



**DEPARTMENT OF SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT (DSD)
OF THE
ORGANIZATION OF AMERICAN STATES (OAS)**

**in cooperation with the
SUMMIT OF THE AMERICAS DEPARTMENT
and
DEVELOPMENT GATEWAY FOUNDATION**

ANNOUNCES

**VIRTUAL CONSULTATION FORUM WITH CIVIL SOCIETY
AND INDIGENOUS PEOPLES**

in the framework of the

**First Inter-American Meeting of Ministers and High-Level Authorities on Sustainable
Development**

In order to contribute to the strengthening of democratic governance and sustainable development in the region, and by taking advantage of the advances in information and communication technologies, the **Department of Sustainable Development** of the OAS, in cooperation with the Summit of the Americas Department and Development Gateway Foundation, is hosting a **Virtual Consultation Forum with Civil Society and Indigenous Peoples** from May 17th to November 24th, 2006, to strengthen and ensure a broad level of civil society input into the preparatory process for the **First Inter-American Meeting of Ministers and High-Level Authorities on Sustainable Development** and to facilitate the discussion among civil society and different community groups on three important themes related to sustainable development in the region: sustainable development of water resources; reducing the risk of natural disasters; and sustainability in agriculture, forestry and tourism. The Meeting will be held in Santa Cruz de la Sierra, Bolivia, December 4-5, 2006. The objective of the Meeting is to identify specific opportunities for cooperation among OAS member States in integrating environmental management within core economic development, poverty alleviation and related goals. The Meeting shall identify practical, replicable project and policy lessons integrating the three pillars of sustainable development that is, economic development, social issues and environmental protection. Environmental ministers and/or senior officials will be the main constituency of the Meeting.

Comments and recommendations posted in the Virtual Consultation Forum will be compiled in a document that will be presented to the Working Group on Sustainable Development (composed by delegates from the Member States to the OAS), during their series of meetings as part of the preparatory process for the Ministerial meeting, in order to consider this document for the preparation of the draft **Declaration of Santa Cruz**. The resulting draft Declaration of Santa Cruz will be presented during the one-day Preparatory Meeting of Governments Representatives (each Member States assigns a representative of their Government to attend this meeting) for their consideration. Furthermore, a final document containing a compilation of comments and recommendations posted in the Virtual Forum will also be presented at this meeting. The Declaration of Santa Cruz will be presented during the **First Inter-American Meeting of Ministers and High-Level**



Authorities on Sustainable Development, to be held in Santa Cruz de la Sierra, Bolivia, December 4-5, 2006, to be considered for the discussion of the Ministers and its approval.

Who: Civil Society and Indigenous Peoples

What: Virtual Consultation Forum with Civil Society and Indigenous Peoples

Where: Go to <http://www.oas.org/dsd/> for more information

When: May 17 – November 24, 2006

For more information contact Oscar Ceville at sustainable_dev@oas.org; visit our website:

<http://www.oas.org/dsd/> or the Forum's website:

<http://topics.developmentgateway.org/environment/discussion/default/showDiscussion.do~id=1441?id=1441>