



**“GOOD GOVERNANCE AND ENVIRONMENTAL JUSTICE:
TOWARDS AN INCLUSIVE SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT
AGENDA FOR THE AMERICAS”
JUNE 03, 2014**



Organization of
American States



MINISTERIO DE
JUSTICIA

**DIALOGUE IN THE FRAMEWORK OF THE 44TH GENERAL ASSEMBLY
OF THE ORGANIZATION OF AMERICAN STATES
ASUNCIÓN, PARAGUAY, JUNE 3, 2014**

In the Framework of the 44th regular session of the General Assembly of the Organization of American States (OAS) under the theme of "Development with Social Inclusion," the Government of Paraguay through its Ministry of Justice and the General Secretariat of the Organization of American States (GS/OAS), through its Department of Sustainable Development (OAS/DSD), convened a dialogue of experts on Good Governance and Environmental Justice. The Dialogue was held on June 3, 2014 in Asuncion, Paraguay and was introduced by the following authorities:

H.E. Sheila Abed, Minister of Justice of Paraguay

H.E. María Cristina Morales, Executive Secretary, Ministry of Environment of Paraguay

H.E. Antonio Fretes, Justice, Supreme Court of Justice of Paraguay

H.E. Ambassador Albert Ramdin, Assistant Secretary General of the OAS



OBJECTIVE OF THE EVENT

The objective of the event was to enable a dialogue on the strategic areas of action included in the Inter-American Program for Sustainable Development and their links to good governance and the environmental rule of law from the local to the global level.

The dialogue examined the challenges and opportunities related to the integration of these principles in the objectives of sustainable development and the strategies, policies, plans and the Inter-American Program for Sustainable Development post 2015.

The event was held in support of the Declaration of Santo Domingo for the Sustainable Development of the Americas (2010) which recognizes the different levels of development and economic, social and environmental vulnerability of the states of the Hemisphere, the wealth of their ecosystems and their biological and cultural diversity; as well as the need to work in a spirit of solidarity to ensure that strategies, policies, plans, and programs are mutually supportive and contribute to sustainable development.

The event included the participation of high officials of the Government of Paraguay, authorities with responsibility for the environment, justice and development, strategic partners, civil society, and authorities of South America, Central America and the Caribbean. The program consisted of two (2) working sessions that were followed by an interactive process of dialogues, questions, and answers. The first focused on the principles of integrated development and resilience, and the second focused on human rights and equality. After the second working session, a short film was shared highlighting the progress made in implementing the Inter-American Strategy for the Promotion of Public Participation in Decision-Making for Sustainable Development (ISP) in Central America (Video Link). Prior to the closure of the session, young adults of the juvenile penitentiaries of Paraguay gave a presentation of Paraguayan music representative of the sounds of nature. This initiative called "Music for Social Reinsertion" in the Penitentiaries" (*"Música para la Reinserción Social en las Penitenciarías"*) is promoted by the Ministry of Justice of Paraguay in the framework of the program Sounds of the Earth. In addition to giving access to musical education, the inmates receive training in the development and use of recycled musical instruments to rescue and affirm traditional values of the national culture, environmental protection, and social reconciliation.

The closing remarks of the Dialogue were presented by H.E. Elizabeth Mrema, Director of the United Nations Environment Program Division on Environmental Law and Conventions (UNEP).

KEY MESSAGES AND RECOMMENDATIONS

The key messages from the dialogue that follow will be transmitted to the Member States of the OAS for their consideration in the review process of the guidelines on sustainable development and the Third Inter-American Meeting of Ministers and High Authorities of Sustainable Development (2015). As a regional agency of the United Nations, GS/OAS/DSD will make the messages available to:

- 1) The Open-Ended Working Group on Sustainable Development Goals of the General Assembly of the United Nations for its consideration,
- 2) The United Nations Program for the Environment for its consideration in the framework of the first General Assembly on the Environment of the United Nations to be held late June 2014 in Nairobi, Kenya.

Session I. Towards harmony between economic, environmental and social affairs

- Emerging Challenges (*Economic growth, globalization, trade and investment Climate change and vulnerabilities*)
- Peace and Sustainable Development (*Conflict Prevention and Management, Environmental diplomacy*)



“Amalio de Marichalar stands up for Sustainable Development at the OAS”

-La Razón, June 06, 2014

This session was chaired by *H.E. Amalio de Marichalar, Count of Ripalda, Spain*, and included the participation of the following country experts of the Member States of the OAS:



Carlos Castillo, Elizabeth Hogan, Bhoendratt Tewarie, H.E Amalio de Marichalar

Dr. Carlos Castillo, Executive Secretary, Development and Social Inclusion Cabinet (Honduras)

Madam Elizabeth Hogan, Senior Deputy Assistant Administrator Bureau for Latin America and the Caribbean, USAID (United States)

Senator the Honorable Bhoendradatt Tewarie, Minister of Planning and Sustainable Development, (Trinidad & Tobago)

KEY MESSAGES FROM THE SESSION:

1-We find ourselves on the threshold of a new model of development, which we call Intelligent Sustainable Development, based on solid principles and values as a great opportunity in the midst of global and national crisis.

2- Incorporating culture is the best moral heritage of society as an important pillar for sustainable development.

3-Understanding of earth processes through innovative discussions that provide security for institutions and civil society.

4-Emphasizing the role of governments, the private sector, and civil society to create a more equal, inclusive society.

5-Transforming the region's aspirations require concrete actions for the achievement of social inclusiveness and environmental justice.

6-Natural resources are not only the heritage of a country from the point of view of natural beauty; natural resources are also a source of job security and opportunities. Each human being depends on ecosystems and the services they provide such as food, water, disease management, climate regulation, spiritual fulfillment and a steady enjoyment, at the same time, all our human activities have an impact on the environment we would like to enjoy.

7-In building a culture of prevention and protection of the natural resources that are so valuable to our society, we must educate and spread knowledge, and learn from the lessons.

8-Phenomena such as climate change that affect us every day are calling us to work towards the achievement of sustainable development in the framework of convergence of its three pillars with culture as a cross-cutting priority.

9-Forging enduring partnerships between environmental protection and development approaches must be founded on ecological, social and economic sustainability

10-Reiterating the importance of developing measures to reduce the risks posed by natural phenomena.

11-The involvement of the executive, legislative, and judicial branches are important to achieving meaningful commitments and results, as well as contributing to positive interventions of various actors and sectors.

12- Social and economic changes must work together to create positive changes in attitudes, values, and humanitarian collaboration to pursue sustainable development that improves the quality of living of people with more equitable opportunities, in the interest of a more inclusive society.

13-Diversifying economic activities and reducing the dependency on fossil fuels using inspiration, innovation, and human creativity can drive a successful ecology, generate finance for eco-tourism, food sustainability and for the development of small and medium enterprises that contribute towards environmental conservation.

14- Sustainable Development will not be possible without innovation. Innovation is a requirement and the perpetual source of innovation is human imagination and this is not limited by poverty or lack of education. This is why the human being must be at the center of all development and why we must not limit ourselves to talking about economic prosperity. We must

celebrate and honor human imagination to have a flow of solutions to any challenge that arises and have a continuum of sustainability.

Session II. Equality and rights-based approach: environmental justice and the rule of law for sustainable development

- Environmental Rights: *Perspective of the legislative, executive and judicial branches*
- Democracy and Access Rights: *information, participation and justice in sustainable development decision- making*



H.E. Sheila Abed, Minister of Justice of Paraguay.

“In a joint-meeting with the OAS, Minister of Justice called for Development with Social Inclusion in the Americas”

<http://www.derechoshumanos.gov.py>,

Headquarters of the Executive Branch network on Human Rights, Paraguay

The second working session was chaired by **H.E. Sheila Abed, Minister of Justice of Paraguay**, and included the participation of the following country experts of the Member States of the OAS:



The Honorable Antonio Herman Benjamin, Justice, High Court (Brazil)
(Audiovisual presentation)



H.E. Marco Vinicio Redondo Quirós,
Representative, Legislative Assembly (Costa Rica)



*H.E. Marcela Guerra, Senator and
Representative of ParlAmericas (México)*

KEY MESSAGES FROM THE SESSION:

1-The transformation to sustainable development must be based on actions that benefit those more in need.

2-In facing ever-increasing complexities regarding our planet, people everywhere view environmental rights and law and jurisprudence and environmental governance as becoming increasingly critical to solving problems of environmental justice

3-The importance of the role of the judiciary in the effective enforcement of environmental protection must be highlighted.

4-It is necessary to strengthen the capacity of the judiciary on the issue of sustainable development to have efficient processes, but with respect for the rule of the law in environmental matters.

5-Legislators and parliamentarians should create legal certainty to maintain the independence of the judiciary in environment and sustainable development subjects through substantive and effective laws that legitimize the true protection of the environment as a legal right.

6-Work in ensuring access to information, access to justice, and access to decision-making on sustainable development and environmental matters should be accelerated through the implementation of the Inter-American Strategy for Public Participation in Decision-making on sustainable development, among other instruments.

7-The positioning of equity and a rights-based approach requires emphasizing that sustainable development cannot exist without the participation of women, as they are key stakeholders in environmental protection and strengthen the dialogue. The three branches of government must work towards achieving gender equality.

8-The design and implementation of indicators in the framework of Sustainable Development Goals at the Inter-American level must be measurable and must facilitate the evaluation and sharing of experiences, as well as performance-based budget allocations to achieve these goals and poverty alleviation.

9-Law makers represent citizens, and therefore the dialogue and participation from citizens in the legislative and decision-making processes is essential for social cohesion and conflict prevention related to the environment and natural resources.

10-Creating visions and strategies to fight corruption those allow a focus towards a better world for everyone, with diversity and inclusion, especially of vulnerable groups.

11- The Rule of Law is fundamental for the achievement of sustainable development and the proposed sustainable development goals.



Press Release

1. La Nación: June 01, 2014

Title: “Sustainable Development in the Americas, theme of OAS Workshop”

Web Link: <http://www.lanacion.com.py/articulo/166571-desarrollo-sostenible-en-las-americas-tema-de-taller-de-la-oea.html>

2. Dirección General de Derechos Humanos, Ministerio de Justicia y Trabajo de Paraguay: June 04, 2014

Title: “In a joint-meeting with the OAS, Minister of Justice called for Development with Social Inclusion in the Americas”

Web Link:

http://www.derechoshumanos.gov.py/data.php?id=170&sec=noticias#.U6xSKz7D_et

3. Ministerio de Medio Ambiente de Paraguay: June 04, 2014

Title: “Good Governance and Environmental Justice”

Web Link: <http://www.seam.gov.py/component/content/article/1-latest-news/1948-2014-06-04-17-17-06.html>

4. Ultima Hora: June 04, 2014

Title: “Musician Inmates from Penitentiary perform at OAS event”

Web Link: <http://www.ultimahora.com/reos-musicos-emboscada-tocan-evento-oea-n800467.html>

5. La Razón: June 06, 2014

Title: “Amalio de Marichalar stands up for Sustainable Development at OAS”

6. Page OAS-DSD Paraguay AG:

ESP: http://www.oas.org/es/sedi/dsd/ELPG/JusticiaAmbiental_44AG.asp

ENG:

http://www.oas.org/en/sedi/dsd/ELPG/aboutELPG/Events/EnvironmentalJustice_44GA.asp



The event was organized in partnership with the United Nations Environment Program, Division on Environmental Law and Conventions and the IUCN World Commission on Environmental Law.