11\textsuperscript{th} HEMISPHERIC FORUM WITH CIVIL SOCIETY AND SOCIAL ACTORS

“Development with Social Inclusion”

Washington, D.C. – April 24-25, 2014

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 11\textsuperscript{th} 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 11\textsuperscript{th} 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 11\textsuperscript{th} 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:

1. 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;
2. 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
3. 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.
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

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

Participation in this forum is open to all CSOs registered or non-registered with the OAS and social actors. However, only OAS-registered CSOs will be considered to receive financial aid. For that purpose, organizations will need to fill out a request form, indicating, among others, the following information:

- The name of the person for whose participation financial support is requested
- The level of participation of the organization in OAS activities, including the General Assembly and Permanent Council meetings
- Areas of specialization and expertise of the organization
- Specify whether the organization is a network of NGOs

As selection criteria, this Department will review the requests from civil society organizations and social actors in function of:

1. Equitable gender and geographic representation;
2. Relevant expertise and knowledge of the topics and areas of discussion; and
3. Representation of thematic and regional networks registered in the OAS.
11th Hemispheric Forum with Civil Society and Social Actors

**Time:** 8:40am to 5:30pm  
**Place:** Room Ruben Darío (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)  
- Eduardo Garmendia, Representative - Asociación de Industriales Latinoamericanos (AILA)

Dialogue with the participants

11:15am **Coffee break**

11:30am **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

12:30pm  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

1:30pm  Lunch

2:30pm  Introduction to the working groups on the preparation of the recommendations document
- Jorge Sanín, Director - Department of International Affairs, OAS

2:40pm  Working Groups to prepare the recommendations document
- Room Ruben Dario
- Room 804
- Room 604  Eduardo Garmendia, Representante - Asociación de Industriales Latinoamericanos (AILA)

5:00pm  Presentation of the conclusions and recommendations of the Working Groups
- 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 25, 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