



**Civil Society and Social Actors Participation Process
towards the
Second Inter-American Meeting of Ministers and High-Level Authorities
on Sustainable Development
Santo Domingo, Dominican Republic
October 6-8, 2010.**

1. Context and Background

The Second Inter-American Meeting of Ministers and High-Level Authorities on Sustainable Development is the perfect opportunity to follow up on the actions identified by the Ministers and High-Level Authorities in 2006 during the First Ministerial Meeting on Sustainable Development, and the commitments to pursue a range of actions related to sustainable development and in particular to environmental sustainability in the hemisphere, as agreed by the Heads of State and Government from OAS Member States during the Fifth Summit of the Americas held in Trinidad and Tobago in April 2009.

The meeting aims at identifying priorities in the hemispheric agenda, established in previous commitments, and addressing emerging challenges in sustainable development and common opportunities for the countries of the region. The Department of Sustainable Development (DSD) welcomes and encourages your participation and that of all the environmental community in the preparatory process for the Ministerial Meeting.

2. Proposed Objectives of the Meeting

- Advance implementation of the actions agreed at the Fifth Summit of the Americas as they relate to energy and environmental sustainability.
- Facilitate dialogue on new and emerging threats to environmental sustainability, and measures to overcome such threats within the context of risk management.
- Promote consensus on key hemispheric issues of global significance.

3. Proposed Agenda Items for the Ministerial

Pursuant to the proposed agenda, the meeting is expected to examine five issues under the umbrella theme “**Towards Sustainable Development in the Americas**”: (1) Follow up on the Santa Cruz + 10 Declaration, (2) Implementation of the Inter-American Program on Sustainable Development (PIDS), (3) Vulnerability in the Context of Sustainable Development; (4) Risk Management and Planning; and (5) Institutional and management aspects related to climate change.

4. Opportunities for Public Participation

The DSD is committed to the development and implementation of policies that ensure civil society (individuals, the private sector, the labor sector, political parties, academics, and other non-governmental organizations) participation in planning, managing, and decision-making for sustainable development.

In order to strengthen and guarantee a wide participation of civil society during the preparatory process of the Second Ministerial Meeting, the DSD in collaboration with the Department of International Affairs (DIA) and the Summits of the Americas Secretariat will implement an open and iterative consultation process with civil society organizations and key social actors. To this end, the DSD will conduct different kinds of outreach and public consultations processes, such as informative bulletins, a hemispheric virtual consultation forum, three subregional consultations and a hemispheric roundtable prior to the ministerial meeting. The objectives of the consultations are to:

- Mobilize the support of civil society organizations for the preparation of the Draft Declaration.
- Build consensus positions among representatives of civil society and obtain recommendations and follow-up activities on the theme and agenda to be considered during the Ministerial Meeting.
- Benefit from the best practices efforts, including advocacy, of civil society and work on the ministerial theme to be analyzed during the meeting.

Dates, information and reports from these consultations will be available on the www.oas.org/dsd

<p>Regional Consultations with Civil Society Organizations</p>	<p>In order to facilitate broad-based participation of civil society, during the preparatory process of the Ministerial Meeting, and to facilitate dialogue on the ministerial theme, three sub-regional consultations: (i) Caribbean, (ii) Mesoamerica, and (iii) South America, will be organized with civil society organizations including those that represent interest of social actors such as the youth. Civil society consultation in the Caribbean took place in Saint Lucia on July 2010.</p>
<p>Hemispheric Virtual Consultation Forum</p>	<p>To further the discussion on the Ministerial Meeting theme, a hemispheric wide Virtual Consultation Forum with Civil Society and key social actors will be held from September 1st to September 30, 2010. The forum will benefit from materials and input gathered in the sub-regional consultations which will serve as a basis for discussion and analysis on the issues to be addressed in the Ministerial Meeting.</p>
<p>Private Sector Consultation Panel</p>	<p>During this consultation, challenges and opportunities for public-private collaboration in addressing the issues of <i>Sustainable Development in the Americas</i> will be discussed. This panel will engage small and medium enterprises and other private entrepreneurs of the region concerned with sustainable development. The place and date of the consultation will be announced soon.</p>
<p>Hemispheric Roundtable: an opportunity to participate during the Ministerial Meeting</p>	<p>Prior to the Second Ministerial Meeting, on October 5th, 2010, a roundtable discussion will take place with civil society representatives to discuss the results of the sub-regional consultations, the Private Sector Consultation Panel, and the Hemispheric Virtual Consultation Forum, to reach consensus regarding the recommendations that will be presented, and that will serve as a basis for dialogue between civil society and the Ministers and High-Level Authorities of Sustainable Development during a Plenary Session during the Ministerial Meeting.</p>

5. How will the contributions in this process be incorporated in the Draft Declaration and Agenda of the Ministerial Meeting?

Civil society is encouraged to take part in these consultations. Comments and recommendations resulting from the sub-regional and private sector consultations as well as those posted on the Virtual Forum are vital to the Member States as they move forward in discussions regarding the Draft Declaration and preparations for the Second Ministerial Meeting. To this end, recommendations will be compiled in reports that will be presented during the preparatory meetings for the consideration of Government Representatives (composed by delegates from the Member States including Permanent Missions to the OAS) scheduled between June and October 2010.



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For more information about the Ministerial Meeting visit our website: <http://www.oas.org/dsd/> and/or http://www.oas.org/dsd/MinisterialMeeting/SecondMeetingSustainableDevelopment_e.htm or Contact: Isis Márquez (imarquez@oas.org) T: (202) 458-6470/F:(202) 458-3560 Department of Sustainable Development Organization of American States 1889 F Street, NW