



Organization of  
American States



MINISTERIO DE  
**JUSTICIA**

## GOOD GOVERNANCE AND ENVIRONMENTAL JUSTICE: TOWARDS AN INCLUSIVE SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT AGENDA FOR THE AMERICAS

June 3, 2014

**8:30 am to 3:30 pm**

Asunción, Paraguay

La Misión Boutique Hotel

**Background and Objectives:** The Declaration of Santo Domingo for the Sustainable Development of the Americas (2010) recognized the different levels of development and economic, social and environmental vulnerability of the states of the Hemisphere, the wealth of their ecosystems and their biological and cultural diversity, as well as the need to work in a spirit of solidarity to ensure that strategies, policies, plans, and programs are mutually supportive and contribute to sustainable development, to the eradication of hunger and poverty and to peace and democracy in the Americas.

Additionally, this Declaration established the importance to encourage dialogue and regional cooperation as well as public private partnerships, inter alia, in order to consolidate the existing hemispheric mechanisms for the promotion and strengthening of policies, legislation, institutional transparency, and other mechanisms that foster equity, equal rights and opportunities, social inclusion, public participation, and sound public administration.

The above statements become increasingly relevant given the current definition process within the United Nations General Assembly of the sustainable development goals (SDGs) and of the post-2015 development agenda, based on the following four principles:

1. **Integrated development** that simultaneously advances multiple benefits across the three dimensions of sustainable development (social, environmental, and economic) ensures that poverty eradication and environmental sustainability go hand-in-hand;
2. **Equality** in relation to access to natural resources and the benefits of a healthy environment as well as engagement in related decision-making processes is fundamental for both environmental sustainability and human development;
3. A **human rights-based approach** to environmental sustainability recognizes that the realization of human rights depends on a healthy environment; and
4. The **resilience** of communities to resist tomorrow's shocks without reversing today's achievements in human well-being depends on the vital role of natural resources and ecosystems.

The above mentioned processes must be complemented by the OAS guidelines with respect to sustainable development and environment and the Inter-American Program for Sustainable Development.



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In this context, the Ministry of Justice of Paraguay with the Department of Sustainable Development of the General Secretariat of the OAS (GS / OAS / DSD) has convened a side event to the 44<sup>th</sup> regular session of the Organization's General Assembly to be held in Asuncion during the first week of June, under the theme of "*Development with social inclusion*".

The event will enable a dialogue on the strategic areas of action included in the Inter-American Program for Sustainable Development and their links to good governance and the environmental rule of law from the local to the global level.

The event is being organized in partnership with the United Nations Environment Program, Division on Environmental Law and Conventions and the IUCN World Commission on Environmental Law.

### **Program and methodology**

The program consists of two working sessions, the first will focus on the principles of integrated development and resilience, and the second will focus on human rights and equality. Both sessions will address the challenges and opportunities of integrating these principles into the goals of sustainable development and the strategies, policies, plans, and the Inter-American Program for Sustainable Development post-2015. Based on the complementary nature that must prevail between hemispheric and global affairs, each session will address environmental justice and good governance as cross cutting elements and one session will be moderated by an OAS observer country representative or a UN agency representative. Experts from member States will share their impressions based on topics presented by the moderators. Following these experts' contributions, a dialogue between civil society and key stakeholders will take place.

In addition to transmission of the key messages emerging from this dialogue to OAS member states for their consideration in the review process of the OAS guidelines with respect to sustainable development and environment and towards the Third Inter-American Meeting of Ministers and High Level Authorities on Sustainable Development; the OAS as a regional agency within the UN system, will share the key messages from this dialogue with:

- 1) The Open Working Group on Sustainable Development Goals of the General Assembly of the United Nations for its consideration in the SDG definition process, and
- 2) The United Nations Program for the Environment for consideration in the framework of the first United Nations General Assembly on the Environment that will take place at the end of June 2014, in Nairobi, Kenya.



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## PROGRAM

**8:30 am to 3:30 pm**

**8:30 a.m. Registration and Coffee**

**9:00 a.m. Introductory Remarks**

**H.E. Sheila Abed**, Minister of Justice of Paraguay

**H.E. Maria Cristina Morales**, Minister, Executive Secretary of Environment of Paraguay

**The Honorable Antonio Fretes**, Justice, Supreme Court of Paraguay

**H.E. Ambassador Albert Ramdin**, Assistant Secretary General of the OAS

**9:30 a.m. Session I.** Towards harmony between economic, environmental and social affairs

- Emerging Challenges (*Economic growth, globalization, trade and investment Climate change and vulnerabilities*)
- Peace and Sustainable Development (*Conflict Prevention and Management, Environmental diplomacy*)

*Session Chair: H.E. Amalio de Marichalar, Count of Ripalda, Spain*

*Country Experts:*

**Dr. Carlos Castillo**, Executive Secretary, Development and Social Inclusion Cabinet (Honduras)

**Madam Elizabeth Hogan**, Senior Deputy Assistant Administrator Bureau for Latin America and the Caribbean, USAID (United States)

**Senator the Honorable Bhoendradatt Tewarie**, Minister of Planning and Sustainable Development, (Trinidad & Tobago)

**11:00 a.m. Session II.** Equality and rights-based approach: environmental justice and the rule of law for sustainable development

- Environmental Rights: Perspective of the legislative, executive and judicial branches
- Democracy and Access Rights: information, participation and justice in sustainable development decision- making

*Session Chair: H.E. Sheila Abed*, Minister of Justice of Paraguay

**Senator the Honorable Maxine Mc Clean**, Minister of Foreign Affairs (Barbados)

**The Honorable Antonio Herman Benjamin**, Justice, High Court (Brazil)

**Dr. Juan Pablo Aristegui**, Rappartoir, Environmental Tribunal (Chile)

**H.E. Marco Vinicio Redondo Quirós**, Representative, Legislative Assembly (Costa Rica)

**H.E. Marcela Guerra**, Senator and Representative of ParlAmericas (México)



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**12:30 p.m. Lunch**

- *Special Address: Madam Sherry Tross, Executive Secretary for Integral Development, OAS*
- *Musical Presentation: Sounds of the Earth*

**2:00 p.m. Video Presentation on Public Participation in Sustainable Development Decision Making**

**2:30 p.m. Signature of Cooperation Agreement between the General Secretariat of the OAS, the Supreme Court and the Ministry of Justice of Paraguay**

**3:00p.m. Closing Remarks**

*Madam Elizabeth Mrema*, Director of the United Nations Environment Program Division on Environmental Law and Conventions