



CARIBBEAN SUB REGIONAL CIVIL SOCIETY FORUM IN PREPARATION FOR THE FIFTH SUMMIT OF THE AMERICAS, “SECURING OUR CITIZENS’ FUTURE BY PROMOTING HUMAN PROSPERITY, ENERGY SECURITY AND ENVIRONMENTAL SUSTAINABILITY”

Port of Spain, Trinidad and Tobago
October 30-31, 2008

I. Introduction

In preparation for the Fifth Summit of the Americas, “Securing Our Citizens' Future by Promoting Human Prosperity, Energy Security and Environmental Sustainability” to be held in Trinidad and Tobago in April 2009, the National Secretariat for the Fifth Summit of the Americas, with the support of the Summits of the Americas Secretariat and the Department of International Affairs of the Organization of American States (OAS), and in collaboration with the civil society organizations Canadian Foundation for the Americas (FOCAL) and Network of NGOs of Trinidad and Tobago for the Advancement of Women, will hold the Caribbean Sub Regional Civil Society Forum at the Crowne Plaza Hotel in Port of Spain, Trinidad and Tobago, from October 30 -31, 2008.

The purpose of the Caribbean Sub Regional Civil Society Forum, which received support from the United States Agency for International Development (USAID), the Canadian International Development Agency (CIDA) and the Inter-American Foundation (IAF), is to prepare Caribbean civil society organizations (CSOs) to participate in the Summit in mobilizing social capital towards confronting the contemporary issues facing the Hemisphere. Specifically, a central objective of the Forum is to position the diverse range of expertise and activism of Caribbean civil society to discuss and compile recommendations regarding the themes of the Fifth Summit to be presented to the Summit Implementation Review Group (SIRG), which will shape the Draft Declaration of Commitment of Port of Spain to be considered by the Heads of State and Governments at the Fifth Summit. A second goal is to raise knowledge and awareness of, and increase involvement in, the Fifth Summit among civil society in the region while providing practical advice to facilitate their participation in the Fifth Summit.

The Caribbean Sub Regional Civil Society Forum will coincide with the Young Americas Business Trust (YABT) Caribbean Sub-Regional Dialogue for the Participation of Young People in the Summits of the Americas Process, being held October 29-30 as well as the 9th Biennial Conference of the Network of NGOs of Trinidad and Tobago for the Advancement of Women, being held on November 1, 2008.

II. Forum Objectives

The Caribbean Sub Regional Civil Society Forum will encompass three central objectives:

1. Provide a space for Caribbean civil society to compile substantive recommendations addressing current challenges in the region in terms of the themes of the Fifth Summit, “Securing Our Citizens' Future by Promoting Human Prosperity, Energy Security and Environmental Sustainability,” to be presented to the Summit Implementation Review Group (SIRG) to shape the Draft Declaration of Commitment of the Fifth Summit.

2. Identify and build the capacity of Caribbean civil society to play a leadership role in coordinating the civil society forum at the Fifth Summit, while promoting knowledge of, and participation in, the Fifth Summit of the Americas among civil society in the Caribbean.
3. Present recommendations to increase the capacity of Caribbean civil society to participate in national and regional structures and to influence development policies.

III. Civil Society Engagement and Capacity Building

To this end, the Caribbean Sub Regional Civil Society Forum is intended to raise awareness and knowledge of the Fifth Summit Process and its theme, “Securing Our Citizens’ Future by Promoting Human Prosperity, Energy Security and Environmental Sustainability,” which addresses current issues that are relevant to the continued development and sustainability of civil society in the Caribbean. It is critical for Caribbean civil society to have an awareness and understanding of the Summit Process and Summit mandate implementation in order to influence the development of public policy, programs and government practices that can improve their lives.

This Forum is designed as an opportunity to introduce Caribbean civil society to the Summit Process through the exchange of knowledge and experience. Following on the practice established at the four previous Summits, this Forum is also designed to provide opportunities for Caribbean civil society, as members of the host region of the Summit, to take a leadership role in the lead-up process to the Summit.

The Forum will begin the process of developing a strong network of Caribbean civil society organizations to mobilize civil society at the local and regional levels and to foster collaboration with CSOs in other regions of the Americas that have experience and knowledge in organizing civil society for the Summit. These partnerships and collaborations are critical to the development and sustainability of a viable CSO network for the Caribbean and helping to build capacity to participate in the OAS process, as well as other important initiatives within the Americas and internationally.

IV. Forum Activities

The Caribbean Sub Regional Civil Society Forum is intended to initiate a sustained dialogue and preparatory process leading up to the Fifth Summit and the civil society forum.

This Forum is designed to raise awareness about the Summit Process, build capacity among Caribbean CSOs to participate in this and other international initiatives, develop a local and regional network of civil society that can collaborate with other CSOs throughout the Americas, and work with the OAS General Secretariat and the National Summit Secretariat in organizing the civil society forum.

The Caribbean Sub Regional Civil Society Forum will address the following:

- Present recommendations from Caribbean civil society regarding the themes of the Fifth Summit to be presented to the Summit Implementation Review Group (SIRG).
- Highlight models of successful civil society participation in implementing and monitoring past Summit mandates in the Caribbean.
- Raise awareness among Caribbean civil society organizations of the Fifth Summit themes and the draft Declaration of Commitments.
- Assess and improve the capacity of Caribbean civil society organizations to partner on advancing Fifth Summit commitments to foster human prosperity, democratic governance, energy security and environmental sustainability in the Caribbean.

To that end, civil society participants are encouraged to come prepared to give a 2-3 minute presentation that addresses the following: 1) identification of a successful project being implemented either by their

organization or another organization which impacts one or more of the Fifth Summit's themes; 2) a brief explanation of the project's results and why it is innovative or should be considered a "best practice," and 3) discussion of the challenges faced in implementing or improving this project.

To aid in the preparation of these presentations, civil society participants are requested to read the following documents:

- [Draft Declaration of Commitment Port of Spain](#)
- [Summary of Key Points of the Draft Declaration](#)
- [Report of the Human Prosperity Forum – Summit Virtual Platform](#)
- [Compilation of Civil Society Recommendations 2002-2008](#)

V. Forum Dates, Location and Potential Venue

The Caribbean Sub Regional Civil Society Forum will take place on October 30 – 31, 2008 at the Crowne Plaza Hotel in Port of Spain, Trinidad and Tobago.

VI. Conference Outputs

1. A document compiling the recommendations of the Caribbean civil society on the themes of the Fifth Summit of the Americas to be presented to the SIRG and to influence the negotiations regarding the draft Declaration of Commitment of Port of Spain.
2. The facilitation of local and regional networks that will work with other CSOs in the Americas, the OAS, and the National Secretariat for the Fifth Summit to plan and organize the civil society forum at the Fifth Summit of the Americas.

VII. Proposed Draft Agenda

October 30, 2008

8:00am

Registration

9:00 – 9:30am

Welcoming remarks

Hazel Brown, Coordinator, Network of NGOs of Trinidad and Tobago for the Advancement of Women

Racquel Smith, Project Manager, Canadian Foundation for the Americas (FOCAL)

David Morris, Director, OAS Summits of the Americas Secretariat

Mr. Arthur Gray, Special Advisor, National Secretariat for the Fifth Summit of the Americas, Government of the Republic of Trinidad and Tobago

9:30 – 10:00 am

Opening presentation: The role of the OAS in the Americas and opportunities for civil society participation.

Irene Klinger, Director of the OAS Department of International Affairs

Discussion on human prosperity

- 10:00 - 10:45am Renwick Rose, Coordinator, Windward Islands Farmers Association
Shelley Weir, President, Hope Foundation
Andrea Ewart, Trade Consultant, OECS Secretariat
- Moderator:* Robert Guiseppi, Former President, National Trade Union
Centre of Trinidad and Tobago
- 10:45 - 11:20am Dialogue
- 11:20 - 12:30pm Compilation of civil society recommendations
- 12:30 - 2:00pm **Working Lunch**
- Discussion on environmental sustainability and energy security**
- 2:00 - 2:45pm Zakiya Wadada, Executive Director, Caribbean Network for Integrated
Rural Development
Winston Rudder, Chair, Cropper Foundation
Louis Guy, Caribbean Forestry Association
Joseph Prosper, Treasurer, Environmental Awareness Group
- Moderator:* Eden Shand, Chair, Greenleaf Foundation
- 2:45 – 3:30pm Dialogue
- 3:30 – 4:30pm Compilation of civil society recommendations
- 4:30 – 5:30pm Wrap-up session: Final compilation of recommendations for human
prosperity, environmental sustainability and energy security

October 31, 2008

- Discussion on strengthening democratic governance**
- 8:15 – 9:00am Tarik Perkins, Regional Manager, Inclusive Governance, CUSO
Cecelia Babb, Executive Coordinator, Caribbean Policy Development
Centre
Boyd Reid, Secretary, Trinidad and Tobago Transparency International
- Moderator:* Flavia Cherry, President, Civil Society Network of St. Lucia
- 9:00 – 9:30am Dialogue
- 9:30 – 10:00am Compilation of civil society recommendations
- 10:00 – 10:30am** Address by Ambassador Albert Ramdin, Assistant Secretary General,
OAS
- Address by the Honorable Paula Gopee-Scoon, Minister of Foreign
Affairs of the Republic of Trinidad and Tobago
- Discussion on public security**

10:30 – 10:45am	Laura Knopf, Director, Quisqueya International Organization for Freedom & Development (QIFD) Folade Mutota, Coordinator, Women’s Institute for Alternative Development <i>Moderator:</i> David Silvera, Director, Jamaicans for Justice
9:50 – 10:30 am	Dialogue and Compilation of civil society recommendations Discussion on strengthening the Summits of the Americas, Follow-Up and Implementation Effectiveness
10:30 – 11:20pm	Kris Rampersad, Director, Lobby, Advocacy, Research, and Public Relations, Network of NGOs of Trinidad and Tobago for the Advancement of Women Judy Williams, Executive Director, Grenada Community Development Organization (GRENCODA) Amsale Maryam, Chairperson, Association of Development Agencies <i>Moderator:</i> Racquel Smith, Project Manager, FOCAL
11:20 – 12:30pm	Dialogue
12:30 - 2:00pm	Lunch
2:00 – 4:00 pm	Consolidation and drafting of civil society recommendations
4:00 – 5:00pm	Discussion – FOCAL and the Network of NGOs of Trinidad and Tobago

ANNEX 1 – Organizers

The National Secretariat for the Fifth Summit of the Americas, in collaboration with the Summits of the Americas Secretariat and the Department of International Affairs of the OAS, is working with two civil society organizations, the *Network of NGOs of Trinidad and Tobago for the Advancement of Women* and the *Canadian Foundation for the Americas (FOCAL)*, to promote and organize the Caribbean Sub Regional Civil Society Forum and to ensure broad channels for Caribbean civil society participation in the Summit Process.

The *Network of NGOs of Trinidad and Tobago for the Advancement of Women* has been involved since 2000 in the process of civil society preparation for the Third Summit of the Americas, held in Quebec in 2001, and in monitoring of the implementation of the Summit mandates by the government of Trinidad and Tobago as part of a 24 country hemispheric civil society network led by *Participa* of Chile and *FOCAL* of Canada.

The *Canadian Foundation for the Americas (FOCAL)* implements a Summit program, and will utilize this to seek to convene stakeholders from civil society, academia, governments and private sector communities across the region to form partnerships with Caribbean civil society organizations, and to work with leading civil society networks focused on the Summits Process. *FOCAL* aims to utilize the Caribbean Sub Regional Civil Society Forum to produce the following publications related to these efforts: “Leading Civil Society Practices in the Caribbean: Civil Society as Partner with Government, Private Sector and International NGOs (tentative title),” and “Caribbean Civil Society - Summit of the Americas Road Map: Areas for Potential Collaboration, Support and Capacity.”