



Organización de los Estados Americanos
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**V MINISTERIAL MEETING
PATHWAYS TO PROSPERITY IN THE AMERICAS
CALI, COLOMBIA - October 23, 2012**

Panel IV: Public Participation in Environmental Decision-Making: Working Towards Sustainable Development

DRAFT AGENDA

Background: Efforts under Pillar IV are related to promoting sustainable business practices and environmental cooperation. During the Third and Fourth Ministerial, the *Pathways to Prosperity Initiative* member countries demonstrated a strong commitment to improving cooperation on the adoption of sound environmental practices, including sustainable business practices, transparency, and effective public participation in the making of decisions concerning the environment, and the strengthening environmental standards, and their enforcement.

A clear understanding of the existing national and local instruments and mechanisms related to public participation is a critical first step to advance any sustainable development initiative. At the same time, stimulating and ensuring participation of local communities in different ways can yield positive impacts for sustainability and promote good governance.

Objectives:

1. Create a space for constructive dialogue of opportunities for public participation as a means to promote sustainable development
2. Share experiences on public participation in the management of natural resources, and highlight its contribution to livelihoods
3. Disseminate successful experiences of local and national public participation.

Panel Thematic Approach:

- I. Opportunities for public participation as a means to promote sustainable development
- II. Public participation in the management of natural resources, and its contribution to livelihoods
- III. Successful experiences of local and national public participation

Moderator: *Claudia S. de Windt*, Chief Environmental Law, Policy and Good Governance, Department of Sustainable Development, Organization of American States.

Panelists: *Mariano Castro Sánchez Moreno*, Vice Minister of Environmental Management, Ministry of Environment, Peru
Cynthia Perera, International Technical Assistance Program, U.S. Department of the Interior
Elsa Matilde Escobar, Executive Director, Fundación Natura Colombia