



CONNECTING THE AMERICAS: ADVANCING PARTNERSHIPS FOR ACTION
A Forum on Follow-up to the Summits of the Americas

OAS Headquarters – Main Building
Washington, DC – March 18, 2013

DRAFT PROGRAM

INTRODUCTION

The Summit of the Americas is the highest-level political forum in the Hemisphere, bringing together our region's leaders to discuss and propose solutions to the most pressing challenges facing the Americas. Civil society and other social actors play a crucial role in this decision-making process by providing input to and dialoging with OAS Member States on key inter-American priorities, as well as partnering with Member States for the implementation of hemispheric agreements.

On April 14-15, 2012, the Heads of State and Foreign Ministers of the OAS Member States met at the 6th Summit of the Americas under the theme "Connecting the Americas: Partners for Prosperity," where they adopted 47 mandates for regional cooperation to improve physical infrastructure integration, reduce poverty and inequality, enhance disaster risk reduction and management, increase access to and the use of information and communication technologies, and strengthen citizen security in the region.

On March 18, 2013, nearly one year after the 6th Summit of the Americas, the Summits Secretariat, with the support of the Department of International Affairs, will hold the first ever forum with civil society and social actors focused on the implementation phase of the Summit process, entitled "Connecting The Americas: Advancing Partnerships For Action." This forum will offer participants an opportunity to exchange ideas and share experiences related to the implementation of the Sixth Summit mandates in order to collectively develop proposals and recommendations for the OAS Member States' consideration on these topics.

The recommendations resulting from this event will be presented to a subsequent meeting of the Summit Implementation Review Group (SIRG) for the consideration of OAS Member States.

OBJECTIVE AND EXPECTED RESULTS

The objective of this one-day policy discussion and consultation sessions is to bring together multi-sectoral experts and practitioners to address issues related to the phase of implementation of Summit proposals in order to share knowledge, strengthen networks, as well as to prepare reports on the status of Summit implementation and recommendations for presentation to OAS Member States; all of which will be shared with Member States at a later date in the framework of the SIRG.

METHODOLOGY AND FORMAT

The Forum will have duration of one day and will be held at OAS Headquarters in Washington DC. It will focus primarily on the follow-up to the Sixth Summit mandates, and there will be an introduction to the Summits process and the 7th Summit of the Americas that will take place in Panama in 2015. In this

sense, this Forum will allow social actors to engage in the implementation process of the 6th Summit, as well as the preparatory process for the 7th Summit.

The Forum will consist of a plenary session that will feature opening remarks from the Government of Panama, the current Chair of the Summit process, a presentation on the 6th Summit Program of Implementation, and a discussion with representatives of government, institutions of the Joint Summit Working Group (JSWG), and social actors who will speak about concrete initiatives that have been initiated since the 6th Summit of the Americas, highlighting the advances and next steps, in addition to the successes achieved or challenges encountered. Furthermore, the presentations may include, as appropriate, an explanation of how social actors can participate, contribute to and benefit from certain initiatives. A moderator will guide the discussion on specific examples in the general framework for Summit follow-up and the potential role of CSOs and social actors in Summit preparations.

Following these presentations, there will be time allotted for a dialogue with all of the participants. CSOs and social actor representatives will be encouraged to pose questions to the panelists, and share their own initiatives, experiences and lessons learned, particularly at the local or sub-regional level.

After the panel and a light lunch, the participants will divide into thematic working groups, depending on their area of work, expertise or particular interest, to dialogue, exchange experiences, and develop specific recommendations on the above-mentioned topics. These working groups will be moderated by a civil society representative and will have a rapporteur responsible for taking notes of the discussions, as well as compiling the comments in order to produce a final outcome document for each session. The objective of each working group will be to prepare a series of thematic recommendations on the implementation and follow-up of the Summit, which will be presented to the OAS Member States in a subsequent meeting of the Summit Implementation Review Group (SIRG).

Each working group will include the following topics as points for initiating and furthering discussion among participants:

- Presentation of results from virtual consultations on the themes (conducted on the Summits Virtual Community)
- Overviews from OAS technical specialists on relevant programs and political processes;
- Discussions on follow-up initiatives (progress, status, challenges, recommendations, and work with local agencies and government officials)
- Discussion on the role of social actors in implementation efforts (i.e. monitoring implementation, disseminating information on follow-up and implementation efforts, collaboration with other stakeholders)
- Discussion of how social actors can be more active partners in implementation
- Familiarize participants with the 6th Summit Program of Implementation

At the end of the day, there will be a plenary session to share the results of the different working groups among the participants and finalize the recommendations from the Forum.

The recommendations that emanate from each thematic working group will be consolidated into a document that will be presented by selected social actor representatives during a subsequent meeting of the SIRG; and distributed among OAS Member States, the General Secretariat, CSOs and social actors.

LANGUAGES

The plenary sessions and working group sessions will be in English and Spanish.

AGENDA

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DRAFT AGENDA

Date: March 18, 2013

Time: 10:00 am – 5:30 pm

Place: OAS Main Building (17th Street and Constitution Ave NW, Washington DC)

- 9:30 a.m. **Registration**
- 10:00 a.m. **Plenary Session I – Columbus Room – OAS Main Building**
- Welcoming Remarks**
- **Ambassador Alfonso Quiñonez** Executive Secretary, Summits of the Americas Secretariat and Secretary for External Relations, OAS
 - **Ambassador José de Jesús Martínez Gonzalez**, Interim Representative of Panama to the OAS
- 10:20 a.m. **Presentation: The Sixth Summit Program of Implementation- Partnerships for Action**, Summits of the Americas Secretariat
- 10:45 a.m. **Dialogue on Summit of the Americas Initiatives: Advances and Opportunities:** In this session, three multi-sectoral representatives will present concrete initiatives that have emanated from the Summit process, particularly the Sixth Summit, highlighting advances and next steps, as well as any successes or challenges encountered.
- Connecting the Americas 2022, Government of Colombia
 - WEAmericas, Elizabeth A. Vazquez, CEO and Co-Founder, WEConnect International
 - Citizen Security, the OAS Secretariat for Multidimensional Security
 - Question and answer session: CSO and social actor representatives are encouraged to pose questions to presenters, and share their own initiatives, experiences and lessons learned, particularly at the local or sub-regional level.
 - Closing remarks and introduction to the Working Group sessions, Summit of the Americas Secretariat
- 12:30 p.m. **Lunch** (Hall of the Heroes, OAS Main Building)

2:00 p.m. **Working Group Sessions:** The working groups will revolve around a central theme of the Summit process, and will open with a presentation on the results of virtual consultations held on each of the themes via the Summits Virtual Community (SVC), and overviews from OAS technical specialists on relevant programs and political processes. Each Group will be led by a moderator, and employ a rapporteur to record the overall outcomes of the discussions and to keep track of any recommendations generated by participants.

Group 1: Energy, the Environment, and Infrastructure (Columbus Room)

Group 2: Social and Economic Inclusion (Miranda Room)

3:30 p.m. **Coffee Break**

3:45 p.m. **Working Group Sessions (continued):** Moderated discussion followed by preparation of recommendation documents (focused on emphasizing relevant work in the area; ongoing challenges; recommendations and/or considerations related to improving and advancing implementation efforts)

4:30 p.m. **Plenary Session II**

- Presentation and consideration of draft recommendation documents, Working Group Moderators and Rapporteurs

5:30 p.m. **Closing Remarks**

- **Ambassador Carmen Lomellin**, Permanent Representative of the United States to the OAS
- **Ambassador Alfonso Quiñonez**, Executive Secretary, Summits of the Americas Secretariat and Secretary for External Relations, OAS