

Caribbean Sub-regional Civil Society Forum - OAS/V Summit - October 30-31, 2008

The OAS General Secretariat extends its greetings and would like to take this opportunity to remind you of the upcoming Caribbean Sub Regional Civil Society Forum. This Forum, one of a series of sub regional, regional and thematic consultations with civil society in preparation for the Fifth Summit of the Americas, will be hosted by the Government of the Republic of Trinidad and Tobago, with the support of the Summits of the Americas Secretariat and the Department of International Affairs of the Organization of American States, and in collaboration with the Canadian Foundation for the Americas (FOCAL) and the Network of NGOs of Trinidad and Tobago for the Advancement of Women.

The Caribbean Sub Regional Civil Society Forum will be held in Port of Spain, Trinidad and Tobago, on October 30 -31, 2008. This Forum will provide an opportunity for civil society organizations from the English-speaking Caribbean to review the Draft Declaration of Commitment of Port of Spain presented by the Government of the Republic of Trinidad and Tobago entitled Securing our Citizen's Future by Promoting Human Prosperity, Energy Security and Environmental Sustainability. In the framework of the Forum, civil society representatives from the Caribbean are encouraged to discuss and compile substantive recommendations on the themes of the Fifth Summit.

http://www.summitamericas.org/SIRG/SIRG_0708/V_Summit_Draft_Decl_Commitment_POS_0708_En.pdf

The Forum will consist of plenary sessions on the themes addressed in the Draft Declaration prepared by the Government of Trinidad and Tobago:

- a) human prosperity;
- b) environmental sustainability;
- c) energy security;
- d) strengthening democratic governance and
- e) strengthening the Summits Process.

The recommendations generated in the Forum will be presented to the Summit Implementation Review Group (SIRG) and will serve as inputs from civil society in the negotiations of the Declaration of Commitment of Port of Spain by Member States.

In the event that your organization may require financial support to participate in the Forum, the OAS General Secretariat, with the support of USAID, will finance the participation of a limited number of civil society representatives. The purpose of this financing is to ensure ample thematic and geographic representation in the Forum by representatives of civil society organizations from the OAS Member States of the English-speaking Caribbean. Travel awards are limited to a roundtrip economy air travel ticket for a representative from the selected organization between the city of the organization's headquarters and the site of the Forum (Port of Spain, Trinidad and Tobago). Travel award recipients will also receive hotel accommodation and a small sum to cover transit expenses.

Organizations that wish to be considered by the Selection Committee to receive a travel award must fill out the Travel Award Application:

https://www.surveymonkey.com/s.aspx?sm=dxqYaQVlw6tm3YvrEwIWEA_3d_3d

Travel award applications must be submitted before 5pm EST (Washington, D.C. time) on October 10, 2008. Incomplete applications will not be considered. Preference will be given to civil society organizations that are part of the [OAS Registry of Civil Society Organizations](#) and that work in the thematic areas of the Fifth Summit of the Americas.

If your organization does not require this travel award, please fill out the [Registration Form](#) for the Forum. Agendas and other documents and information regarding the Caribbean Sub Regional Civil Society Forum will be distributed by the OAS General Secretariat by email and through the [OAS Civil Society Website](#), the [Summits of the Americas Information Network](#), and the website of the [Fifth Summit of the Americas](#). The Department of International Affairs can be reached by telephone (202.458.6817), email (civilsociety@oas.org), or fax (202.458.6319).