health, public security and access to justice. The Forum featured the participation of 55 representatives of 48 civil society and workers organizations from 19 Member States of the OAS.

This document presents the conclusions and recommendations of the participants, the program (Annex 1), the list of participants (Annex 2).

RECOMMENDATIONS BY CIVIL SOCIETY AND SOCIAL ACTORS

I. DEVELOPMENT WITH SOCIAL INCLUSION

General comments:

- ◆ The need for a focus that conceives people as subjects of human rights.
- ◆ The need to make explicit reference to the American Declaration of the Rights and Duties of Man, American Convention on Human Rights, Belem do Para Convention, Protocol of San Salvador, Social Charter of the Americas, Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women (CEDAW), Inter-American Convention against All Forms of Discrimination and Intolerance, Inter-American Convention for the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Persons with Disabilities (CIADDIS), and other pertinent instruments.
- ◆ The need to create an Observatory on Multidimensional Poverty, follow-up and implementation mechanisms that allow civil society to organize in order to be able to measure the fulfillment of the aforementioned international instruments by their respective States.
- ◆ We recommend a focus that is differentiated by ethnicity, gender and other topics by public policy makers and implementers.
- ◆ Recognize the essential role of civil society in the implementation, oversight and follow-up of social policies in countries, as well as their fulfillment of regional agreements.

- ◆ We recommend giving visibility to the entire information system about all population groups with a differentiated focus, including gender, ethnicity and other groups, and a human rights focus.

Proposed Modifications to the Text of the Draft Declaration of Asuncion

Additional Paragraphs to the Preamble:

- ◆ AFFIRMING that sustainable development is built on four pillars of dignified and decent work as established by the International Labor Organization (ILO); the distribution of wealth; democracy; gender equality; inter-generational and environmental social protection and inclusion for all, thereby integrating economic, social, environmental and political dimensions;
- ◆ RECOGNIZING the commitment to guarantee and respect all human rights without discrimination in the terms established in article 1.1e of the American Convention on Human Rights;
- ◆ Paragraph 4: include reference to "lesbian, gay, bisexual, trans and intersex (LGBTI)"
- ◆ Paragraph 5: "RECOGNIZING the right to free and quality public education for all persons, without any discrimination, with special attention to groups that are considered marginalized".

Declaration:

- ◆ Paragraph 1: include the text "TO DECLARE that the eradication of poverty and extreme poverty, reduction of inequity and social exclusion, access to quality education, and the guarantee of comprehensive health care are obligations of all Member States and are priority objectives of the inter-American system, particularly the Organization of American States, to which the latter should devote special attention through the activities of its various organs and they require action by each and every state in the Hemisphere.
- ◆ Paragraph 3: include the text: "TO PROMOTE the formulation and implementation of sound economic and social policies and follow-up mechanisms of the investment and public spending in order to deepen economic development with equity and foster investment and the generation of employment in all sectors so as to encourage equitable income distribution with inclusive and transparent criteria."
- ◆ Paragraph 4: include reference to "persons with disability, lesbian, gay, bisexual, trans and intersex (LGBTI) and older persons."
- ◆ Paragraph 5: include the text: "TO INCORPORATE basic, professional and technical training plans that increase investment in infrastructure, knowledge, aptitudes, competencies, and skills, as well as the development of new information and communication technologies in order to facilitate job market entry and reinsertion; support personal and professional advancement of students and teachers, with an emphasis on innovation and computer skills; and maximize productivity in the economy and institution building.

- ◆ Paragraph 7: replace “TO CONTINUE observance” with “TO OBSERVE”.
- ◆ Paragraph 8: “...and illicit trafficking” (of substances? of persons? Specify what type of trafficking)
- ◆ Paragraph 9: modify the text: “TO ADOPT, implement and monitor concrete measures with the aim of eradicating poverty and fomenting and incentivizing full, productive, formal, generational, and decent employment under the aegis of social protection systems, strengthening partnerships, cooperation and mutual support between the public and private sectors and society”.
- ◆ New paragraph 13: TO FAVOR a healthy environment and flourishing populations, guaranteeing access to healthcare and managing natural and technological risks, access to housing for all and limiting waste.

II. **IMPACT OF EXTREME POVERTY AND SOCIAL EXCLUSION ON GOVERNANCE IN THE HEMISPHERE**

From the discussion:

- ◆ States should exercise and be guarantors of human rights
- ◆ Dichotomy between observing and fulfilling is ambiguous
- ◆ Observance is attention.

Topics:

- ◆ Governments should be guarantors of human rights.
- ◆ To incorporate the topic of social inclusion in the responsibility of the State.
- ◆ Governments need to serve their society. The mission of government is to benefit and include society.
- ◆ Government vs. States – The OAS will equip governments and States, but they are really representatives of governments, in a broad concession of state in which civil Society is an actor.
- ◆ Legally government has the responsibility to guarantee human rights.
- ◆ As a general rule, agreements should clarify if they refer to governments or States.
- ◆ When dealing human rights defenders, they are criticized for not fighting for all rights.

Declaration:

An alternative drafting is proposed to the following paragraphs as well as the incorporation of an additional article.

- ◆ Paragraph 3: include the text: “TO PROMOTE the formulation and implementation of sound economic and social policies in order to guarantee the inclusion of different social groups, compensate inequalities and deepen economic development with equity and foster investment and the generation of employment in all sectors so as to encourage equitable income distribution with inclusive criteria.”
- ◆ Paragraph 4: include the text: “TO BOOST public policies aimed at strengthening observance of human rights and ensuring full and effective participation in society for women, indigenous

peoples, persons of African descent, children and adolescents, people with disabilities, LGBTI people, migrants, and older persons; and to prevent, combat, and eliminate all forms of intolerance and discrimination, especially gender-based, ethnic, and racial discrimination, and/or sexual orientation or preference.”

- ◆ Paragraph 7: modify the text: “TO FULFILL democratic principles and human rights as a cornerstone of the social, political, and economic development of the peoples of the Americas, as established in all instruments of the inter-American system, bearing in mind that democracy and integral development are interdependent and mutually reinforcing.
- ◆ Paragraph 8: TO INCLUDE a multidimensional approach in their security policies that contributes to integral development and social justice, taking into account that development and security are interdependent. In that regard, it is important to undertake national and multilateral measures in combating transnational organized crime and illicit trafficking in all its forms.
- ◆ New paragraph: 12a. TO ESTABLISH a participatory, periodic review process with civil society of policies and actions adopted to guarantee inclusion and compensate for inequality in society. To guarantee the inclusion of different social groups, compensate for inequalities and deepen economic development with equity.

III. HUMAN ECONOMIC AND SOCIAL RIGHTS

Preamble

Civil Society and Social Actors gathered in Washington DC on April 24, 2014 at the Hemispheric Forum with Civil Society and Social Actors “Development with Social Inclusion”, value the dialogue with Member States of the OAS and the participation providing inputs for decision-making.

As part of the preparation for the XLIV OAS General Assembly to be held in Paraguay, Civil Society representing the Group on Economic and Social and Human Rights recommends to the XLIV General Assembly:

- ◆ **TO URGE** Member States of the OAS to ratify and implement the set of Conventions and Protocols adopted by the Inter-American Human Rights System, including the American Convention on Human Rights, the Protocol of San Salvador, the Convention on the Prevention, Punishment and Eradication of Violence against Women, the Inter-American Convention on all Forms of Discrimination against People with Disabilities, the Inter-American Convention Against All Forms of Discrimination and Intolerance, the Inter-American Convention against Racism, the Inter-American Democratic Charter, the Social Charter of the Americas and other commitments made by Member States.
- ◆ **TO STRENGTHEN** the principles of human rights and their relation to democracy as a condition for development with social inclusion in regional, national and international policies, especially in the discussions on the Post- 2015 Development Agenda.
- ◆ **TO MAKE A CALL** to strengthen the Inter-American Human Rights system

- ◆ **TO MAKE A CALL** to implement all mechanisms to follow-up on the effective realization of commitments made in the context of the OAS. In this regard, it is necessary that progress be measurable and that mechanisms of accountability be in place. Since the Protocol of San Salvador establishes mechanisms for protection of economic, social and cultural rights in its Article 19, we recommend that they be referred to in the Declaration and that States reaffirm their commitment to submit periodic information on progress in this matter.

In the Draft Declaration for the XLIV General Assembly we propose to consider:

- ◆ The **Draft Declaration must be written with a human rights perspective** already recognized by States in binding instruments adopted within the OAS, such as the Protocol of San Salvador, which in one of its paragraphs says: "the close relationship between the enjoyment of economic, social and cultural rights and civil and political rights, in that the different categories of rights constitute an indivisible whole based on the recognition of the dignity of the human person." Furthermore, **the Protocol of San Salvador must be mentioned in paragraph 1** of the Declaration.
- ◆ The **Declaration must recognize the context we have in our continent, which is the one with the greatest inequality**, and thus this should be the challenge to be centrally addressed in the declaration with a view to development with social inclusion. While addressing inequalities, the problem of overcoming poverty and extreme poverty will be tackled.
- ◆ The **Declaration must make an explicit statement affirming Member States as duty bearers** of all citizens who inhabit the continent.
- ◆ Likewise, the **Declaration should reaffirm the importance of the participation of civil society in the definition and monitoring of public policies**. In this regard, mention must be made of the importance of States to ensure that the rights of defenders of human rights are fully respected in the continent, not criminalizing social protest.
- ◆ In regard to paragraph 9, although we recognize that the private sector has an important role in development with social inclusion, we recommend that the **Declaration stresses the importance of the business sector to act with full respect for human rights**.
- ◆ Apart from the groups already mentioned, paragraph 4 must also include other historically excluded groups such as **LGBTI group, people with HIV AIDS, people with disabilities, rural inhabitants, detainees, drug users, and individuals discriminated against for their national or social origin, economic position, birth or any other social condition**.
- ◆ Urge **states to recognize gender inequality as an obstacle to social development and the inclusion of women in their diversity**, reaffirm their commitment to eliminate discrimination based on ethnicity, race and other factors, as well as recognize the potential of woman to contribute to political, economic, social and cultural development, as well as to benefit from the results of development.
- ◆ In paragraphs 5 and 6, the Declaration should specify that **health and education are fundamental human rights** under the Social Charter of the Americas (Articles 17 and 19) and the Protocol of San Salvador (Articles 10 and 13). In this regard, mention should be made to **free**

and quality education for all. With regard to this paragraph, it is important to add the reference to the right to sexual and reproductive health and education.

- ◆ Policies employed to address the global problem of drugs has been ineffective, with high economic costs and resulting in thousands of innocent, dead and missing victims; massive and inhumane detention; peasant families treated as criminals; the criminalization of drug users, the violation of human rights and the undermining of democratic institutions. Thus, we consider it important that the **Declaration urges States to change the direction of drug policy** and focus efforts on alternative, innovative and concerted responses that enable an integrated approach to the problems associated with drugs. In this sense, civil society supports the draft resolution submitted by Uruguay Promotion and protection of human rights in the search for new approaches and effective solutions to the world drug problem.
- ◆ Recognize the recommendations of Rio +20 towards social and environmental justice, adding a paragraph to the Declaration that addresses the importance of **environmental sustainability**. We recommend using the language of Article 11 of the Protocol of San Salvador which says that all people have "the right to live in a healthy environment," and that States promote, preserve and improve the environment to achieve sustainable development.
- ◆ We recommend adding a paragraph to the Declaration to acknowledge the importance that States fully comply with their obligation to ensure access to justice for all persons, according to the standards established by the Inter-American System of Human Rights.
- ◆ We urge Governments to develop inclusive public policies with a differential human-rights focus and to establish adequate, transparent and available budgets with a human-rights focus.
- ◆ That Member States commit themselves to **update the census information of the different population segments named in this Declaration**, with the aim of generating public policies based on accurate data that fosters the full coverage and effective implementation of the plans, programs and policies that derive from them.



11TH HEMISPHERIC FORUM WITH CIVIL SOCIETY AND SOCIAL ACTORS
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PROGRAM

INTRODUCTION

Civil Society and Social Actors play an important role in the Regular Sessions of the OAS General Assemblies, contributing inputs to the decision-making process and establishing partnerships with the Member States in the implementation of the Hemispheric Agenda.

During the XLIV Regular Session of the OAS General Assembly, which will take place in Asuncion, Paraguay on June 3-5, 2014, the Ministers of Foreign Affairs of the Americas will consider the central theme of the Assembly – “Development with Social Inclusion”, submitted by the Paraguayan Minister of Foreign Affairs. In that occasion, the Foreign Affairs Dignitaries will adopt resolutions on priority topics for the region and related to the pillars of the OAS: advancement of integral development, with a special emphasis on social inclusion; multidimensional security; promotion and protection of human rights; strengthening democracy; and Inter-American legal cooperation.

In this context, the OAS General Secretariat will carry out the 11th Hemispheric Forum with Civil Society and Social Actors to offer the participants the possibility to dialogue with OAS Member States Representatives on the central theme of the General Assembly. The recommendations resulting from the 11th Hemispheric Forum will be presented by the representatives of Civil Society Organizations (CSO) and Social Actors on April 25, 2014 in a Special Session of the Committee on Inter-American Summits Management and Civil Society Participation in OAS Activities (CISC). These recommendations will contribute to the deliberations of the Member States on the Draft Declaration and topics related to the Inter-American agenda to be adopted at the XLIV OAS General Assembly.

This document outlines the expected results; the methodology and format of the sessions; as well as a draft agenda for the Hemispheric Forum and the Special Session of the CISC with civil society and social actors.

OBJECTIVES

In preparation for the XLIV OAS General Assembly, the Department of International Affairs of the Secretariat for External Relations will host – thanks to the support of the Governments of Canada, Chile and the United States of America as well as the Secretariat of Summits of the Americas – the 11th Hemispheric Forum with Civil Society and Social Actors on April 24-25 of 2014, for the purpose of granting the participants an opportunity to exchange ideas and elaborate proposals and recommendations on the main topic of the upcoming OAS General Assembly.

EXPECTED RESULTS

The expected results include:

- Recommendations to be presented to the Member States at the CISC, on the dialogue and results of the face-to-face consultations on the central theme of the General Assembly;
- A negotiation process of the Draft Declaration of the XLIV General Assembly that takes into account the inputs of civil society and social actors; and
- Exchange of expertise and best practices on programs implemented by civil society and social actors regarding the main topics of the General Assembly.

METHODOLOGY AND FORMAT

The 11th Hemispheric Forum will have a duration of one day. It will be carried out in Washington, DC and will focus on issues related to the central theme of the General Assembly “Development with Social Inclusion”, and its relation to the OAS Pillars and the Inter-American System, particularly: 1) social inclusion and combatting extreme poverty; 2) the impact of extreme poverty and social exclusion on governance in the Hemisphere; and 3) human economic and social rights.

The morning of the first day will consist in three plenary sessions which will include panels where the General Secretariat of the OAS and civil society and social actors will be represented and will dialogue on the work of OAS political organs and the efforts carried out to support the implementation of the General Assembly’s main topic. Each panelist will make a brief presentation on the topic of the session, followed by a period for questions and comments from the participants.

In the afternoon, the participants will divide into thematic Working Groups. Each of the Working Groups will be moderated by a Civil Society Representative and will include a Rapporteur tasked with taking notes during the discussions and compiling the different comments and recommendations to produce a final recommendations document. Support will also be provided by the Department of International Affairs.

At the end of the day, a plenary session will be held to share the results of the Working Groups, finalize the recommendations of the Forum and select the spokespersons who will present the document to the OAS Member States.

The recommendations of the working groups will be compiled in a document to be presented to the Member States on April 25 at a special session of the CISC.

BACKGROUND DOCUMENT

In order to enrich the discussion in each of the Forum’s thematic areas, participants are recommended to familiarize themselves with the following document:

- Draft Declaration of Asuncion for the Forty-fourth regular session of the OAS General Assembly "Development with Social Inclusion" (Presented by the Permanent Mission of Paraguay) [CP/doc.4979/14](#) corr. 1
- [Inter-American Democratic Charter](#)
- [Social Charter of the Americas](#)

LANGUAGES

The plenary sessions and working group sessions of the 11th Hemispheric Forum with Civil Society and Social Actors will be conducted in Spanish, English and French.

AGENDA

April 24, 2014

11th Hemispheric Forum with Civil Society and Social Actors

Time: 8:40am to 5:30pm

Place: Room Ruben Dario (8th Floor)
OAS General Secretariat Building (GSB)
1889 F Street, NW, Washington, DC 20006

8:40am Registration (Eighth Floor)

9:00am Inaugural Session

- Ambassador Jacinth Lorna Henry-Martin, Permanent Representative of St. Kitts and Nevis to the OAS, Chair of the Permanent Council
- José Miguel Insulza, Secretary General of the OAS

9:20am Presentation of the methodology and objectives of the Forum

- Ambassador Alfonso Quiñónez, Secretary for External Relations, OAS

9:30am Introduction to the theme of the XLIV OAS General Assembly

- Ambassador Elisa Ruiz Diaz Bareiro, Permanent Representative of Paraguay to the OAS

Dialogue with the participants

10:00am First Plenary Session: Development with social inclusion

- ◆ Cletus Springer, Director, Department of Sustainable Development and Environment, Executive Secretary for Integral Development (SEDI), OAS
- ◆ Luis Alejandro Pedraza, President – Consejo Sindical de Asesoramiento Técnico (COSATE)

Dialogue with the participants

11:00am Coffee break

11:15am Second Plenary Session: Impact of extreme poverty and social exclusion on governance in the Hemisphere

- Kevin Casas, Secretary for Political Affairs (SPA), OAS
- Marta Ferrara, Executive Director - Semillas para la Democracia

Dialogue with the participants

12:15pm Third Plenary Session: Human Economic and Social Rights

- ◆ Emilio Alvarez Icaza, Executive Secretary – Inter-American Commission on Human Rights (IACHR), OAS
- ◆ Camilla Croso, General Coordinator – Campaña Latinoamericana por el Derecho a la Educación

Dialogue with the participants

1:15pm Lunch

2:15pm Introduction to the working groups on the preparation of the recommendations document

- Jorge Sanín, Director - Department of International Affairs, OAS

2:30pm Working Groups to prepare the recommendations document

- Room Ruben Darío
- Room 804
- ◆ Room 604

5:00pm Presentation of the conclusions and recommendations of the Working Groups

Selection of the spokespersons for the special session of CISC

- Development with social inclusion
- Human economic and social rights
- The impact of extreme poverty and social exclusion on governance in the Hemisphere

5:30pm Conclusion of afternoon sessions and submission of recommendations to OAS General Secretariat

April 24, 2014

**Special Session of the Committee on Inter-American Summits Management and Civil Society
Participation in OAS Activities (CISC)**

Time: 10:30am to 12:00 p.m.

Place: Room Padhilla Vidal (lower level)
OAS General Secretariat Building (GSB)
1889 F Street, NW, Washington, D.C. 20006

10:30am Welcoming remarks

- Ambassador Andrés Gonzalez Díaz – Permanent Representative of Colombia to the OAS – Vice-Chair of the Committee on Inter-American Summits Management and Civil Society Participation in OAS Activities (CISC)

10:40am Presentation of the 11th Hemispheric Forum with Civil Society and Social Actors

- Jorge Sanín, Director - Department of International Affairs

10:50am Presentation by Civil Society and Social Actors of the Recommendation of the 11th Hemispheric Forum

- Representatives of civil society and social actors (to be selected during the forum on April 24, 2014)

11:20am Interventions by Member State Delegations

11:40am Additional comments by Civil Society Organizations and Social Actors

11:50am Interventions by Member State Delegations

12:00pm Closing



11° FORO HEMISFÉRICO CON LA SOCIEDAD CIVIL Y ACTORES SOCIALES “DESARROLLO CON INCLUSIÓN SOCIAL”

Washington, D.C. – 24 de abril de 2014

**11th HEMISPHERIC FORUM WITH CIVIL SOCIETY AND SOCIAL ACTORS
“DEVELOPMENT WITH SOCIAL INCLUSION”**

Washington, D.C. – April 24, 2014

LISTA DE PARTICIPANTES/PRELIMINARY LIST OF PARTICIPANTS

ARGENTINA

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José Alberto Herrera

Fundación Consejo Judío
Verónica Machtey

Intercambios Asociación Civil
Pablo Cymerman

USUARIA
Alberto Chehebar

BARBADOS

Barbados Association of NGOs
Sophia Greaves

Caribbean Policy Development Centre
Rodney Grant

BOLIVIA

Centro para la Participación y el Desarrollo Humano Sostenible
Sebastián Molina

BRASIL

Campaña Latinoamericana por el Derecho a la Educación
Camilla Croso

Confederación Sindical de las Américas

Daniel Angelim

CHILE

Fundación Nacional para la Superación de la Pobreza

Ramón Gelabert-Chasco

Fundación América Solidaria

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Magdalena Reyes

COLOMBIA

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Guillermo Tapia

EL SALVADOR

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ESTADOS UNIDOS DE AMÉRICA/ UNITED STATES OF AMERICA

Afro-Colombian Global Initiative

Hernando Viveros

Alliance Defending Freedom

Neydy Casillas

B'nai B'rith International

Sienna Girgenti

The Carter Center

Marcelo Varela

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Yvans Morisseau

Global Foundation for Democracy and Development

Semiramis de Miranda

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Grupo Internacional para la Responsabilidad Social Corporativa en Cuba

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International Planned Parenthood Federation - Western Hemisphere Region

Maria Bordallo

Latin American and Caribbean Network for Democracy

Carlos Ponce

Pan American Development Foundation

Camila Payan

Aaron Van Alstine

Pan American Roundtables

Marlene Romano

Partners for the Americas

Penelope Kim

Martin Rozenberg

Rotary International

Richard Carson

World Vision
Sarah Harris

GUATEMALA

Acción Ciudadana
Manfredo Marroquín

GUYANA

Society against Sexual Orientation Discrimination
Tiffany Barry

HAÍTÍ/HAITI

Association Femmes Soleil
Jean-Paul Edmond

Fondation Mains Ouvertes
Canadin Formilus

HONDURAS

Asociación para una Vida Mejor de Personas Infeccionadas – Afectadas por el VIH-SIDA en Honduras
Sandra Zambrano

Foro Permanente de Organizaciones de sociedad civil
Julio César Cabrera Hernández

MÉXICO/MEXICO

Asistencia Legal por los Derechos Humanos
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World Youth Alliance
Manuel Edgardo Soto Alday
Kateri Salas

PANAMÁ/PANAMA

Latin American Network of NGOs of People with Disabilities and their Families
Ana Fisher
Nelva Villamonte del Cid

PARAGUAY

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Elba Núñez

Semillas para la Democracia

Marta Ferrara

TRINIDAD & TOBAGO

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Bayney Karam

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Secretario General

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