Conference of the Americas 2013
“Youth in Action”

Main Conference: November 5, 2013

Expo: November 5, 2013

Virtual Forum: October 1-November 1, 2013

Hall of the Americas, Organization of American States
17th and Constitution Avenue, NW, Washington DC
OAS Youth Conference of the Americas 2013

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1. CONTEXT

Approximately 534 million people under the age of 35 live in the Western Hemisphere. The challenges facing them are many and varied: from access to equal opportunity to education and employment.

In spite of these challenges, the Organization of American States (OAS) believes in the potential power and strength that exists within this group. The OAS has recognized the ability of child and youth populations to influence communities, nations, the hemisphere and the world, and in so doing, achieve significant change.

As the world’s oldest hemispheric multilateral institution with convening power to bring together all independent nations of the Western Hemisphere, the OAS is guided by the pillars of democracy, human rights, development and a multidimensional approach to security. The OAS Inter-American Democratic Charter holds the governments of the Hemisphere accountable for the preservation of democracy and all its benefits. OAS Member States believe that in the execution of our mandates, “special attention shall be given to the development of programs and activities for the education of children and youth as a means of ensuring the continuance of democratic values, including liberty and justice.” In 2008 in Medellin, Colombia, OAS member States went further to officially mandate the Organization to “mainstream the youth perspective into the programs and activities of the OAS, in particular, activities that focus on the promotion of democratic principles and values.”

It is against this background that the OAS Interdepartmental Working Group (OAS Youth) was born. Headed by Assistant Secretary General Albert Ramdin, OAS Youth is aimed at promoting democracy and facilitating equality, opportunity and prosperity in the Americas. We have recognized that positive change can only be lasting if all sectors of society, including youth are considered equal in dialogue and opportunity. We believe the youth of the Americas are not just future leaders, but agents of change.

The common challenges facing the Americas are significant: approximately 167 million people in Latin America and the Caribbean live in poverty and 39% of all youth in these sub regions are listed as poor. The Americas also remains home to the greatest income inequity in the world.

In the face of these challenges, the OAS believes the youth of the Americas can make a difference in mapping out a new course to secure the future of the Americas.

2. MAJOR EVENTS

On December 4, 2012, under the leadership of Assistant Secretary General Ramdin, the OAS organized and hosted Youth Conference 2012: Youth in Action for Democracy and Entrepreneurship.

With support from corporate sponsors Google and Pepsi, the OAS convened a meeting which brought together youth, youth representatives, government officials, private sector leaders and other stakeholders from across the hemisphere to discuss issues facing the Americas and youth perspectives on finding solutions and effecting change.
**OAS Youth Conference 2012** included a Virtual Forum which facilitated simultaneous dialogue across the Americas on current events and a Youth Expo featuring OAS Youth initiatives. The 2012 events culminated in a main conference at the OAS Headquarters in Washington, D.C. Following the main conference, key recommendations were presented to OAS Member States and the OAS Secretary General, at the level of the Permanent Council.

On November 5, 2013, the OAS will build on the success of previous events, by hosting the *“OAS Youth Conference of the Americas 2013: Youth in Action.”*

In 2013, a heightened Virtual Forum will facilitate youth dialogue across the Americas on current events, which will be considered during the main youth conference; a Youth Expo will be held at the OAS headquarters featuring new partners, and the events will culminate in the main conference at the OAS in Washington, DC. Once again, recommendations emanating from this conference will be officially presented to all OAS Member States.

### 3. KEY OBJECTIVES

Among the key objectives of the OAS Youth Conference of the Americas:

- To facilitate dialogue among youth stakeholders, OAS Member States, experts and other leaders from across the Americas on current events and common challenges;
- To expose youth to the perspectives of the public and private sectors;
- To provide recommendations and proposals to OAS Member States, experts and leaders, from youth stakeholders.

### 4. ORGANIZER

The Organization of American States, through Assistant Secretary General Albert Ramdin - Chair of the OAS Inter-Departmental Working Group on Youth.

### 5. PARTICIPANTS

- Representatives of youth organizations across the Americas
- Delegations from universities and schools across the Americas
- OAS Experts
- Private Sector Experts
- OAS Member States & Observers
- Government Representatives
- Intergovernmental Organizations

### 6. LOGISTICAL INFORMATION

**Venue:**
Hall of the Americas-Organization of American States located at 17th and Constitution Avenue, NW, Washington DC.

**Hotels:**
The Organization of American States has a Corporate Rate for participants at the State Plaza Hotel, the St. Gregory Hotel, Virginian Suites and the Park Hyatt Washington, D.C. Room availability is on a first come first serve basis and all participants are in charge of liaising directly with the hotels regarding reservations. **Please note that several simultaneous events will be taking place in Washington DC at the time of this conference. With this in mind, we recommend that hotel reservations be made as soon as possible.**

**State Plaza Hotel:**
2117 E Street, NW
Washington, DC 20037
Website: [http://www.stateplaza.com/?src=ppc_google_brand&gclid=CKuL9paLirkCFe1xOgodoTAAbA](http://www.stateplaza.com/?src=ppc_google_brand&gclid=CKuL9paLirkCFe1xOgodoTAAbA)
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>State Suite (Single/Double Occupancy)</th>
<th>$189.00/nt plus 14.5% tax</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Full American Breakfast</td>
<td>$12.00/day plus 14.5% tax</td>
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For Reservations:
Guests can make reservations directly by calling 1-800-424-2859 or 202-861-8200. Please refer to the “Organization of American States (Reference Code S1047)” to guarantee the preferred rate. Reservations can also be made via email to Stara@rbpropertiesinc.com or 202-833-6966.

**St. Gregory Hotel**
2033 M Street, NW
Washington, DC 20036-5305
Website: [http://www.stgregoryhotelwdc.com/](http://www.stgregoryhotelwdc.com/)

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<th>Single/Double Occupancy (no breakfast)</th>
<th>$193.00/nt</th>
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<tr>
<td>Single/Double Occupancy (Breakfast included)</td>
<td>$223.00/nt</td>
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For Reservations:
Guests can make reservations directly by calling 202-530-3600 or 1-800-829-5034. Please ask for the “Organization of American States rate” when making the reservation in order to guarantee the preferred rate.

**Park Hyatt Washington DC**
1201 24th Street, NW
Washington, DC 20037

<table>
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<tr>
<th>Park Deluxe Room</th>
<th>$275.00/nt plus 14.5% tax</th>
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<tr>
<td>Premier Deluxe Room</td>
<td>$325.00/nt plus 14.5% tax</td>
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For Reservations:
Guests can make reservations directly by calling 202-530-3600 or 1-800-829-5034. Please ask for the “Organization of American States rate” when making the reservation in order to guarantee the preferred rate.

**Virginian Suites**
1500 Arlington Boulevard
Arlington, VA 22209
Website: [www.virginiansuites.com](http://www.virginiansuites.com)

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<tr>
<th>Studio Suite with One Bed</th>
<th>$159.00 plus 12% tax</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>One Bedroom Suite with One Bed</td>
<td>$179.00 plus 12% tax</td>
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For Reservations:
Guests can make reservations by contacting Mr. **MICHAEL GRAY** (Reservations Manager):
Email: reservations@virginiansuites.com
Toll free number: 866.371.1446
Fax: 703.525.4462

In order to take advantage of these rates, please reference OAS block ID number **726623** by **October 3, 2013**.
7. CONTACT INFORMATION

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