



**SECOND PUBLIC DISCUSSION FORUM
OVERVIEW OF PARTNERS' ENGAGEMENT IN ECPA: SUCCESSFUL
COLLABORATION STRATEGIES**

9:30 AM

Welcome Remarks and Introduction

- **Ms. Sherry Tross, Executive Secretary, SEDI, OAS**

Keynote address

- **H.E. Juan Federico Jiménez Mayor
Ambassador, Permanent Representative of Peru before the OAS**

- **H.E. Jean-Claude Nolla
Ambassador, Permanent Observer of France before the OAS**

Wednesday, April 16, 2014

- Good morning. I am pleased to welcome you today to the Second Public Discussion Forum of the Energy and Climate Partnership of the Americas hosted by the Organization of American States. The purpose of our debate this morning is to identify engagement strategies that have proven successful at driving collaboration on energy and climate. We will present the joint efforts led by governments, international organizations and NGOs under the auspices of the Energy and Climate Partnership of the Americas, known as ECPA, to address the challenges of sustainable development and low carbon economic growth facing the countries in the region.
- Three months ago, the OAS hosted the First ECPA Public Discussion Forum. On that occasion, we spoke of the importance of advancing greater energy and climate change awareness, education and literacy among the people of the Caribbean and Latin America. We realized that each sector played a unique role in conveying the message of sustainability, and that the content of that message must be customized to suit to differing interests, priorities, needs and realities.
- Today I would like to invite you to think about possible ways to strengthen dialogue and collaboration on energy and climate. What mechanisms are available in our region to foster partnerships in this field? Is ECPA an effective means to drive greater collaboration and trust among countries on issues pertaining to energy and climate? How can we better serve the needs of the region through ECPA?
- I believe the OAS can make great contributions to support partnerships and increased collaboration in this field. As the principal forum for regional dialogue, our organization has a long history of supporting the engagement of the countries in the Americas in successful partnerships for democracy, human rights, security and development.



- With regard to energy and climate, the Executive Secretariat for Sustainable Development, through its Department of Sustainable Development, works closely with OAS Member States to develop clean, reliable and cost-effective energy supplies, and to use those supplies, whether renewable or non-renewable, in the most efficient and rational way possible.
- Since 2009, the Department of Sustainable Development has functioned as the ECPA Clearinghouse helping to foster partnerships for greater dialogue, collaboration and awareness on energy and climate. ECPA is a flexible mechanism through which governments, civil society, and the private sector can implement sustainable energy initiatives. Ultimately, these types of initiatives seek to promote universal access to energy, a diversified energy matrix and low carbon economic growth. These solutions are envisaged as an effective response to concerns over growing energy demand, environmental degradation and natural resource depletion.
- I am delighted to know that so many NGOs, government agencies and international organizations are joining forces under the ECPA umbrella to support hemispheric collaboration on energy and climate. These partnerships are yielding valuable contributions to the advancement of sustainable growth, the creation of new sustainable energy markets and the development of the region's potential.
- Some of the partners who are implementing these efforts with the support of the OAS and ECPA are here with us today to share their strategies for establishing strong partnerships for meaningful dialogue and collaboration on energy and climate.
- We will hear the experiences of Solar Energy International, the organization that established the Solar Professionals' Academy of the Americas. The Academy is mobilizing the private sector throughout Central America and Mexico to impart training on solar photovoltaic systems design, installation and maintenance and to successfully launch and administer businesses in this industry.
- Trees, Water and People will tell us how they are working with local partners to improve the quality of life and livelihoods of impoverished communities in Peru and Honduras by providing them with reliable access to basic energy services.
- Centro de Derecho Ambiental y de los Recursos Naturales of Costa Rica will explain how it is working with local governments, private sector and city residents to improve the quality of public transport in the San José metropolitan area.
- State University of New York at Albany will describe the partnerships it built through the Andean Climate Change Inter-American Observatory Network to enhance scientific capacity in local research institutions, build a network of scientists and provide an input to policy makers in Colombia, Ecuador, Peru and Chile.
- Universidad de Costa Rica will give a first-hand account of how it worked with different stakeholders to develop and deploy a sustainable energy model for the Central American coffee milling industry.



- Partners of the Americas will share its ECPA Fellows Program, aimed at facilitating energy and climate knowledge transfer, building an experts network and bringing together diverse actors.
- SNV will discuss its partnership with Viogaz to implement an ECPA initiative on electricity generation from biogas and to disseminate electricity saving solutions for coffee growers and swine farmers in Honduras and Costa Rica.
- We will also hear from our own Department of Sustainable Development at the OAS, which has established innovative partnerships to advance energy efficiency, sustainable production and consumption, and measurement sciences at a hemispheric level.
- While these are the partnering experiences that will be shared today, there are many more partnerships taking shape under ECPA.
- For example, the governments of Colombia and the United States launched Connecting the Americas 2022, a hemispheric initiative which establishes a decade-long goal to achieve universal access to electricity.
- The Government of Canada launched the Heavy Oil Working Group to provide a forum on best practices and technological innovation in heavy oil in the Americas.
- And the Government of Mexico chairs the Energy Efficiency Working Group to disseminate best practices in energy efficiency and conservation.

[Pause]

- During the second half of this forum, we will have an open debate to discuss partnership engagement strategies and identify new ways to foster regional collaboration on these important topics. I encourage you to use this opportunity to have a frank discussion on how to advance this debate among all sectors.
- I also encourage you to listen to the experiences of the ECPA initiative implementers to understand how their interactions are contributing to the achievement of specific energy and climate goals, and to understand how these interactions may also be effective in different contexts.
- The challenges of energy and climate are global. Addressing them successfully requires everyone's engagement. Through partnerships, collaboration, and human ingenuity above all, we can find solutions to those challenges.
- Once again, I would like to welcome you to this forum and to the Organization of American States.