



Organización de los Estados Americanos
Organização dos Estados Americanos
Organisation des États Américains
Organization of American States

Invitation to the OAS Symposium **“Empowering the Future Leaders of the Americas”**

As Chair of the Permanent Council of the Organization of American States (OAS), I am pleased to invite you to participate in a special symposium for young people at the OAS, called “*Empowering the Future Leaders of the Americas*”. This symposium will be held on September 19th and 20th, 2007.

The future of our organization and of our nations rests with our young people. With 67.5% of the current population of Latin America and the Caribbean under the age of 35 - close to 350 million - the OAS recognizes the importance of young people in its policy-making processes. Working with youth will have positive results in the social and economic development of the region in the future.

This event, organized in collaboration with the Young Americas Business Trust (YABT) and the General Secretariat of the OAS, aims to bring the vision of this important group to the Permanent Council, through an interactive dialogue with participants that will take place at the OAS Headquarters on Wednesday, September 19th, 2007. We expect it to be followed by a number of interactions with this constituency that will occur within the OAS and in the Member States.

The September 19, 2007 Symposium will bring together young people from the Americas with staff of the OAS General Secretariat in dialogue sessions on the following topics:

- *Responsible Citizenship and Participation in Democratic Governance*
- *Youth Employment, Entrepreneurship, and Innovation*
- *Opportunities and Programs for Youth Development*
- *Underserved Youth and Youth at Risk*
- *Education and Information Technologies.*

On the second day, Thursday 20th, recommendations from these sessions will be presented by young people to a Special Session of the Permanent Council of the OAS.

This symposium will be held at the OAS Headquarters (17th St and Constitution Avenue, NW Washington DC.) For this event, the target audience includes college students, young leaders, young professional under the age of 35, as well as persons interested in the Inter- American system and in youth development in the Americas.

Please RSVP by emailing the registration form attached to vlorena@oas.org no later than September 15th, 2007. There is no charge for attending. However, as space is limited, registration is required.

A light lunch will be served on the September 19th Session. For more information, please contact Valerie Lorena, YABT, at vlorena@oas.org and 202/458-6442.

I am pleased to launch this initiative during my term as Chair of the Permanent Council and I look forward to welcoming you to this symposium!

Her Excellency Deborah Mae Lovell
Chair, Permanent Council of the Organization of American States
Ambassador, Permanent Representative of Antigua and Barbuda to the OAS



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OAS Youth Symposium and Dialogue

Empowering the Future Leaders of the Americas

September 19, 2007

*Special Session of the
Permanent Council*

September 20, 2007

Preliminary Program

*Hall of the Americas
OAS Main Building
17th Street and Constitution Ave., NW
Washington, DC*

September 19, 2007

8:30 – 09:30 am:

Registration

9:30 – 10:30 am:

Opening Session

- **Welcome and Opening Remarks**
Ambassador Deborah Mae Lovell of Antigua and Barbuda, Chair
Permanent Council, Organization of American States
- **Remarks**
His Excellency Jose Miguel Insulza, Secretary General
Organization of American States
- **Keynote Address**
His Excellency Eduardo Stein, Vice President
Guatemala
- **Presentation:**
"Empowering the Future Leaders of the Americas"
- **Vote of Thanks**
Ambassador Denis Antoine of Grenada
Chair, Board of Directors, Young Americas Business Trust

10:30 – 10:45 am:

Break

10:45 – 12:30 pm: Inter-American Initiatives on Youth

- **Remarks**
The Honourable Winston Vincent Williams, Minister of State
Ministry of Youth Affairs and Sports, Antigua and Barbuda
- **Youth and the Summits of the Americas Process**
Ambassador Carmen Marina Gutierrez, Director
Summits of the Americas Secretariat
- **Inter American Working Group on Youth Development**
Young Americas Business Trust – OAS
Roy Thomasson, Chief Executive Officer
Inter-American Development Bank – IDB Youth
Fabian Koss, Youth Development Coordinator
Pan-American Health Organization
Sara Marques, Child and Adolescent Health Unit
The World Bank – Social Development Department
Kury Cobham, Operations Officer
- **International Labour Organization - "Decent Work and Youth"**
Virgilio Levaggi, Regional Deputy Director, LAC
- **Americas Quarterly – Council of the Americas**
Kelli Bissett, Associate Production Editor

12:30 – 01:30 pm: Lunch
Recognition 2007 Talent and Innovation Competition of the Americas Participants
Launching of 2008 TIC Americas

Sponsored by the Young Americas Business Trust

1:30 – 03:00 pm: Dialogue with Young People
OAS Departments and International Agencies

Simultaneous discussion groups centered on the following topics:

Responsible Citizenship and Participation in Democratic Governance
Hall of the Americas

- **OAS Department of External Relations / Model OAS**, Irene Klinger
- **OAS Secretariat for Political Affairs**, Anne-Marie Blackman
- **OAS Summits of the Americas Secretariat**, Cristobal Dupouy
- **Academy for Educational Development**, Dr. Andy Munoz

Employment, Entrepreneurship and Innovation for Young People
Miranda Room

- **OAS Social Development and Employment**, Maria Claudia Camacho
- **OAS Department of Human Resources**, Rosa Maria Barreiro
- **OAS Summits of the Americas Secretariat**, Viviane Espinoza
- **Partners of the Americas**, Paul Teeple
- **Academy for Educational Development**, Jennifer Capece

Opportunities and Programs for Youth Development
Colon Room

- **OAS Sustainable Development and Environment**, Richard Huber
- **OAS Summits of the Americas Secretariat**, Rosine Plank-Brumback
- **OAS Human Development / Rowe Fund**, Lina Sevillano
- **Inter-American Development Bank IDB Youth**, Fabian Koss
- **Youth Service Americas**, Daniel Hatcher
- **Academy for Educational Development**, Bonnie Politz

Underserved Young People and Youth at Risk
Press and Media Room

- **Pan American Health Organization / PAHO**, Sara Marques
- **Trust for the Americas**, Dario Soto

- **OAS Department of Public Security**, Julio Rosenblatt
- **Inter American Commission on Women**, Yasmin Odium
- **OAS Summits of the Americas Secretariat**, Jessica Grebeldinger
- **Academy for Educational Development**, Sam Tyler

Education and Information Technologies
San Martin Room

- **OAS Science and Technology, Inter American Committee of Science and Technology** Michel Bergeron, Arnaldo Ventura
- **OAS Education and Culture**, Jorge Baxter
- **Inter-American Telecommunications Commission**, Clovis Baptista
- **OAS Summits of the Americas Secretariat**, Martin Huenneke
- **Academy for Educational Development**, Carmen Tedesco

3:00 – 4:30 pm: Preparation of Recommendations - Working Session

Young people will discuss their ideas and recommendations and prepare the report to be presented to the Permanent Council on September 20th:

** The Academy for Educational Development, the Summits of the Americas Secretariat and the Young Americas Business Trust will provide technical support on each Discussion Group*

4:30 – 5:00 pm: Closing Ceremony and Dialogue with Assistant Secretary General

- **Remarks**
Ambassador Albert Ramdin, Assistant Secretary General
Organization of American States
- **Closing Remarks**
Ambassador Deborah Mae Lovell of Antigua and Barbuda, Chair
Permanent Council, Organization of American States

September 20, 2007

**The Permanent Council of the
Organization of American States**

9:30 am – 1:00 pm Special Session on Youth