



Organization of
American States



SUMMITS OF THE AMERICAS VIRTUAL COMMUNITY
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Advancing Towards Sustainable Development in the Americas
(Report of the Virtual Consultation Forum held from June 8 to 19, 2015)

1. INTRODUCTION

The Third Inter-American Meeting of Ministers and High-Level Authorities on Sustainable Development will take place from October 22 to 23, 2015 in Honduras, for the adoption of the new Inter-American Program for Sustainable Development (PIDS). In this framework, the General Secretariat of the Organization of American States (OAS) through its Department of Sustainable Development and the Summit of the Americas Secretariat organized the Virtual Hemispheric Consultation Forum “Advancing towards Sustainable Development in the Americas,” which was held from June 8 to 19, 2015. The Forum was held simultaneously in English and Spanish through the Summits of the Americas Virtual Community (CVC) and was open to the participation of representatives of civil society and other social actors from across the region.

The Forum featured 27 comments and the participation of various representatives of civil society, social actors and the General Secretariat of the OAS, and also received 1, 219 visits of civil society organizations and social actors (704 visits to the Spanish version of the Forum, and 545 visits to the English version). The Forum was moderated by experts from the Department of Sustainable Development at the OAS

The principal objective of this Forum was to strengthen and ensure broad participation of representatives of civil society and other social actors in the process of reviewing and updating the PIDS and the preparations for the Third Inter-American Meeting of Ministers and High-Level Authorities on Sustainable Development. The specific objectives of the Forum included:

- 1) To obtain input from civil society and social actors for the revision and update of the PIDS.
- 2) Build consensus among representatives of civil society and social actors and obtain their recommendations on the priorities that should be included in the PIDS and analyzed during the Ministerial Meeting.
- 3) Benefit from best practices efforts of civil society and social actors on the themes to be analyzed during the Ministerial Meeting.

During the period of exchange of the Virtual Forum, the issue of sustainable development was discussed with reference to the following questions and documents:

Questions:

1. Taking into account the continuing challenges to sustainable development in the Hemisphere and the reference documents please list the priority sustainable development challenges that should be addressed in a revised and updated PIDS.
2. Identify concrete actions within each of the priority areas indicated in response to question 1 above, that could fall under the following action lines of the OAS:
 - a) Serve as a hemispheric forum to promote dialogue and coordinate progress in sustainable development;
 - b) Support the exchange of information relating to sustainable development, and facilitate the exchange of experiences among countries, institutions, and organizations; and
 - c) Act as a partner in cooperation among stakeholders involved in sustainable development in those areas in which the OAS General Secretariat has a comparative advantage.
3. How you foresee the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) framework being incorporated into the revised and updated PIDS?
4. How can the General Secretariat of the OAS (GS/OAS) through its implementation of the PIDS adequately support member States efforts in achieving the SDGs?
5. Please share recommendations regarding:
 - a. Strategies that should be adopted in implementing a new PIDS.
 - b. Strategies for mobilizing new and additional resources for the implementation of the PIDS.

Reference Documents:

The Inter-American Program on Sustainable Development 2006-2009 (extended to December 2015)

<http://www.oas.org/dsd/Documents/PIDSeng.pdf>

Concept Note "***Building a Post-2015 Sustainable Development Agenda for the Americas***"

(CIDI/CIDS/doc.2/14 corr.1):

http://scm.oas.org/doc_public/ENGLISH/HIST_14/CIDI04468E02.doc

"The Future We Want" adopted on 27 June 2012 at the Rio +20 Conference (A//RES/66/288)

http://www.un.org/en/ga/search/view_doc.asp?symbol=%20A/RES/66/288

"Realizing the Future We Want for All" adopted by the UN System Task Team on the Post 2015 UN Development Agenda

http://www.un.org/millenniumgoals/pdf/Post_2015_UNTTreport.pdf

2. MAIN COMMENTS AND CONCERNS FROM FORUM PARTICIPANTS

Forum participants emphasized the importance of civil society participation in the work of the OAS in the area of sustainable development. Further, they acknowledged the opportunity for learning and exchanging discussions on this important issue. Other highlights included recognizing and giving value to the existence of indigenous peoples and the different cultures as basis for peaceful coexistence. It was highlighted the need to value traditional knowledge and the recognition of the relationship between humans and the earth. It was also stressed the need to work in a culture of prevention of environmental damage and disaster risk management in coordination with actions to address climate change. Finally, it was highlighted the need to work for a change in the energy matrix of States in the interest of sustainable development.

Forum participants requested the ministers to consider the recommendations presented to the presidents and heads of states of the Americas as a result of the Hemispheric Forum of Civil Society in the Framework of the Summit of the Americas (Panama 2015), in particular the results of the Energy, Sustainable Development and Environment panel.

These recommendations were the result of the discussions in Panama City during the period from April 8-10, 2015. Taking into account the mandate to strengthen the link between specialized ministerial meetings in the framework of the OAS and the Summit of the Americas processes and the presentation made at the IV Ordinary Meeting of the CIDS, CIDI/CIDS/inf.9/14, the recommendations are included verbatim from the document OEA/Ser.E ASCA/Foro-38/15.1

3. MAIN RECOMMENDATIONS AND PROPOSALS

Virtual Forum:

- Coordinate actions among member States, civil society organizations, academia and other sectors on issues of disaster risk management and climate change.
- Learn from the experiences of indigenous peoples related to Mother Earth to contribute to sustainable development.
- Incorporate the conception of indigenous peoples that the Earth is life itself, our home, and highlight the role of humans in the defense and protection of the planet. Understanding Earth not only as an extension of territory or a factor of production, but rather as a unified planet together with the other elements that compose it, and to respect it.
- It is essential to include active participation of civil society, indigenous peoples, women, youth and the elderly, among others.
- Build a strong, harmonious and representative legal basis for sustainable development based on a balanced and fair society.
- Review the energy generation matrix so that it is aligned with Sustainable Development Goals.
- Consider and incorporate the recommendations of the Panel on Energy, Sustainable Development and Environment of the Civil Society Forum of the VII Summit of the Americas in the process.

Panel on Energy, Sustainable Development and Environment of the Seventh Summit of the Americas Civil Society Forum

We affirm that in order to attain a high level of human development it is necessary to foster environmental sustainability in the economic activities and public policies of States, as well as alignment of markets and social actors in the interests of ensuring the sustainability of life on the planet.

We propose that the governance of countries be oriented toward the sustainable use of ecosystems and species.

We request that the human right to a healthy environment be observed, in particular for indigenous peoples, rural communities, and people of African descent, as the basis of environmental good governance in countries; we demand genuine free and informed prior consultation and their consent with regard to extractive activities and megaprojects in our hemisphere.

We demand an end to environmental racism and criminalization of the work of activists by states and large corporations—particularly transnational ones—especially that done in defense of the most fragile ecosystems and the most vulnerable populations.

We recognize community-based watchdogs as an oversight, monitoring, and reporting mechanism. We also request the creation and funding of a hemispheric civil society agency to monitor compliance with environmental standards, with authority to take up complaints and to issue technical and scientific recommendations.

We acknowledge that climate change is the main environmental threat to sustainable development in the Americas. We urge governments to participate in COP21 (Paris 2015) and to adopt binding and effective commitments to mitigation, adaptation, risk management, financing, development, and technology transfer in keeping with their historical responsibilities. We also ask that States and multilateral finance institutions align all their actions in order to address climate change effectively.

We demand the elimination of unilateral business and financial activities that undermine how climate change is confronted.

We reiterate that equitable access to water is a human right and, therefore, that preserving, restoring and protecting aquifer recharge areas as the basis of the water cycle is a priority for meeting human needs, particularly where food production is concerned. We request that governments implement environmental sanitation programs as a critically urgent strategy for protecting water sources.

We urge governments, multilateral finance institutions, international agencies and public and private actors to implement sustainable-energy systems as a strategy for modifying consumption patterns and averting ecosystem degradation, while simultaneously diversifying the energy matrix, facilitating community-based generation and co-generation of clean energy.

Advancing this agenda requires strengthening environmental cooperation, education and research actions under an equity-aware perspective.

We regard all of the above as essential steps in joint environmental stewardship for ensuring prosperity with environmental equity for current and future generations throughout the Hemisphere.

ANNEX

A. PARTICIPANTS OF THE VIRTUAL FORUM AND THE HEMISPHERIC FORUM OF CIVIL SOCIETY IN THE FRAMEWORK OF THE VII SUMMIT OF THE AMERICAS (Panamá 2015).²

Argentina

- Centro para la Apertura y Desarrollo
- Foro Permanente para la Educación, la Ciencia y la Cultura por la Paz

Registration Date: April 20, 2011

- Red Argentina para la Cooperación

Barbados

- Barbados Youth Business Trust

Fecha del registro: January 9, 2007

- Caribbean Policy Development

Belize

- Pickstock Development Association

Bolivia

- Consejo de Hamautas Indígenas
- Fundación Construir

Registration Date: April 23, 2014

- Impacto Social

Brazil

- Cámara Interamericana de Transportes

Registration Date: May 16, 2008

- Igarapé Institute

Registration Date: April 23, 2014

- Instituto Brasileiro de Fluencia

Registration Date: December 15, 2010

- Movimento dos Pequenos Agricultores
- Movimento pela Soberania frente a Minería
- Consulta Popular

Canada

- Multi-Sectoral Expertise Group Inc.
- Oxfam-Quebec

Chile

- Centro Estratégico para el Desarrollo Sostenible(SINERGIAS)
- Corporación Cultural Nueva Acrópolis

² The date of registration of the Organizations that have registered to participate in OAS activities in accordance with resolution CP/759 has been included for registered organizations.

Registration Date: January 9, 2007

- Fundación Nacional para la Superación de la Pobreza

Registration Date: November 15, 2011

- Fundación Mi Parque
- ONG de Desarrollo para la Investigación, Formación y Estudios sobre la Mujer-ISFEM

Colombia

- Asociación Líderes en Acción

Registration Date: November 24, 2008

- Corporación Asociación Nacional de Mujeres Campesinas de Colombia
- Fundación Convivencia Sostenible
- Fundación Internacional Paz y Desarrollo
- Fundación Natura Colombia
- Fundación Nueva Sociedad
- Fundación Soy Pescador
- Ingeniería y Sistemas Ambientales (INSA)
- ONG Pulso Verde
- Organización Nacional para el Desarrollo de los Pueblos
- Universidad Nacional de Colombia(Facultad de Derecho)

Costa Rica

- Universidad para la Cooperación Internacional

Cuba

- Asociación Nacional de Pequeños Agricultores
- Sociedad Cubana para las Fuentes Renovables y Energía (CUBASOLAR)
- Sociedad Meteorológica de Cuba (SOMETCUBA)

Dominican Republic

- Participación Ciudadana

Ecuador

- Corporación Participación Ciudadana
- Fundación Chasquinet

Registration Date: May 16, 2008

- Fundación Ecológica Misión Verde
- Futuro Latinoamericano - Fundación Internacional para la Promoción del Desarrollo

Registration Date: November 6, 2002

- Terra Mater
- Organización de Mujeres Indígenas y Campesinas

El Salvador

- Fundación Salvadoreña para el Desarrollo Económico y Social

Registration Date: April 25, 2007

Guatemala

- Acción Ciudadana
- Observatorios de Pueblos Indígenas

Guyana

- National Youth Development Network

Registration Date: November 15, 2011

- Youths for Guyana
- Guyana Womens Miners Organization

Haití

- Fondation Mains Ouvertes

Registration Date: December 15, 2010

- Plateforme haitienne de Plaidoyer pour un developement alternatif (PAPDA)
- The civil society platform on climate

Honduras

- Asociación para una sociedad más justa
- Centro para el Desarrollo Comunal (CEDECO)

Registration Date: January 9, 2007

- Organización de Desarrollo Étnico Comunitario (ODECO)

Registration Date: November 24, 2008

- Organización Fraternal Negra Hondureña
- Red de Mujeres y Ambiental
- Pastoral de la Movilidad Humana

Jamaica

- Association of Development Agencies

Registration Date: November 24, 2008

- Kevoy Community Development Institute (KCDI)

Mexico

- Movimiento Mexicano por la Paz y el Desarrollo

Nicaragua

- Consejo nacional en defensa de la tierra, lago y soberanía de Nicaragua

Panamá

- Alianza para la Conservación y el Desarrollo
- Asociación Panameña de Ejecutivos de Empresa

Fecha del registro: March 26, 2003

- Asociación Napguana, Kuna-Panamá
- Asociación Agro ecoturismo Wounan
- Centro de la Mujer Panameña (CEMP)

Registration Date: June 3, 2015

- Centro de Incidencia Ambiental
- Colectivo Voces Ecológicas
- Comité de Saneamiento del Distrito de Macaracas
- Coordinadora de mujeres indígenas
- Coordinadora de pueblos indígenas

- Coordinadora para la defensa de tierras y aguas de Coclé
- Enlex consultores en energía
- Federación de Áreas Revertidas
- Movimiento campesino en defensa del Río Cobre
- Salvemos el Río La Villa

Paraguay

- Asociación para la Mujer Artesana y Obrera

Peru

- Asociación Regional de Mujeres Ingenieras AREMIT PERU
- Centro de Estudio para el Desarrollo Regional
- Centro Latinoamericano de Estudios y Cooperación para el Desarrollo

Registration Date: January 9, 2007

- Innovaciones para el Desarrollo Sostenible
- Gas Energía y Latin America

Trinidad & Tobago

- Caribbean Organization of Indigenous People
- International Education and Resource Network

Registration Date: January 9, 2007

United States of America

- Brookings Institution
- Center of Justice and International Law
- Counterpart International
- Fundación Panamericana para el Desarrollo/Pan American Development Foundation

Registration Date: February 2, 2005

Venezuela

- Asociación Nacional de Redes y Organizaciones Sociales

Registration Date: April 20, 2011