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JOINT SUMMIT WORKING GROUP (JSWG)



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Report of the Joint Summit Working Group

Consultation on the Preliminary Concept Paper by the Government of
Trinidad and Tobago for the Fifth Summit of the Americas

*“Securing Our Citizens’ Future by Promoting Human Prosperity, Energy Security and
Environmental Sustainability”*

JOINT SUMMIT WORKING GROUP (JSWG)
OAS-IDB-ECLAC-PAHO-WB-IICA-CABEI-CAF-CDB-IOM-ILO-IDRC/ICA
GRUPO DE TRABAJO CONJUNTO DE CUMBRES (GTCC)
OEA-BID-CEPAL-OPS-BM-IICA-BCIE-CAF-BDC-OIM-OIT- IDRC/ICA



JOINT SUMMIT WORKING GROUP

OAS – IDB – ECLAC – PAHO – WB – IICA – CABEI – CAF – CDB – OIM – ILO – ICA
SUMMITS OF THE AMERICAS SECRETARIAT

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Partner Institutions of the Joint Summit Working Group (JSWG)

	OAS	Organization of American States
	IDB	Inter-American Development Bank
	ECLAC	United Nations Economic Commission for Latin America and the Caribbean
	PAHO	Pan American Health Organization
	World Bank	World Bank Group
	IICA	Inter-American Institute for Cooperation on Agriculture
	CABI	Central American Bank for Economic Integration
	CAF	Andean Development Corporation
	CDB	Caribbean Development Bank
	IOM	International Organization for Migration
	ILO	International Labour Organization
	ICA	Institute for Connectivity in the Americas

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It should be highlighted that the preliminary concept paper represents the vision of the host government and is still being commented on by the member states. The paper will be used by the Government of Trinidad and Tobago to develop the draft declaration and plan of action for the Fifth Summit that will be tabled at a later stage.

INTRODUCTION

The Latin America and Caribbean (LAC) region finds itself in a favorable international environment and in 2006 enjoyed its fourth consecutive year of rising per capita growth; however, despite an overall decline in poverty and indigence, improvements in economic performance, and the advancement of democracy, the LAC region still faces formidable challenges. These positive yet cautious perceptions regarding recent trends are noted by the member institutions of the Joint Summit Working Group in their descriptions of the challenges that lie ahead and the need to address them in a multidimensional, holistic manner. The fundamental challenges noted by many of the institutions are how to make the most of these recent political and economic opportunities so that they can best benefit the peoples of the region for more democratic, secure, equitable, inclusive and environmentally sustainable societies. That challenge confronts us with the need to overcome the obstacles that afflict our continent.

I. Observations on the Preliminary Concept Paper: Regional Challenges

A. The Challenge of Human Development, Crime and Poverty Reduction

1. Human Development and Poverty Reduction

The institutions of the JSWG remind us that effective democracy is not possible if important issues of economic and social organization are left off the public agenda. An overview of the Group's institutional perspectives in this priority area finds that issues of inequality, social cohesion, and the correlation of poverty and ethnic identity must be addressed through increased and better targeted resources, a strengthening of trust in institutions, and a greater emphasis on the importance of health and education. These institutions assert that it is fundamental to reduce poverty, inequity and social exclusion and emphasize the multidimensional nature of poverty.

The **Organization of American States (OAS)** reminds us that Latin America and the Caribbean (LAC) is the most unequal region of the world in many aspects, with a strong correlation between poverty and discrimination. It notes that this inequality jeopardizes future economic development, particularly due to a lack of savings on the part of citizens, low levels of educational quality and entrepreneurial capacity. The OAS emphasizes that we must consider policy instruments, such as fiscal saving mechanisms, to maintain social expenditure during downturns in economic growth and that public policy must be geared to broaden and strengthen social cohesion.

The **Inter-American Development Bank (IDB)** insists that there must be a social agenda with a social policy that is more efficient and inclusive in order to address the low amount of trust in institutions. They also note that social spending needs to be more progressive and should look to private sector and provider models and that any solutions must look at the multidimensional and dynamic nature of poverty. In



addition, social sector institutions must be strengthened both in human and financial terms, including an increase in revenue through taxes.

For the United Nations **Economic Commission for Latin America and the Caribbean (ECLAC)**, the consolidation of social cohesion is a main factor for maintaining stability, particularly in view of the high levels of social inequality in Latin America and the Caribbean. In this regard, ECLAC emphasizes that access to quality education and social safety nets are imperative. They note that while social policy is the main tool to directly address inequality, people must have faith in it; as such, it should be used to create a fuller form of economic and social citizenship. ECLAC also highlights that in order for these initiatives to be funded, taxes must be collected.

The **Pan American Health Organization (PAHO)** underscores the importance of approaching health as an expression of the problems of poverty and inequity, as an exercise in citizenship and law, and as a contribution not only to the well-being, but also to the economic growth of the hemisphere's societies--a subject rarely analyzed or addressed in political agendas. PAHO states that in LAC health indicators are determined in large degree by social inequality, ethnicity, and place of residence, noting in particular the significantly higher incidences of transmissible diseases among low income populations.

The **World Bank** notes that volatile growth with persistent inequality explains the continuing high poverty rates in a predominantly middle-income region, further emphasizing that we must implement policies to sustain growth and target inequalities. An additional concern in this area for the Bank is that educational quality remains low. They recommend that redistributive programs must be strengthened--including reduction in subsidies to middle- and high-income groups--and that although access to basic services is increasing, the differences in access according to ethnic and income groups remain large.

The **Inter-American Institute for Cooperation on Agriculture (IICA)** suggests a reappraisal of the rural context and the inclusion and expansion of its role to one that is more multidimensional in the development agenda.

The **Andean Development Corporation (CAF)** underscores the inequity and growing internal gaps in the development of countries, and as such supports the development of better services in education, health, water and sanitation, in both urban and rural areas. In addition, they recommend efforts that contribute to achieving consensus on public policies related to social issues such as spending, quality, income distribution, and social inclusion.

The **Caribbean Development Bank (CDB)** insists that state planning, policy and research must consider the multidimensional nature of poverty and of the need to improve the impression of the ability of the State to address the needs of citizens. They cite the weakening of traditional institutions, particularly the extended family, rural to urban migration, the decline in rural livelihoods, an aging population, lack of social safety nets, and non-communicable diseases as areas that require specific attention. The Bank also underscores the important role of the quantity and quality of education for human resource development, i.e. critical thinking and Information Technology for a more competitive work force; early childhood development, secondary and post-secondary education, curriculum reform, and workforce training.

The **Central American Bank for Economic Integration (CABEI)** notes that poverty remains a pervasive problem in Central America, pointing out that four countries in that sub-region have half of their populations below the poverty level. Policies must therefore generate opportunities for formal employment, facilitate access to credit--especially microfinance--and develop sustainable solutions for

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health, education and housing. CABELI also emphasizes regional integration and the competitive insertion of Central American countries into the global economy as a means of combating poverty.

The **International Organization for Migration (IOM)** estimates that the high levels of inequality in the region have forced about 20 million nationals of LAC states to live outside their countries of origin. They note that while migration does create opportunities for women (labour insertion, empowerment, changes in gender roles and relation), it also entails risks (rights' violations, harassment and physical violence). The IOM also highlights the fact that mobile populations have significant public health implications, which indicate that migrant health needs to be integrated into migration management strategies.

The **International Labour Organization (ILO)** emphasizes the central role that decent work has been accorded in fighting poverty in the Americas, the need to increase social and labor inclusion to reduce inequality, and to expand and strengthen social protection programs for workers.

The **Institute for Connectivity in the Americas (ICA)** has noted how new information and communication technologies (ICT) and its benefits are unequally distributed (the digital divide) and that this situation both reflects and deepens other existing divides. The Institute promotes the fact that technological innovations carry the potential to serve the needs of society's poorest members, particularly in health and education, but note that they are not yet effectively implemented. For example, computers in schools have not been accompanied by adequate policies to use them as effective and powerful education tools, while ICT initiatives applied to health services for the poor that have been tested in other parts of the developing world are yet to be seen in LAC region. .

2. Crime

Crime and violence in LAC make the Region the world's most violent, and the JSWG institutions underscore the social and economic costs of this fact. The **OAS** notes that gangs, drug trafficking, urban crime, money laundering, high homicide rates, and trafficking in persons, in addition to being general threats to the security of citizens, have a high economic cost and erode the institutional presence of state; a sentiment that is reinforced by the **World Bank** and **CABELI**.

CAF recommends that crime could be decreased through social policy directed towards constructing a fuller form of economic and social citizenship. While the **CDB** points out the role of migration in crime, the **IOM** notes that reinforced border security measures have triggered the booming exploitation business of smuggling and trafficking in persons

B. The Challenge of Economic Growth and Competitiveness

The **IDB** emphasizes that in order for the region to take advantage of current economic expansion, it is indispensable to initiate the reforms and adjustments needed to further bolster growth, to make it sustainable, and to take it inclusive and rewarding for the poor. They cite the challenges of lack of access to capital, poor infrastructure, rigid labor laws, low education performance and innovation as further justification to create a favorable business climate, as well as to promote innovation and public policy competence.

The **CAF** proposes that the region must solve the significant microeconomic weaknesses related to declines in its competitiveness indices, low savings and investment levels, poor-quality infrastructure, a difficult business climate, and shallow financial systems. The Foundation states that in order to achieve

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sustained economic growth, that growth must be increasingly less dependent on changing international economic conditions and must rather be based on a transformation of Latin American economies that improves productivity and adds value to national comparative advantages, including the development of “clusters” and chains. They emphasize the need to increase investment in all forms of capital (human; social; natural; physical, i.e. transportation, energy, and telecommunications; productive and financial), which in turn fosters greater competitiveness. In addition, the CAF recommends that governments continue and encourage economic integration at all levels: bilateral, regional, and multilateral and in all its aspects (border-related, cultural, social, and environmental). Lastly, they support fostering the strength of financial systems and capital markets, and to promote the development of SMEs and their inclusion in production chains.

CABEI notes that economic growth must be significant to counter population growth if more than modest increases in growth of per capita income are to be realized. They state that income in Central America must also grow to help offset the greatest “pull” factor in migration patterns--the great disparity in earnings between the region and North America. In order to do so, they recommend the promotion and strengthening of the region’s financial markets, to standardize regulatory frameworks and adopt practical improvements at the regional level, improve the region’s business climate to promote Direct Foreign Investment and domestic investment, as well as supporting economic liberalization agreements

The **CDB** underscores the diversification of the Caribbean economies and their competitiveness in the marketplace as a way to tackle the issues set before us. In particular, they note the importance of economic diversification, continued regional integration and some limited trade liberalization in order for states to be able to respond effectively to external shocks, both economic and natural. In addition, the Bank place emphasis on innovation in production chains and service sectors, including tourism.

The **IOM** believes that the private or collective remittances that migrants send back home cannot be seen as a substitute to development policy.

ICA has pointed out that wealth creation is increasingly linked to the capacity to use information and knowledge effectively in the production and delivery of goods and services, and in this regard notes that the presence of ICTs among micro producers of low-income groups is practically non-existent.

C. The Challenge of Democracy, Good Governance and the Promotion of Human Rights

The partner institutions of the JSWG concur to a large degree that institutional strengthening—having the financial and human resources, as well as the implementation capacity, to meet the needs of populations demanding effective democracy—is crucial to the region in meeting the governance challenges it faces. Countries must look to innovation and a re-consideration of the role of the State in order to continue to consolidate the democratic expectations of its citizens and promote their human rights.

The **OAS** notes that many of the region’s serious problems can be solved by effective public policies provided certain conditions exist. Democracy must be deepened in terms of transparency, stronger parties, citizen participation, access to public information, systems of representation, and preventing corruption. Governments must know how to govern and institutions must have the strength and capabilities to implement public policy. In addition, political parties must have solid bases and stable coalitions while state apparatuses must be efficient, but also be given the tools to succeed. There must also be sufficient training for politicians in the art of public administration. The OAS recommends as a

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course of action to strengthen the public service institutions run by tax authorities, to consider tax policy reform agendas, as well as new forms of taxation and collection.

ECLAC highlights the need to strengthen political institutions, particularly the judiciary, in order to increase the public's faith in political systems and that these challenges require a new, solid and versatile State capable of taking effective action. ECLAC also notes that one of the political system's fundamental tasks is to act as a catalyst for discussion and that in so doing, this system should offer citizens an array of options that will provide space for an institutional learning process and, above all, for the exercise of democracy.

PAHO contends that public spending on health must be increased to at least 5 to 6% of GDP and that mechanisms be put in place to assure the equitable distribution of resources and services, particularly for low-income families.

The **World Bank** points out how weak institutions damage the investment climate, noting that in LAC innovation remains low and informality remains high. The Bank states that it is important to work to strengthen institutions, make them inclusive, able to target public spending, reduce corruption, and monitor and evaluate results. Institutions can also increase transparency through innovative lending mechanisms, risk management services and customized implementation support.

IICA notes an increasing frustration with democratic governance on the part of rural populations due to the imbalance between rural and urban milieus, particularly in regard to public services, employment, investment and income. The Institute underscores the importance of increasing rural participation in economic, social, cultural, environmental and political terms. IICA also places great importance on the need to strengthen the hemispheric process, in particular the Summits agenda, by creating an institutional framework to support the implementation of mandates.

CAF supports improvements and institutional strengthening in fiscal spending and tax systems as a way to promote macroeconomic stability and sustainability, as well as the strengthening of government institutions in order to improve the efficiency (i.e., quality and coverage) of social investment.

CABEI highlights the need to strengthen services in local government, particularly economic autonomy and management capability.

CDB notes that good governance pays significant dividends across many sectors, including investment, incomes, crime and poverty, regional integration, and the development of national wealth. As such, the Bank states that it is important to strengthen the state's ability to integrate poverty reduction programs in their national development programs, and recommend debt restructuring and management.

IOM points out that most current government policies and strategic development frameworks do not systematically integrate migration consideration. In addition, there is a need for improving data and statistics in the migration field, particularly as migration relates to development.

The **ILO** emphasizes that decent work should be recognized as central to strengthening democratic governance in the Americas.

ICA highlights the importance of placing innovative, applied research on ICT policy and regulation and on "appropriate" technologies at the forefront of development and national strategies. They also note that

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transparency and accountability of the governance process can be increased through the use of ICT tools, but also remind us that the majority of the LAC population still has limited access to the Internet and that user support policies have been scarce, which does not allow for most citizens to benefit from e-government services. ICA also underscores that the use of ICTs as inclusive tools for stakeholders in the policy-making process.

D. The Challenge of Energy Security and Sustainable Development

The **OAS** emphasizes the degradation of the environment – global warming, pollution, infrastructure, water safety, and natural and man-made disasters— as one of the main threats in the Hemisphere. In the area of energy security, it highlights the need for energy integration agreements as a response to meet the challenges of energy supply and demand in the region. The OAS also notes the importance of diversifying energy production, encouraging technology to lessen the impacts of energy use on the environment, promoting incentives for the use of alternative energies, and implementing emissions trading mechanisms.

The **IDB** notes the use of biofuels as a value added source of potential economic growth, and the **World Bank** also supports the climate change agenda, including the use of alternative energies and biofuels.

IICA underscores the need to accelerate the technology and broaden the approaches needed to assure that economic growth is competitive, equitable, but also sustainable in terms of the natural resources being utilized.

CAF promotes the sustainable development of the physical structure of integration and related logistical processes as well as environmental conservation, restoration, and cleanup projects. They underscore the importance of the development of environmental goods and services markets, the need to improve investment in the environmental sector, and place emphasis on environmental commitment and responsibility.

CABEI notes that the high levels of dependence on foreign supplies of oil make the region more susceptible to international swings in the prices of oil and other commodities. They also remind us that Central American countries are highly vulnerable to environmental and seismic disasters, and recommend a process of regional economic, commercial and knowledge integration that is in harmony with the environment, promotes optimal use of the region's natural resources, and seeks environmentally friendly investment.

The **CDB** recommends that more resources be provided to the Caribbean Disaster Emergency Response Agency (CDERA) and to promote more proactive measures to deal with natural disasters. In addition, they note the importance of managing those resources dependent on tourism, such as beaches and marine life, and encourage more resources to coastal management.

The **IOM** emphasizes the impact that natural disasters have on generating migratory flows, and **ICA** underscores the use of ICT as a key element of early warning systems for natural disasters.

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II. Observations on the Proposed Theme of the Fifth Summit of the Americas

- There is consensus among the JSWG institutions that the central theme of the Fifth Summit, “Securing our Citizens’ Future through Human Prosperity, Energy Security, and Environmental Sustainability”, is well-chosen and appropriate. It would be helpful if the concept paper were to describe and develop in more detail each of the concepts contained in the theme (human prosperity, energy security, and environmental sustainability) as defined by the Government of Trinidad & Tobago.
- The presentation of the theme could serve as the opportunity to discuss what makes this Summit unique from the others. Much of the content of the paper provides an overview of topics that have been articulated and agreed upon in previous Summits, but does not necessarily yet present a distinct role for this Summit or link the overall Fifth Summit theme to these topics.
- The Concept Paper could make reference to use of standard indicators, i.e. ECLAC, WHO, MDG.
- The Concept Paper could propose an organizational or methodological approach to include goals, assign responsibilities, etc., in the design of Summit mandates and individual commitments that could facilitate their measurement. Such an approach could be results-based, and could propose a specific “format” for mandates comprised of three parts:
 - A. Declaration: Introductory section in which the problem, the challenge or priority of the Heads of State and Government are identified.
 - B. Resolution: Presents an analysis of the challenge that describes the manner in which the Heads of State and Government consider that the problem should be addressed.
 - C. Mandate: Section in which the Heads of State and Government commit to specific actions to carry out regarding the problems, challenges and priorities identified by the Heads of State and, in turn, may request the support of the institutions that form the Joint Summit Working Group, other institutions, and civil society.
- The JSWG recommends that the results of both international and regional multilateral policy and development processes be considered and integrated, when appropriate, to the thematic agenda of the Fifth Summit in order to enrich its content as well as create synergy with the ongoing efforts of these processes. In particular, the following processes should be considered in the context of the Fifth Summit:
 - Negotiation of the Inter-American Social Charter
 - Millennium Development Goals
 - United Nations Climate Change Conference (Bali, December 2007)
 - Health and Environment Ministers of the Americas (HEMA) process
 - 2008 World Health Day (theme: protecting health from climate change)
 - Inter-American Ministerial Meetings (OAS¹, PAHO, IICA)
 - OAS General Assembly (Youth and Democratic Values)

¹ E.g. at their Fifth Meeting held in Cartagena de Indias, Colombia in November 2007, Ministers of Education adopted a [Hemispheric Commitment to Early Childhood Education](#), in which they recommend that the Heads of State and Government commit to quality education and comprehensive care for the very young at the next Summit of the Americas.



III. Observations on the content of the Concept Paper

A. Human Prosperity

The Concept Paper could build upon and relate to the themes of job creation and poverty reduction raised in the IV Summit of Mar del Plata as a path to promoting human prosperity. A definition of decent work could be included, following the internationally accepted standard: fundamental rights in the workplace, employment, social protection and social dialogue.

Language could be introduced that encourages policies that promote a healthy investment and business climate, including an institutional environment that reduces lengthy procedures in trading across borders and promotes the inflow of quality foreign investment so as to benefit from transfers of management skills, technology and innovation and a productive integration to international value chains.

In addition, such an approach could consider language that promotes increased regional cooperation and more focused policies to enhance competitiveness to build the framework conditions to take advantage of a globalized world economy, particularly in smaller economies, in order to produce higher levels of income for its people. This approach could place special emphasis on promoting the innovation, creativity and knowledge vital to forming the basis of economic growth and prosperity. Research and ideas that can be transferred into innovative products and services for domestic and export markets could be highlighted as keys for the future sustainable development of our economies.

Lastly, youth participation should be framed in a positive, proactive way, since it has a profound impact in social, political and economic dimensions, particularly strengthening youth programs in democratic values and in employment.

B. Energy Security

Energy security policies should consider investments to increase the supply of energy (notably in hydropower), diversify energy sources, promote energy savings and energy efficiency, as well as promote energy exchanges and interconnections.

C. Environmental Sustainability

The Fifth Summit could serve to promote a regional response to climate change, particularly in confronting the challenges of: (i) Expanding the analytical framework around the physical impact of climate change both for the region, and on a country-by-country basis; (ii) Reviewing the different trade-offs associated with different policies using an integrated framework to generate educated policy decisions; and (iii) Proposing a set of policy interventions to address specific vulnerabilities to climate change.

D. Security

In considering security, the Paper could mention the following challenges: new threats against national security, and those against the citizenry, and the negative effects of these threats in the health and well-being of its citizens and societies; prevention of abuse of psychotropic substances, as well as their illicit production, trafficking, and distribution and related crimes; transnational organized crime;

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money laundering control; trafficking in firearms; trafficking in persons; corruption; the existence of land mines; importance of the strengthening of institutions; and assistance in legal and legislative matters. While there is a link between social problems and crime, terrorism, etc., it might be advisable to create a section devoted to public security or multidimensional security.

United Nations
Economic Commission for Latin America and the Caribbean

Inputs to the Fifth Summit of the Americas Preliminary Concept Paper:
*Securing Our Citizens; Future by Promoting Human Prosperity,
Energy Security and Environmental Sustainability*

Economic growth and competitiveness: the challenge is to innovate

After almost 40 years, annual per capita economic growth in Latin America and the Caribbean has been sustained at 3% or more. The expansionary period of 2003-2007 was accompanied by favourable developments for the economies of the region in terms of the external position, public accounts and employment.

The balance of payments current-account surplus, the primary fiscal surplus and the level of employment improved consistently, while the overall deficit, public debt, unemployment and poverty fell significantly. Much remains to be done, however, in respect of social inequalities. The region's improved terms of trade (particularly in South America) has led to not only faster growth in GDP, employment and exports, but also increases in fiscal revenue and international foreign-exchange reserves. All of the above led to stronger fiscal and balance-of-payments positions for many of the Latin American and Caribbean economies, and this has enabled governments to boost social spending and cut poverty.

In sum, the region has been enjoying a period of economic prosperity and there are good reasons to expect, aside from the inevitable risks often imposed by the worldwide environment, that the boom may continue for several more years. In the current expansionary cycle in the region, commodities and natural-resource based manufactures are the leading contributors to trade and growth.

Nonetheless, it is worth considering whether the region is making effective and efficient use of the benefits of its soaring resources. A further issue is whether the specialization patterns followed by the Latin American and Caribbean economies are appropriate in terms of producing higher, sustainable growth trends.

The evidence seems to suggest that this pattern of specialization is a necessary but not sufficient condition for strong, sustained growth. When the region's growth rate is compared with that of the rest of the developing world, particularly the emerging economies of Asia, it can be seen that the latter are growing faster than the Latin American and Caribbean economies, thanks to a specialization pattern based more on medium- and high-technology manufactures. The nucleus of Asia's growth consists of productive integration processes, emphasizing added knowledge and innovation efforts in a broad sense.

Does this mean that Latin America and the Caribbean should switch from natural resources to a pattern of industrial specialization in order to achieve growth at rates similar to those of the Asian countries? The answer to this question is not necessarily “yes.” Countries with abundant natural resources, such as Australia, Canada, Finland and Norway, even the United States, have achieved high per capita incomes thanks to those resources, not despite them. The productive transformation processes which enabled those countries to grow were gradual, and their starting point was the exploitation of natural resources such as iron and other metal ores and forestry and fishery products. From this perspective, the abundant commodity base of Latin America and the Caribbean is not a curse but a source of opportunities for changing production patterns to bring about strong and stable growth.

The region could certainly continue to grow by using its natural resources, and produce income from such activities. To generate wealth, however, the countries of the region must decide how to distribute their surpluses in order to diversify their production patterns. It should be recalled that any change of sector needed to achieve structural change and growth will inevitably require greater efforts in terms of technological innovation, as well as the physical or human capital investments needed in order to create the endogenous capacity to bring about changes in production patterns and systemic competitiveness. From this analytical viewpoint, it can be correctly argued that innovation is the main challenge facing Latin America and the Caribbean at its current stage of development.

In the area of public policy, the challenge of innovation should be approached by means of the following:

1. Strategies to ensure that income from natural resources is used for productive purposes.

These strategies should involve various initiatives such as the creation of productive development, competitiveness and technological innovation funds, financed by taxes on natural resources. Such actions would ensure the viability of initiatives for productive diversification and value added by appropriating part of the income from natural resources.

2. Public-private partnerships for innovation and added knowledge

A pro-growth agenda should include productive policies oriented towards creating endogenous production capacity (such as public-private innovation centres, increasing the stock of human capital and promoting training) and which at the same time contribute to narrowing the huge productivity gaps between sectors. That would help to make economic growth more harmonious and especially more in line with the goal of social equity and inclusion. Social agreement in these areas is also vital. Building public-private

partnerships to harmonize incentives and joint coordination of productive undertakings is therefore an essential policy tool.

3. Efficient linkages between institutions and instruments of innovation policy.

The institutional changes which make it possible to strengthen public-private partnerships for innovation require harmonization of the bodies conducting productive-development policies with the instruments used in their execution. Attention should be drawn to three essential aspects in this regard. First, there must be forums for dialogue among the various actors (enterprises, government and academic bodies). Second, policies to promote sectors and enterprises must not create an incentive for them to capture the State. Third, innovative projects involve various levels of risk which can prevent their financing, so appropriate risk capital policies must be adopted so that viable but high-risk innovative projects are not prevented from being implemented for lack of sufficient access to financing.

Energy security and sustainable development

Latin America and the Caribbean face the challenge of putting into force sustainable energy policies aimed at satisfying efficiently the future energy demand through higher economic growth and minimizing the environmental impact. In our view, the region must grow but at the same time it must reduce energy intensity through higher efficiency; increase its coverage of basic energy requirements and efforts should be made towards mitigating climate change.

The priority subjects of the agenda on energy policies in Latin America and the Caribbean are:

1. Public-private relationship: guarantees to investments, insufficient regulatory frameworks and expansion of systems.

In the nineties, after the implementation of the reforms, a great number of countries have shown difficulties in guaranteeing supply mainly due to insufficient investments in transport infrastructure and distribution (electricity and natural gas), in electricity generation, and in exploration and exploitation of hydrocarbons. And in the cases of those countries depending on fuel imports, they have also been affected by the international prices of crude, the changes in market rules, and by the sporadic cuts in supply.

2. Equity-Energy and social cohesion.

To guarantee the access of low income groups to basic energy needs both in quantity and in quality is one of the most relevant problems that affect significantly an

important portion of the poorest population. This affects the quality of life and thus increases the poverty circle.

The rise of hydrocarbon prices has increased the cost of electricity services. In view of this, the use of renewable energy sources seems to be the main axis towards an equitable access to energy sources, thus contributing to social cohesion.

3. Energy efficiency: an additional resource towards securing supply.

In the major countries of the region this is one of the most forgotten issues and the one on which more purposes are presented rather than programs and/or concrete actions. Together with the case of biofuels this is a complex issue (due to its multiple dimensions and actors), but constitutes a special priority both in securing supply and in poverty, and in which management capacity in public policies presents serious lacks.

4. Sustainable options on diversification of the energy matrix.

The diversification of energy sources (hydro, geothermal, wind, solar, biomass) appears as a possible means of reducing dependency grades and vulnerability affecting supply and therefore energy security. However an integral vision of the use of natural patrimony is required so that use of other potential sources offered to the countries of the region may not be affected. This issue should bring the attention of all the countries of the region but these appear urgent and especially significant to those countries with medium or small sized energy systems depending on fuel imports.

5. Multisectoral management of biofuels and its relation to the objectives of sustainable development.

As can be seen in several initiatives and national programs, bioethanol is a reality in several countries. Given the complexity of this issue, the ECLAC proposal is to move forward towards a new, in-depth and integral analytical approach, moving from a classical tri-sectoral view (energy-agriculture-environment) towards a multidimensional view integrating other fundamental axis related to production and use of biofuels at the economic, social, industrial and technological level.

Human Development, crime and poverty reduction

Sustained *per capita* GDP growth between 2003 and 2007 (more than 3% per annum) has allowed most countries to reduce unemployment and their levels of poverty and indigence, and has brought improvements in income distribution to others. Contributing to this is the new dynamism shown by social policies over recent years; 14 million people in the region escaped from poverty in 2006 and 10 million who had been

classified as indigent ceased to be so. The latest poverty estimates for the region indicate that, as of 2006, some 36.5% of the population (194 million people) were poor and 13.4% (71 million) extremely poor.

As a region, Latin America and the Caribbean is well-positioned to meet the first target established for the UN Millennium Development Goals, of halving the 1990 extreme poverty rate by 2015. Latin America is 87% of the way towards meeting the first target, an achievement that raises the possibility of meeting a more ambitious target – that of halving the total poverty rate. Despite the positive regional forecast, however, differences between countries are great. Many countries need to do more to meet the poverty reduction targets, noting that improvements in income distribution can maximize the impact of economic growth on poverty reduction.

Also, the high levels of poverty and inequity prevailing in the region's countries are undoubtedly a factor in social exclusion and prevent the construction and consolidation of social cohesion, understood as a "sense of belonging" to a common and inclusive national enterprise. It is therefore fundamental to reduce poverty and narrow the gaps between the different sectors of the population by, for example, increasing the possibilities for social progress through access to different types of assets, among which education is particularly important. Certain mechanisms of social protection that can be put in place to reduce the uncertainty associated with old age, illness and poverty also have the potential to increase social cohesion.

In the area of education, progress in completing levels of education has been significant. In around 2005, approximately 92% of young people aged 15 to 19 had completed primary education. Completion of the early-secondary cycle rose from 53% to 71%, due to the efforts of many countries to make this cycle compulsory. Currently, some 50% of youths finish high school. But higher education continues to benefit young people from middle- and high-income sectors nearly exclusively.

The quality of instruction received by students depends largely on their economic resources, and how, in many countries, these differ according to the socio-economic background of students, reproducing social inequalities in the region. Reducing school segregation and segmentation is needed not only to improve the quality of education but also as a strategy to tackle the region's socio-economic polarization.

The World Health Organization (WHO) in its 2002 Report defines violence as "the intentional use of physical force or power threatened or actual, against oneself, another person, or against a group or community that either results in or has a high likelihood of resulting in injury, death, psychological harm, maldevelopment or deprivation." According to WHO, violent acts can be categorized into three main groups: self-directed; interpersonal and collective violence. Violent acts can further be defined as being of a physical, sexual, psychological nature or involving deprivation or neglect.¹

¹ WHO . World Report on Violence and Health 2002

Another categorization for violent acts has been suggested to be political, economic and social, based on the type of power that violence is used to gain or maintain.² Measuring the extent of violence is another matter and requires different types of data, but mortality figures provide one of the best descriptions of the magnitude of the problem. Since the 1990's in the LAC Region, the most visible form of violence has not been overt political conflict, but instead interpersonal crime and violence.

It is important to note that while crime and violence is quite pervasive throughout Latin America and the Caribbean, the nature and extent of violence varies significantly both between and within countries, with violence being more problematic in urban areas. While the global average homicide rate is 5 per 100,000 inhabitants, with a rate over 10 generally considered dangerously high, the estimated average for Latin America 2000, was 27.5 the highest for any region in the world (WHO 2002). The mean homicide rate for the Commonwealth Caribbean countries between 1980 and 2000, for which data is available, is rarely above 10 per 100,000 inhabitants.³ However, the World Bank Report (2007) suggest a murder rate for the Caribbean region of 30 per 100 000 annually, as being higher than for any other region in the world.⁴ See attached charts for illustrations of the variation between countries.

Youth involvement in crime and violence both as perpetrators and victims is one of the most visible forms of violence in society. Youth homicide rates vary considerably, but here again the Latin American and Caribbean region stand out as having the highest rate in the world, with 36.4 per 100,000, as compared to 17.6 per 100 000 in Africa and 0.9 per 100 000 in the high-income countries of Europe and parts of Asia and the Pacific. Within the LAC region there are also wide variations, for example 84.4 per 1000 000 in Columbia and 50.2 per 100 000 in El Salvador, in the Caribbean, Puerto Rico 41.8 per 100 000.⁵ WHO reports that almost everywhere youth homicide rates are lower among females than among males, suggesting that being a male is a strong demographic risk-factor.

Levels of domestic violence are also high in the region although efforts to collect statistics on violence against women in the home are recent and as yet unable to support a comprehensive assessment of the magnitude of the problem in the region. Studies suggest that anywhere between 30% and 75% of adult women with partners in the region are subject to psychological abuse and between 10% and 30% suffer physical violence.⁶ The World Bank reported that all countries in the Caribbean for which comparable data are available experienced a higher rate of rape than the un-weighted average of 102 countries responding to the CTS data: 15 rapes per 100, 000. (The Bahamas 133; SVG 112; Jamaica 51; St. Kitts and Nevis 45; Dominica 34; Barbados 25, Trinidad and Tobago 18).⁷

² Moser and Shrader (1999) as cited by Heinemann , Alessandra and Dorte Verner (2006)

³ Harriott, Anthony (2002) . Crime Trends in the Caribbean and Responses.

⁴ Crime violence and Development: Trends, Costs and Policy Options in the Caribbean . March 2007

⁵ WHO 2002 . Chapter 2 pg 25 op cit

⁶ Buvinic, Mayra, Andrew Morrison and Michael Shifter , "Violence in Latin America and the Caribbeanm: A Framework for Action (1999)

⁷ World bank Report 2007 op cit

The literature suggests that high rates of crime and violence in the region have both direct effects on human welfare in the short run and on economic growth and development in the long run. Most importantly, violence disproportionately affects the poor and erodes their livelihoods, assets, well being and security.⁸ It has been argued that income inequality, not income or poverty per se, is among the key factors motivating crime. In addition, inequality and exclusion associated with unequal distribution of economic, political and social resources is more important. Greater inequality and differing vulnerabilities are associated with higher intentional homicide and robbery rates. Countries with more unequal income distribution tend to have higher crime rates than those with more egalitarian patterns of income distribution.⁹ The Lac Region is noted for having the highest inequality rates in the world ranging from a low of 0.44 in Venezuela to a high of 0.58 in Brazil.¹⁰ The drug trade has been defined as a “prime driver” of crime and violence, with the trafficking of narcotics seen as a major factor contributing to the surge of gun-related violence in the region.

Despite the differences in the literature to the causes or the drivers of crime and violence, there is agreement that the socio-economic costs of violence to the countries are high. These costs can be measured through the examination of the direct monetary costs, which include the value of goods and services used in treating or preventing violence and the non-monetary costs, key among them being pain and suffering. Allowing for a deeper understanding of the direct costs are: the economic multiplier effects grouped into the macroeconomic effects of the labor market, and the intergenerational productivity effects; and the social multiplier effects, which address the impact on interpersonal relations and quality of life such as the erosion of human and social capital and a state’s credibility.

Data suggests that the total cost of crime in Jamaica in 2001 came to J\$12.4 billion dollars which was 3.7% of GDP.¹¹ In Latin America it has been suggested that countries devote between 0.3% and 5% of GDP just to treating the health consequences of violence alone. They also spend between 2% and 9% of GDP on providing judicial and police services. It has been further suggested that the cost associated with the high levels of crime and violence in the region is as high as 14.2% of the regional GDP.¹²

In light of the complex and multidimensional nature of the causes of violence and crime, holistic approaches, rather than those focusing on a specific type of violence are necessary.

⁸ Moser, Caroline, Alisa Winton and Annalise Moser, “Violence fear and insecurity and the urban poor in Latin America. (2005)

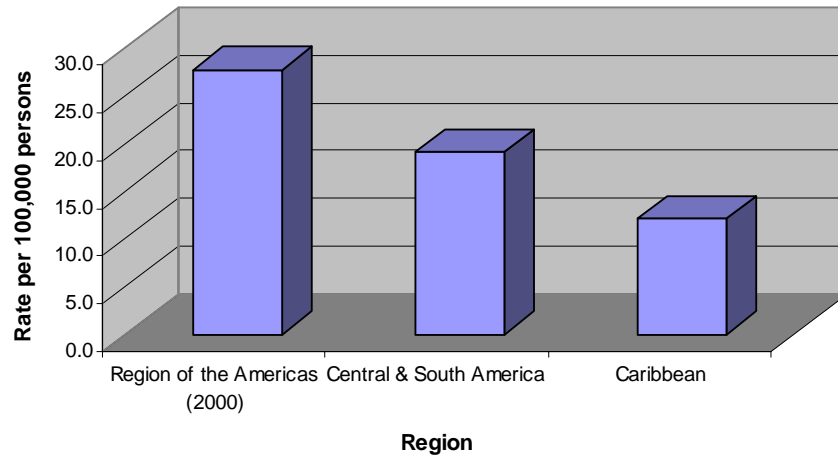
⁹ Heinemann and Dorte Verner op cit

¹⁰ UNDP Human Development Report 2006

¹¹ World Bank pg Vii op cit

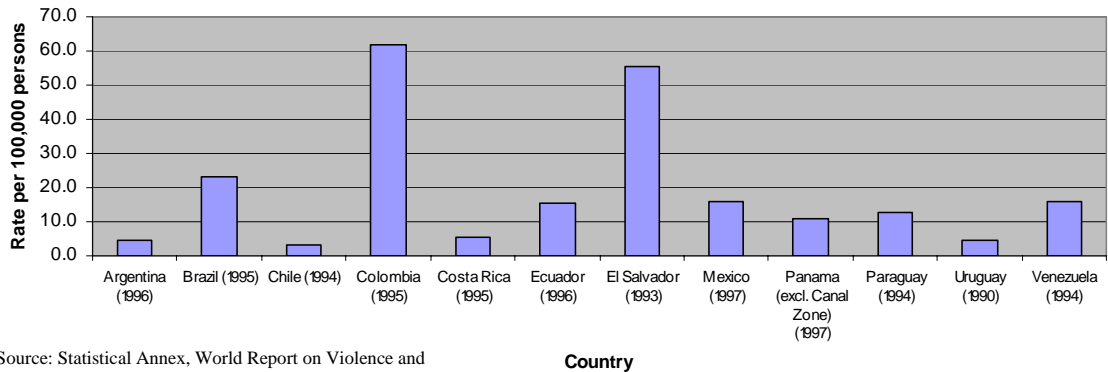
¹² Londono and Guerrero (1999) as cited by Moser et al op cit

Homicide mortality rates per 100,000 population for the Region of the Americas, Latin America and The Caribbean for the most recent year available between 1990 and 2000



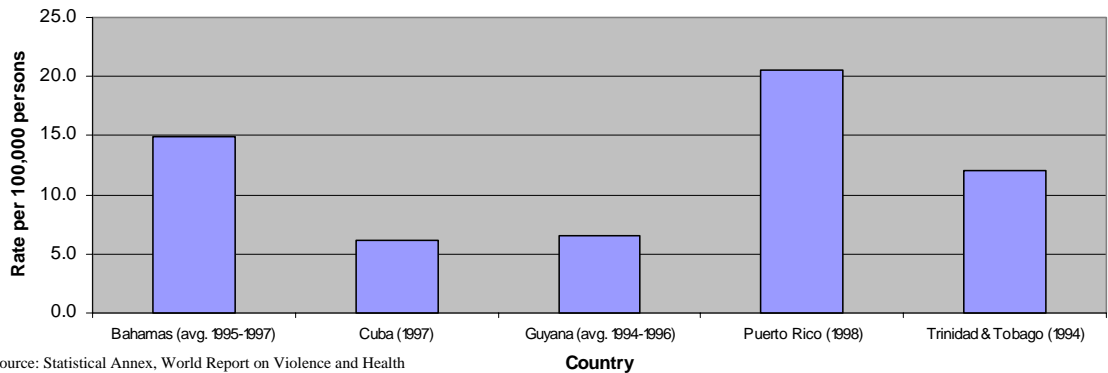
Source: Statistical Annex, World Report on Violence and Health 2002, WHO.

Homicide mortality rates per 100,000 population for select countries of Latin America, for the most recent year available between 1990 and 2000



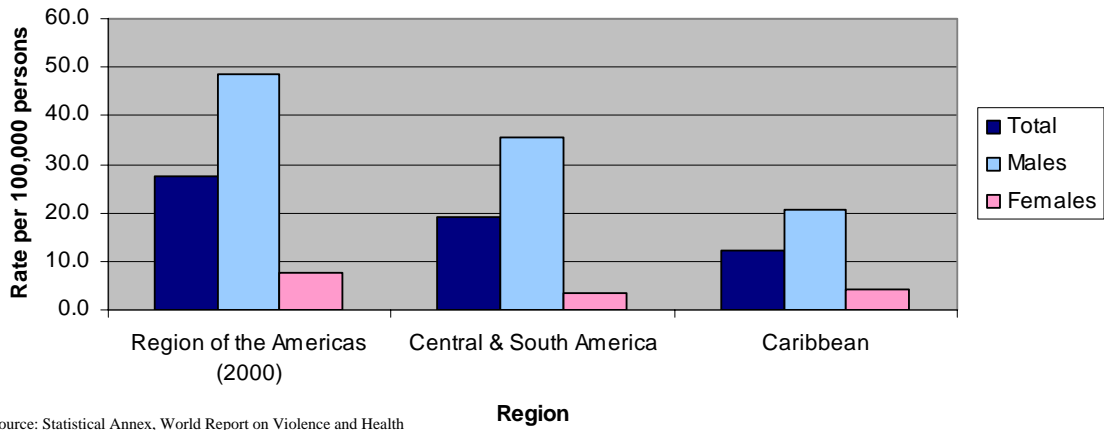
Source: Statistical Annex, World Report on Violence and Health 2002, WHO.

Homicide mortality rates per 100,000 population for select countries of the Caribbean, for the most recent year available between 1990 and 2000



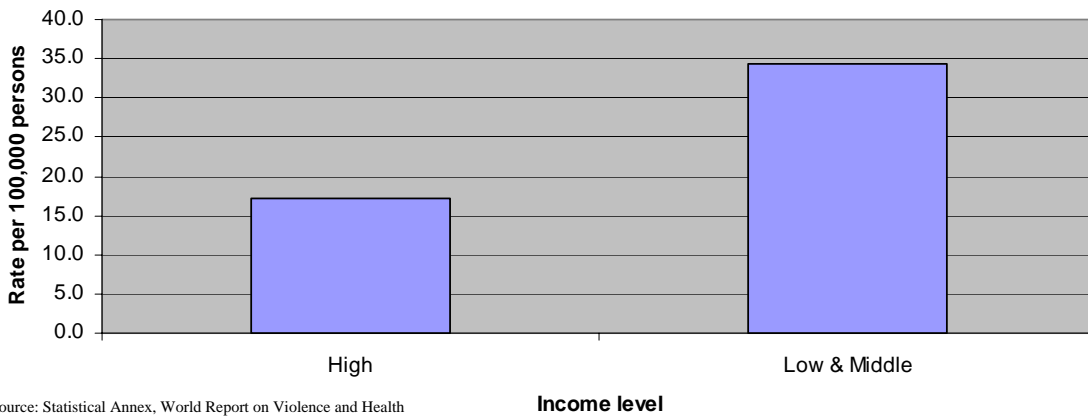
Source: Statistical Annex, World Report on Violence and Health 2002, WHO.

Homicide mortality rates per 100,000 population for the Region of the Americas, Latin America and The Caribbean, for the most recent year available between 1990 and 2000, by sex



Source: Statistical Annex, World Report on Violence and Health 2002, WHO.

Homicide mortality rates per 100,000 for the entire Region of the Americas, by income level, for the year 2000



Source: Statistical Annex, World Report on Violence and Health 2002, WHO.

ECLAC Contribution to the Fifth Summit of the Americas Preliminary Concept Paper:
*Securing Our Citizens; Future by Promoting Human Prosperity,
Energy Security and Environmental Sustainability*

Response to questions posed by Trinidad and Tobago at the 24 January 2008 meeting
with Joint Summit Working Group institutions.

1. With respect to innovation, what suggestions could you offer on innovative projects in financing?

The Monterrey Consensus and the Millennium Development Goals provide good examples of the efforts made by the international community to reinforce its commitment and policies to promote economic and social development. While the Goals set specific targets and timetables for the struggle against poverty and hunger, the Monterrey Consensus defines new targets for ODA.

The Consensus espouses the idea that financing for development requires a holistic and interconnected approach. It also emphasizes the need for the full participation of all stakeholders in order to achieve better harmonization and coordination of donor countries' policies, together with an improvement in the coordination of ODA flows and the domestic policies of recipient countries.

ODA flows trended upward from 1980 to 2005, rising from US\$ 27 billion to US\$ 73 billion, on average. In 2005, ODA flows provided by the Development Assistance Committee (DAC) totalled US\$ 107 billion but according to initial estimations declined to US\$ 104 billion in 2006. ODA flows reached an average of 0.33% of the GNI of DAC member countries in 2005. While short of the 0.7% target, this is nonetheless the highest figure since 1997 and similar to the level attained in 1992. ODA forecasts, indicate that flows will taper off in 2007 and that by 2010 they will have reached no more than 0.36%.¹

The available evidence shows a decline in DAC donors ODA as percentage of GNI from 0.33% in 2005 to 0.30% in 2006. More than half DAC member countries reduced their ODA disbursements as a percentage of GNI with respect to 2005. The level of dispersion among DAC member countries ODA commitments did not vary.

Current ODA levels will not suffice to finance achievement of the targets associated with the Millennium Development Goals.

Recent proposals on ODA seek to strengthen the role of middle income countries by including them as potential donors. This stems partly from the fact that middle-income economies possess knowledge and expertise which can be of benefit to countries with relatively lower income levels. This is a welcome initiative, since it will stimulate

¹ On the basis of OECD (2007).

cooperation among developing countries. For example, the European Union is requiring its poorer new member States to become donors as their income increases.

In view of the difficulties hampering increases in ODA, *new proposals for innovative ways of financing development* and supplementing ODA flows are being devised. In general, these new financing mechanisms comprise a wide variety of instruments ranging from the implementation of global taxes to global funds and private voluntary donations.²

a. **Global taxes:**

- i. **A currency transactions tax** was initially proposed to constrain speculative behaviour.³ Within the framework of the Goals, however, the tax is seen strictly as a revenue-raising device. The proposed tax is small (ranging from 0.01% to 0.02%), and would be levied on spot, forward and future transactions, swaps, and the purchase or sale of a number of other derivatives, would provide a double dividend, since it would raise funds and, at the same time, should help to reduce foreign-exchange speculation.
- ii. **Taxation of the arms trade.**
- iii. **A global pollution tax.** This instrument should be designed so that it would be levied on high-income countries' production of goods and services that generate environmental externalities through the use of hydrocarbon fuels such as carbon dioxide and chlorofluorocarbons (CFCs), which are two main examples of common environmental pollutants.

b. **Global funds:**

- i. A proposal to create the **International Finance Facility (IFF)** was launched by the Treasury and Department for International Development of the United Kingdom in 2003. The IFF is designed to raise development aid from US\$ 50 to 100 billion per year between 2004 and 2015. These resources are to be provided through four- or five-year disbursement programmes that will be monitored under detailed IFF conditionality. This proposal seeks to promote high relative rates of return on investments in order to help put an end to poverty (the first target of the Goals), improve prosperity and heighten participation in the world economy. While the destination of funds is to be decided by donor countries, the focus of IFF is on low-income countries.
- ii. An alternative to IFF would be to raise funds by **issuing new special drawing rights (SDRs)**. The assumption is that, if SDRs are issued frequently enough, the allocation of US\$ 25 billion-US\$ 30 billion could

² A good example of these proposals is provided by the 2004 Report of the Technical Group on Innovative Financing Mechanisms: Action Against Hunger and Poverty.

³ The original argument is found in Tobin (1978). The proposed tax rates range from 0.05% to 0.25%.

make a significant contribution to progress towards the development goals. Currently, the SDR-for-development proposal centres on using this facility for the provision of global public goods, including the improvement of the environment, the prevention of disease, an increase in literacy, and the provision of humanitarian aid.⁴ One variant of the proposal advocates periodic SDR injections prefaced on the International Monetary Fund (IMF) Board of Governor's approval in 1997 of a special one-time allocation of SDRs. This approach calls upon rich countries to make their shares of SDRs available to developing countries.

One of the positive characteristics of these instruments is that they are double-dividend tools in the sense that, at the same time that they collect revenue, they also provide global public goods. The successful implementation of new financial instruments is premised on the fact that the bulk of the financing burden will be borne by developed countries. It also presupposes that developing countries should improve the effectiveness of their allocation and spending decisions. In this sense, aid monitoring and good governance are preconditions for the effectiveness of such assistance.

The successful implementation of these new mechanisms requires the willingness of developed countries to actively partake in raising funds for the MDGs. In addition it demands participation and compromise of developed and developing economies in issues related to their coordination, implementation and administration. Indeed, the new proposals while highlighting the importance of DAC countries as sources of development funds also provide a role for developing and in particular upper middle income countries as potential sources of development funding.

The new instruments do not rely exclusively on the unrequited transfer of funds from developed/donor to developing/recipient countries, that is, on the traditional way of providing ODA. Global taxes, for example, entail the participation of both developed and developing countries in raising revenue. Developing countries will remain recipients, but under this new scheme, both developed and middle-income developing countries become donors, which would put more emphasis not only on developed-developing country relationships, but also on developing-developing country cooperation. In this context, the task of securing the necessary funding to achieve internationally agreed goals and objectives, including those contained in the Millennium Declaration, is viewed as a shared responsibility of developed and developing economies.⁵

Nonetheless countries have emphasized the need to improve the coordination of donor aid, donor harmonization on strategies and aid priorities. To this end the DAC working party on effectiveness was set up in 2003. The working party on effectiveness established five themes related to aid effectiveness, including: monitoring the Paris Declaration, public financial management, managing for development results, procurement and aid

⁴ The SDR is a potential claim on the freely usable currencies of IMF members. Holders of SDRs can obtain these currencies in exchange for their SDRs in two ways: first, through the arrangement of voluntary exchanges between members; and second, by the IMF designating members with strong external positions to purchase SDRs from members with weak external positions

⁵ It is worth noting that some middle-income developing economies, including China, India, the Republic of Korea and Turkey, and some oil-producing countries provide some ODA flows, albeit on a minor scale (4% of the total for 2005).

untying. In 2005 the Paris Declaration on aid effectiveness established several indicators to monitor the progress towards the 2010 targets. The 2006 survey on monitoring the Paris Declaration identified six areas of attention for policy makers: (i) improve the engagement of countries in their development process; (ii) improve the use of national budgets; (iii) identify priority programmes of capacity development; (iv) improve the efficiency of aid giving; (v) make better and greater usage of performance assessment frameworks; and (vi) countries and donors should agree on a mutual action agenda.

The compliance with these recommendations include focusing aid towards improving governance in the public and private sector; creating a better infrastructural basis; and the recognition of the nexus between security and development.

2. In the area of energy security, how do you think energy efficient technologies can be made available to and more affordable for low-income groups?

Energy Efficient Technologies (EETs) comprises end-use thermal and electric efficiency activities at household level, loss reduction in low voltage transmission & distribution and improvements in the efficiency of district heating systems. EETs can play a key-role in helping the poor directly by facilitating access to modern services, reducing the cost and improving the quality of energy supplied to low-income households, and supporting the provision of affordable, sustainable energy services for social services and productive uses.

The unavailability of financing is a relevant barrier to investments in EETs equipment and services in many parts of the world. A lack of awareness and experience necessary to evaluate the rate of return and risk associated with loans tied to savings from reductions in energy demand, has tended to keep developing countries' banks out of this potentially profitable and environmentally beneficial market. Therefore, a major effort have to deployed to help providing flexible & preferred financing mechanisms (such as regular loans & loan guarantees at favorable conditions) to low income groups .

3. Can you provide us with suggestions on possible types of public-private sector partnerships?

In preparation for the next Session of the Commission, the ECLAC Secretariat is preparing a document, which includes a discussion of innovation policies and public-private alliances that can support them. We will of course make this document available to the Summit of the Americas process as soon as it becomes available. In anticipation of this, we include here within a brief response to the question posed:

When one observes the countries which have over recent decades most successfully converged economically with the rich countries of the world, one finds that most have

deployed medium/long term industrial strategies, or national plans, that have guided public interventions designed to help the private sector exploit identified opportunities and overcome obstacles, whether due to market or government failure. Structured national alliances can be found in successful economies like Ireland, Finland, Malaysia, Singapore and the Czech Republic at the national level. Meanwhile, Australia and New Zealand have alliances in certain sectors and activities.

In the face of global competition, especially from low wage manufacturing and service economies, in their recent strategies and plans all these countries are giving high priority to support of innovation in order to raise productivity, and above all, upgrade their exports into higher value goods based on more knowledge content.

The alliances are different in structure, depth and focus with regard to innovation.

Finland. This country has a Science and Technology Policy Council that every 3 years diagnoses the country's competitive position and prepares a 3-year Plan that provides socially consensus-based guidelines and targets for public policy and programs as well as public budget allocations for R&D and support of innovation. The Council membership includes the Prime Minister, selected ministers, heads of specialized government implementing agencies, labor, CEOs from leading Finnish technology companies and academics. The Council, which meets 2-4 times a year and has subcommittees for specific issues, is supported by a secretariat. Meanwhile, the specialized public agencies are charged with implementation of the national plan and prepare annual operational plans for that purpose. The boards of the specialized agencies have the representation of government ministries, academia, business and in some cases labor. Finland's specialized agencies also do foresight exercises involving private sector experts. The government engages the private sector without capture in part due to transparency and very extensive and robust technical evaluations of the impact of its public programs that support private sector R&D and innovation.

Ireland. This country's has a multi-tiered public-private alliance. At the national level it has the National Economic and Social Council which every 3 years recommends future directions for the Irish economy and arrives at a consensus for a Social Partnership. The Council is in the Office of the Prime Minister and has representatives from government, business, labor, academia and NGOs. It meets regularly and has the support of a technical secretariat. The guidelines of the NESC are very influential inputs to the government's 7-year National Economic Plan and allocation of public resources. Meanwhile, specific public medium term strategy, targets and related programs for innovation—a high priority in the current National Plan—are guided by an Advisory Council for Science, Technology and Innovation made up of government, academics and business CEOs (including an MNC). There also is business and academic representation on the operationally responsible boards of Science Foundation Ireland and Enterprise Ireland, the two public agencies most involved in financially supporting programs designed to stimulate and orient private sector R&D and innovation. Private sector board representation is based on the person's expertise and he/she acts in a personal capacity.

The government has in addition to much transparency very precise codes of conduct for board members.

Singapore. This country is very strategic and goal oriented. Its latest medium long-term priority is R&D/innovation. Policy is guided by a Research, Innovation and Enterprise Council in which the Prime Minister, ministers and ten CEOs of local firms participate. The allocation of resources to specific strategic priority areas (digital multimedia, biotechnology/life sciences and water management) is undertaken by the National Research Foundation which is chaired by an Ex-Vice Prime Minister and includes ministers, academics and business representatives. The private sector also sits on the board (advisory only function) of the two major public implementing agencies, A*Star and the Economic Development Board.

Malaysia. This country's National Plan and Industrial Master Plan gives high priority to R&D/innovation in the area of Information Technology. The lead public agency, MDeC, has local business representation on its board (advisory only) and an International Advisory Panel of high level experts in the area of innovation and information technology. Other public implementing agencies supporting innovation also have business representation of their boards.

Korea. Strategic priorities and government budget support for programs in the area of science and technology are reviewed and coordinated by the National Science and Technology Council. It is composed of the President and Deputy Prime Minister, ministers and 9 representatives of the scientific community.

Australia. The country has had an Industry Research and Development Board that advises the government on Science and Technology policy and is made up of representatives from government, business and academia. The country also has a number of long standing public agencies supporting private sector R&D/innovation. All their boards (which have operational responsibility) have business and academic representation. Moreover, some of the agencies, such as the Rural R&D Corporations are co-financed by the private sector through industry levies.

New Zealand. Government has a Science and Innovation Advisory Council made up of the country's key business figures. There are also a series of specialized public agencies supporting R&D/innovation that have boards (with operational responsibility) that include representatives of business and academia.

Czech Republic. The country's Research and Development Council is a powerful decision making body in terms of advice for the Prime Minister and evaluating policy, diagnosis, and proposing budget allocation for strategies in the areas of R&D and innovation. The Council is made up of members of Parliament, academia and business, including local MNCs.

The study under preparation identifies the principles and factors behind some of the alliances just mentioned.

The Pan-American Health Organization (PAHO) COMMENTS ON THE
PRELIMINARY CONCEPT PAPER
“Securing our Citizens’ Future by Promoting Human Prosperity, Energy Security and
Environmental Sustainability”
V Summit of the Americas

Original: Spanish
Translated by the Summits of the Americas Secretariat

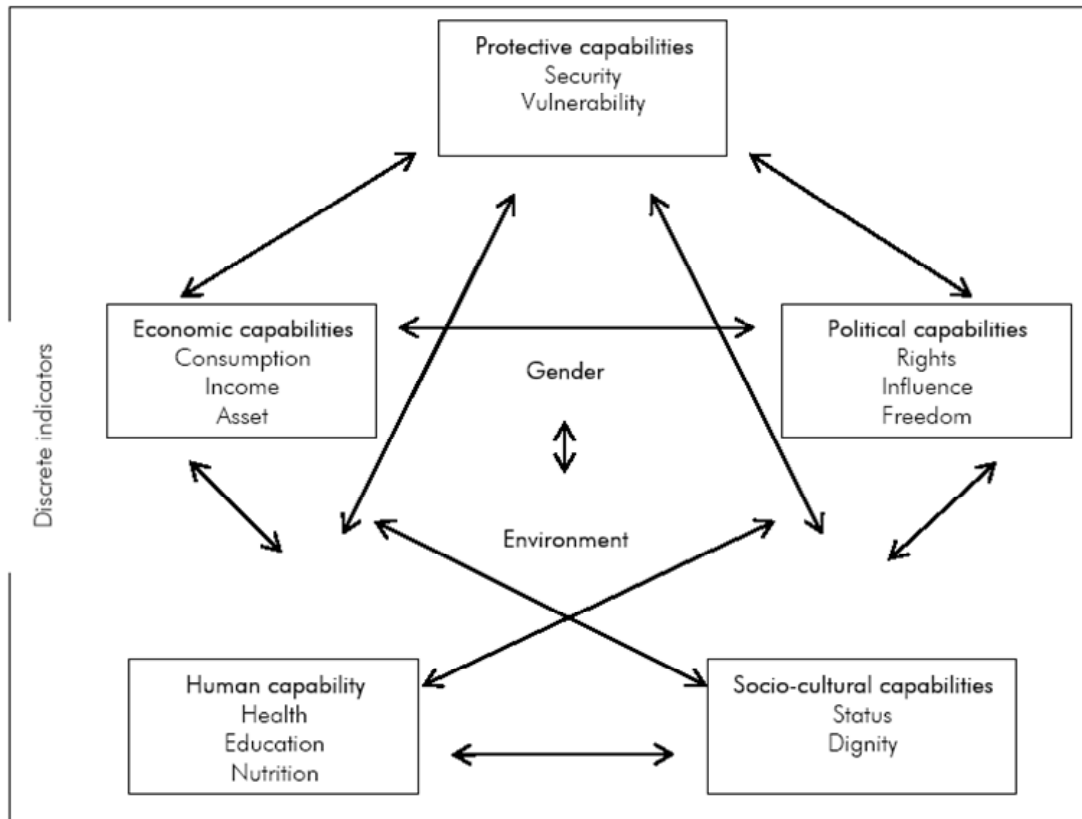
The document constitutes a good starting point by establishing, through its title, those elements which are the thematic axis for the V Summit. An aspect that is mentioned in the preamble and that needs to be highlighted during the process of elaboration and improvement of the document is that of constructing an agenda based on previous Summits achievements and that this agenda be focused on, integrated with and oriented towards measurable goals.

We are in complete agreement with the criteria established to define the theme of the V Summit: a) focusing on trans-national issues that affect all countries, proposing attainable solutions and delivering tangible and measurable outcomes for all citizens; b) focusing on cross-cutting issues, developing viable implementation strategies and linking each target to institutional strengthening; c) topics that are people-centered and that must be relevant and responsive to the needs and concerns of citizens.

Taking into account these general considerations, the Pan American Health Organization offers its ideas and suggestions in order to advance and improve the document.

1. The title “Securing Our Citizens’ Future” puts the stress on people and, therefore, arouses interest from the citizenry. However, when this is linked to Human Prosperity (a concept that is difficult to understand as a personal attribute) along with Energy Security and Environmental Sustainability, the main themes move away from real concerns of people. If it is wished that the main concern is responsive to citizens’ expectations, has an impact on people’s lives and contributes to the processes of democratic governance in the region, it is essential that this concern is expressed on the title of the V Summit theme.
2. It is suggested that there be a consideration of the current issues facing the hemisphere that represent “people’s vulnerabilities”, and to highlight them as threats and challenges that demand a combined effort among the Member States and civil society. The threats that could be included are: the problems of economic security, public security, energy security, environmental security, among others and the challenges would then be how to confront them in order to reduce vulnerabilities and, therefore, guarantee more protection and empowerment to people. A conceptual starting point could be “Human

Security”, which could integrate a focus on protection and capacity building. We suggest furthering a conceptual framework that takes into account the different dimensions that would make it possible to respond to the theme of “Securing our Citizens’ Future” in a more coherent manner and with a more people-centered focus. The following analysis model is attached as an example:



Source: Adapted from OECD-DAC 2001.

3. In order to achieve the criteria of having a more focused, integrated and results-oriented agenda, as the concept paper states, the problems (for example: people’s vulnerabilities with a Human Security focus) and challenges should be organized in terms of proposals that increase protection and develop people’s capacities. Many topics are mentioned without establishing a clear hierarchy of problems and proposals, which results in the document considering many areas without a deeper consideration of the aspects that will be central in the political agenda.
4. It will be necessary to better explain the vulnerabilities that confront people by using data based on reports of hemispheric institutions, approved scientific studies, and that will have a political impact. Specifically, there are

differences between the health data included in the Concept Paper (for HIV/AIDS) with that documented in the 2007 PAHO publication “Health in the Americas”. **The paper indicates that in LAC there are 2.4 million people living with HIV/AIDS; however, the “Health in the Americas” 2007 publication notes that in LAC there are 1.7 million people living with the virus.** Moreover, it states that non-communicable diseases are the leading cause of premature death in LAC, which is not necessarily accurate according to regional figures.

5. The treatment of the health as a theme requires that it be included in an analysis of individual vulnerabilities; the most prominent vulnerability being universal access to quality medical services that is affordable. People are living longer, but not necessarily better, and the health systems and services are not responding to demographic changes and the growing epidemic of chronic diseases. The document mentions the increase in social expenditures, which has not been sufficiently documented. According to ECLAC, this increase in social expenditure is primarily on social security and not on education and health. It is important to mention that public expenditure as a percentage of GNP has been constant for the past 10 years and that the expenditure of families in health services has been constant for almost 30 years. (See the Joint Summit Working Group publication, “Towards the Fifth Summit of the Americas: Regional Challenges). The fact cannot be ignored that people are more vulnerable to health problems linked to climate problems, environmental situations, etc. and that this situation requires a more efficient answer from health systems and services in order to guarantee better hemispheric health security.

**PAN AMERICAN HEALTH ORGANIZATION (PAHO)
JOINT SUMMIT WORKING GROUP**

***Response to Supplementary Questions Posed by the National Secretariat for the Fifth Summit
of the Government of Trinidad & Tobago***

**Inadequate level and distribution of public spending on health: how to ensure that
increasing public expenditure in health care services can result in universal access to health
care services?¹**

February, 2008

In the Joint Summit Working Group publication “Towards the Fifth Summit of the Americas: Regional Challenges”, the Pan American Health Organization (PAHO) introduced the concern about the persistent inadequate level and distribution of public spending on health in the Americas². Following the next Summit, the concern to be addressed is **how to ensure that increasing public expenditure in health care services can result in universal access to health care services?**

As stated in the regional challenges document³, over the last 10 years (1994-2005), the public spending on health care as a percentage of Gross Domestic Product (GDP) doesn't show any significant change, it represents only 3.6 percent of GDP. In the same period total expenditure in health care services has increased over a 1% of GDP (around 7 percent of GDP). Empirical world evidence shows that public expenditure in health in countries with national health systems that provide universal health care is around 7.3 percent of GDP. Among these countries, public expenditure represents almost three parts of the total national expenditure on health, around 77 percent of national health care expenditure⁴.

The increment of public expenditure in health care services is a necessary condition but not sufficient to guarantee the universal access to health care services. Conditions to create a sufficient environment to reach universal access to health services might include but not limited to the implementation of public policies supporting the organization of health systems and mechanisms to ensure that public funding benefits the most disadvantaged groups in society.

In the Americas, the ranges of public expenditure in health vary among countries with different organization of their health systems. It might reflect differences in population coverage. Countries with a public expenditure more than 60% of total National health expenditure and with a predominantly public system have a public expenditure in health that ranges from 3.9% to 11.7% of GDP. Among these countries several of them have universal access to health care such as Canada, Netherland Antilles, Aruba and Cuba. Countries with a public expenditure less than 60% but more than 50% of the total national health expenditure and with mostly a mixed type of health system have a public expenditure in health care services that ranges from 1.3% to 5%. Among these countries however, it is possible to identify countries that may be classified as having

¹ HSS/HP- ECO. Answer to the request from the JSWG meeting.

² *Organization of American States. Towards the Fifth Summit of the Americas: Regional Challenges. Pan American Health Organization. A subject for the Political Agenda: Toward more inclusive, equitable and healthy societies. Washington DC, 2006 pp 43-50*

³ Idem 2

⁴ Exceptions of Finland and Holland where public expenditure on health was estimated around 5.7 percent of GDP – OPS, 2007. Health in the Americas.

National Health Insurance System such as Argentina, Costa Rica, Colombia and Chile with coverage over 60% of the total population. Countries with public expenditure less than 50% of the total national Health expenditure and with a predominantly private market oriented health systems have a public expenditure in health that ranges from 1.8% to 7.2%. Among these countries there are greater differences in population coverage. (Table 1). Countries where there is universal coverage or at least coverage to over 60 percent of the population include those countries where the health systems are organized as National Health Insurance Systems or National Health Service Systems, and the health systems are funded by the general tax system, contributions or by different combinations of sources of funding.

Although various countries in the region have implemented policies and mechanisms that have had a distributive impact on public spending in health for lower-income groups, there are still countries in the region that are far from achieving this objective⁵

Ensure that increasing public expenditure in health contributes to achieving universal access to health care services requires defining new policies and instruments that direct the existing and increasing public expenditure into health systems oriented toward increasing access to health care.

This increment should be accompanied by formulas selected by each country to ensure that the increment has a distributive effect and reaches the poorest sectors of society. It is imperative that health sector reform agendas incorporate policies designed to improve access and reduce private out of pocket spending on health care treatment, particularly for low income families. Defining policies to increase public spending with a re distributive effect and reduced out-of-pocket expenses will require specific analyses in each country and the search for the most appropriate mechanisms to organize and finance national health systems.

Public expenditure in health care of at least 6% of GDP is a necessary but not sufficient condition to achieve national health systems with universal access to health care. Achieving this goal requires restructuring and integrating national health public institutions towards the organization of national health services systems or national health insurance systems with public policies for: universal access to a comprehensive set of health care services, implementation of mechanisms that incentive efficiency and transparency in the use of resources, design and implementation of regulatory policies of health care goods and services, and a synergic relationship between public and private sectors. Finally, political commitment from the governments to face the fiscal challenges and technical commitment from the technical staff to face the organizational and restructuring challenges might achieve national health systems that guarantee equality in the access to health care services.

Table 1.

⁵ Idem 2

National Health Care Systems in the Americas by percentage of public expenditure in health and level of income, 2004

Level of income (public expenditure in health as % GDP)			
Type of Health System	Level of Income: Low <i>(Less than US\$ 4,000)</i>	Level of Income: Middle <i>(More than US\$4,000; less than US\$ 11,000)</i>	Level of Income: High <i>(More than US\$11,000)</i>
Predominantly Public System:		Anguilla (4.7%)	
		Belize(4.1%)	Antigua and Barbuda (8.7%)**
Public Expenditure more than 66 % of Total NHE	Cuba (6.3%)**	Dominica (4.4%)	<i>Netherlands Antilles (11.7%)*</i>
		Montserrat (6.1%)** <i>Panama (4.5%)*</i>	<i>Aruba(12.7%)*</i> <i>Canada(7.3%)*</i>
		Saint Vincent and the Grenadines (3.9%) <i>Uruguay (6.4%)*</i>	
Mixed System		<i>Chile (4.4%)*</i> <i>Costa Rica (5.0%)*</i> Grenada (4.5%)	<i>Argentina (4.7%)*</i> Bahamas (3.1%) Barbados (4.3%)
Public Expenditure more than 50 % but less than 66% of Total NHE	Bolivia (4.2%)	Peru (2.3%)	Saint Kitts and Nevis (2.5%)
	Honduras (3.5%)	Saint Lucia (3.3%)	Trinidad and Tobago (3.0%)
		Venezuela (1.3%) <i>Colombia (3.4%)*</i>	
Predominantly Private Market-oriented System:	Ecuador (2.2%)	El Salvador (2.4%)	Bermuda (3.7%)
Public Expenditure less than 50% of Total NHE	Guatemala (1.8%)	Brazil (3.4%)	United States (7.2%)
	Haiti (2.7%)	Mexico (2.4%)	
	Jamaica (2.5%)	Paraguay (2.2%)	
	Nicaragua (3.3%)	Dominican Republic (1.4%)	

Source: Adapted from PAHO, 2007. Health in the Americas.

* Countries with extensive social security or social (mandatory) health insurance systems, covering 50 percent or more of the total population may be classified as National Health Insurance Systems (NHIS).

** May be classified as National Health Services Systems (NHSS).

World Bank Contribution to the Fifth Summit of the Americas Theme

We welcome the attention that **climate change** and **energy security** are receiving as potential topics for the Fifth Summit of the Americas. These topics are at the center of what the World Bank considers to be the future development challenges in Latin America and the Caribbean.

Adapting to Climate Change

The past few years have witnessed an intensification of the debate around climate change. Questions concerning the extent and causes behind observed climate change have been the subject of a number of recent studies. Overall, and despite existing controversies, it would be fair to say that there is a consensus regarding two overarching conclusions: **(1) climate change is a serious global threat;** and **(2) it demands a serious multilateral response.**

In the Latin American and Caribbean context, the most serious **consequences of climate change** that have been identified are the following: glacier melts in the Andean countries; coral bleaching in the Caribbean; increased hurricane frequency and intensity in coastal countries; collapse of tropical rainforests in Amazonia; and coastal flooding – especially in the island countries, but in other coastal countries as well. **All of these are likely to have significant impacts on human health, infrastructure, agriculture, natural resources, biodiversity, and on the economies of the affected countries.**

Although actions taken to address climate change are specific to each country context, there are cross-border issues concerning the type of multilateral architecture required to facilitate an agreement involving actors with different incentives, resources and costs.

In this regard, **the Fifth Summit of the Americas could serve as a catalyst for a regional response**, particularly in response to the following challenges:

- (i) **Expanding the analytical framework** around the physical impact of climate change both for the region, and on a country-by-country basis;
- (ii) **Reviewing the different trade-offs associated with different policies** using an integrated framework to generate educated policy decisions; and
- (iii) **Proposing a set of policy interventions** to address specific vulnerabilities to climate change.

The Summit of the Americas process would clearly make a contribution on resolving items (ii) and (iii), and the World Bank stands ready to share any technical knowledge generated on these issues.

The **annual flagship publication of the Latin America and Caribbean region of the World Bank** –to be released in June 2008- **will study the economic costs of climate change.** In addition, the World Bank Group will prepare another major report on climate change to be published in September 2008. **The World Bank will be happy to contribute both reports as technical inputs to the Fifth Summit of the Americas.**

Enhancing Energy Security

A related issue is the need to enhance energy security in member states. **In the next 10 years, the Latin America and the Caribbean region is projecting an energy demand growth of 4.8% per year**, which implies a net increase of about 100,000 MW in generation capacity. In response to this increasing demand from energy, countries in the region are developing and implementing a broad set of policies and actions to provide greater security of supply.

Energy security policies are built around several basic pillars, including investments to increase the supply of energy (notably in hydropower), diversifying energy sources, and promoting energy savings and energy efficiency. These policies are designed not only to enhance the security of supply, but also to provide for reasonable prices that protect economic growth and address increasing concerns about the impact of energy use on the environment.

These initiatives towards energy security pose various challenges for the region. **Within the framework of the Fifth Summit of the Americas, challenges worth discussing include:**

- (iv) **Mobilizing the financial resources required to meet the investment needs**, particularly through innovative private-public partnerships and domestic private capital pools;
- (v) **Developing hydropower resources in a socially and environmentally sustainable manner** in a region with vast hydropower potential and significant social and environmental challenges;
- (vi) **Promoting energy efficiency and conservation programs**, supported by appropriate price levels and regulatory incentives through sound legislation and implementation norms; and
- (vii) **Restoring confidence in cross-border energy trade and expanding natural gas and electricity interconnections** to support energy diversification and exploit regional synergies.

Addressing these challenges, through a multilateral forum like the Fifth Summit of the Americas, **would enable the energy sector to continue to play its key role in supporting continued economic growth in the region, reduce energy costs, and mitigate the impact of energy price volatility.** It will also contribute to the development of a low carbon economy to both mitigate climate change and better insulating the region's energy supply from its anticipated effects.

IICA Comments to the Preliminary Concept Paper (PCP)
Fifth Summit of the Americas – Port of Spain 2009:
*“Securing Our Citizens’ Future by Promoting Human Prosperity,
Energy Security and Environmental Sustainability”*

The Inter American Institute for Cooperation on Agriculture (IICA) is grateful for the opportunity to express its comments to the above mentioned document (PCP).

To facilitate understanding we have organized our comments in two sections:

- a) General Comments in the context of the Regional Challenges suggested by IICA's Director General, Dr. Chelston W.D. Braithwaite in his contribution to the May 2007 document, *“Towards the Fifth Summit of the Americas, Regional Challenges”*.¹
- b) Specific Comments and suggested amendments to the text.

A) General Comments in the context of the Regional Challenges:

Challenge 1: Strengthening the institutional framework for the implementation of the commitments adopted

IICA shares the concern of the Republic of Trinidad and Tobago regarding the need to reenergize the hemispheric process, through a “more focused, integrated, results oriented agenda”, renewing the commitment of the Heads of State and Government towards regional cooperation to pursue an effective implementation of the commitments adopted. At the present time there is a gap between the Hemispheric Process and its Agreements, and the national institutional frameworks required to implement and follow up such commitments. Therefore, it is necessary to continue developing the institutional framework to support the implementation of Summit commitments, both at the national as well as at the regional level.

Challenge 2: Reappraising the rural milieu as part of the national heritage and as an essential resource for comprehensive development

IICA welcomes the inclusion of agriculture and rural development as part of the strategic themes in the PCP. This responds well to the need to reappraise the rural milieu as part of the national heritage and as an essential resource for comprehensive development. Adverse conditions and lack of development have been recognized in previous Summit Declarations and Plans of Action, as encouraging migration, particularly in the rural milieu, as well as potentially, creating the temptation to become involved in illicit activities. A reappraisal of the rural milieu is therefore fundamental. This is possible only if based on a public-private partnership and a new understanding of the rural milieu and the actors involved in its development.

Challenge 3: Building a knowledge base for sustainable development

Finally, regarding the consideration in the PCP of issues related to education, scientific and technological development, and the use of information and communication technologies, IICA considers essential the generation of a renewed knowledge base to allow comprehensive sustainable development. The participation of our countries in the knowledge society demands a knowledge base that recognizes the economic, social, environmental and institutional challenges they face and facilitates the generation of creative and consensual responses to those challenges.

¹ “Towards the Fifth Summit of the Americas, Regional Challenges; May 2007, Joint Summit Working Group, IICA ‘s contribution, pages 63-76 (Attached)

B) Specific Comments and suggested amendments to the text

Regarding the term “environmental sustainability”: This is one of the strategic themes mentioned in the title as well as in different paragraphs of the text. IICA is of the opinion that the PCP should consider specific mention of issues linked to the rural territories contributions to environmental services, bioenergy, agrotourism and ecotourism promotion, sustainable management of water resources, and adequate prevention and alleviation of damages caused by natural disasters.

Regarding paragraph 25: IICA is pleased to notice the inclusion in this paragraph of agriculture and rural development as strategic issues. However, IICA believes that references to these issues should be framed in the context of the mandates of the Third and Fourth Summit meetings of Quebec 2001 and Mar del Plata 2005 respectively, as well as the Extraordinary Summit of Monterrey in 2004, which reaffirmed the support of the Heads of State and Government for agriculture and rural development and the implementation of the Plan AGRO 2003-2015 as a global framework for the agricultural and rural development in the Americas. Therefore, we suggest paragraph 25 be amended to read as follows:

25. As a region, it will be important to further strengthen environmental protection initiatives and to pursue cooperative action in support of sustainable development. By supporting the ***implementation of the mandates of the previous Summit of the Americas, hemispheric ministerial agreements, and regional programs regarding agriculture*** and rural development, integrated water resources management, natural hazards risk and disaster management, energy, natural resources management and biodiversity protection.

Finally, taking into account all the aforesaid, IICA suggest the inclusion in the text of a new paragraph 26, with numeration of the following paragraphs to change accordingly. This new paragraphs should read as follows

The time has come when we must reevaluate the contribution of the rural economy of our countries to integral development based on its current and potential contribution to the production of sustainable energy supply, production of nutritious food to alleviate life style diseases, the maintenance of forests to reduce the impact of climate change and economic activities in agriculture that can contribute to employment and the reduction of poverty.

Bernardo Badani
IICA/January 2008

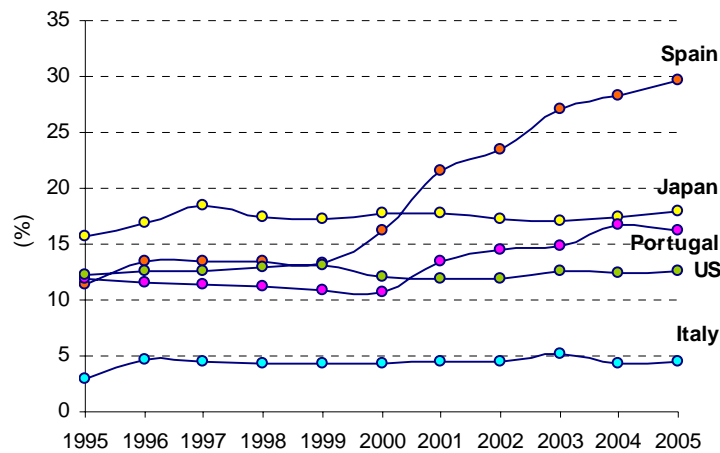
**International Organization for Migration
Contribution to the Fifth Summit of the Americas Process
and the Preliminary Concept Paper**

FACTS ABOUT MIGRATION PATTERNS IN THE AMERICAS¹

- In 2005, there were 51.1 million migrants in the Americas, the vast majority, namely 44.5 million, in North America, and a further 6.6 million in Latin America and the Caribbean. Migrants accounted for 13.5 per cent of the total population in North America, and for 1.2 per cent of the total population in Latin America (UN DESA, 2005).
- South-North migration accounts for 87 per cent of total migration in the region, representing the highest rate of South-North migration in the world. Migration to other Latin American and Caribbean countries accounts for the remaining 13 per cent, which means that there is no significant migration to other developing regions beyond the Americas, such as to Africa or Asia.
- In 2005, 25 million Latin American and Caribbean citizens lived outside their country of origin, accounting for nearly four per cent of the population of their home countries, and 74 percent of whom were thought to be living in the US (ECLAC, 2006a).
- Between 2000 and 2005, the number of Latin American and Caribbean migrants has increased by four million (UN DESA, 2005). Complex phenomena such as economic crises, social conflicts, violence, gradual economic and political change and the diversification of destination countries have shaped new migration patterns throughout the region.
- In geographical terms, the destinations of Latin American migrants have been expanding and diversifying. Owing to push factors, the demand for specialized workers and the emergence of social networks, the flows of Latin Americans towards Europe (particularly Spain, Portugal and Italy), Japan and Canada have been increasing over the period 1990-2005 (ECLAC, 2006a). According to ECLAC estimates, approximately three million people from Latin America and the Caribbean are living outside the sub-region in countries other than the U.S.

Figure 5: Volume of Latin American and Caribbean migrants as a percentage of total migration, by main countries of destination, 1995-2005

¹ World Migration Report 2008



Source: OECD, *Stocks of foreign population by nationality and stocks of foreign-born population by country of origin*, online database.

- The changing migration patterns affecting Latin America and the Caribbean are complex. The absence of up to date data prevents confirmation of the validity of trends today. However, some examples of larger trends in the sub-region arise out of natural and economic crises and gradual economic and political change as causes of migration, the feminization of migration flows and changes in countries of destination for Latin American migrants (O’Neil, 2005).

EMERGING ISSUES IN MIGRATION MANAGEMENT IN THE AMERICAS

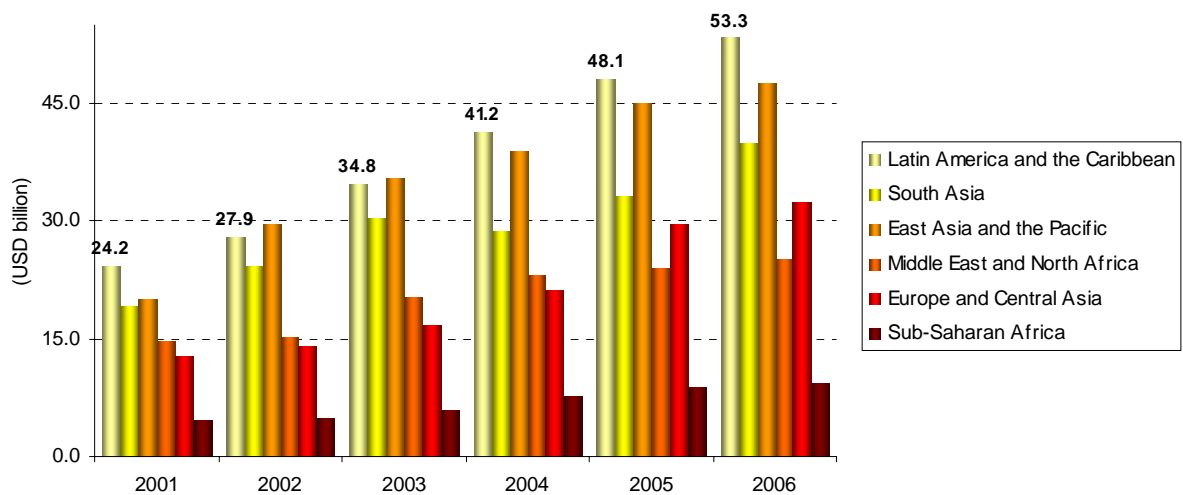
Irregular migration in the region is substantial and rising ...

- In the Americas, as in many other parts of the world, irregular migration is substantial and rising. In the U.S., for example, although the irregular migration problem has been felt for some considerable time rising numbers during the last decade have pushed the topic towards the top of the national agenda. According to the OECD (2006), net irregular immigration to the United States is estimated to be in the vicinity of 500,000 persons per year, which amounts to around 0.15-0.20 per cent of the total population per year. The Pew Hispanic Center (Passel, 2006) estimated the stock of irregular migrants at between 11.5 and 12 million persons in March 2006, and suggests that most irregular migrants arrived since 1990. These numbers concur broadly with the estimates of the U.S. Department of Homeland Security, according to which the volume of the irregular immigration flow increased from 120,000 per year in the 1980s, to 440,000 per year during the period 1990-1999, to reach 850,000 migrants per year during the period 2000-2005 (Passel, 2006).
- During the last ten years, South America has become characterized by intensive out-migration towards North America and Europe, while traditional intra-regional movements declined. The most important source countries for irregular migration to Europe are Ecuador and Peru, but also traditional destination countries like Argentina and Brazil. In Spain, for example, in 2003 an overwhelming majority of irregular migrants came from Latin America (20% from Ecuador, 8% from Colombia and 7% from Bolivia). The same is true of Portugal, where six per cent of irregular migrants came from Brazil in 2004 (Kostova Karaboytcheva, 2006).

Remittances are increasing in the region and play a central role in economic development ...

- An important emerging migration issue in the Americas is the increasing role of remittances in economic development. According to the World Bank (2007), in 2006 the countries of Latin America and the Caribbean received USD 53.2 billion in remittances, 1.2 times more than in 2001, with this sub-region receiving 25.7 per cent of total remittances sent to developing countries in 2006. Moreover, the Inter-American Development Bank (2003) estimates that the actual impact of remittances on local economies can be enhanced by a factor of three through their multiplier effects. At the national level, the country with the highest remittance flows in the region is Mexico (46.4% of total flows), which is estimated to have received USD 24.7 billion in 2006, making it the second largest recipient of remittances of the world, after India, and followed by China and the Philippines. In addition, in 2006, in seven countries in the region remittances accounted for more than ten per cent of GDP: Guyana (21.6%), Haiti (21.2%), Honduras (19.6%), El Salvador (18.3%), Jamaica (16.4%), Nicaragua (11.3%) and Guatemala (10.2%) (World Bank, 2007).

Figure 7: Workers' remittances sent to developing countries, 2001-2006



Note: Workers' remittances, compensation of employees, and migrant transfers.

Source: World Bank (2007), based on the International Monetary Fund's Balance of Payments Statistics Yearbook 2007.

“Brain drain” is a growing concern in the region ...

- Brain drain in the Caribbean has become an issue of particular relevance, given the small number of highly skilled people in these countries and the extremely high levels of emigration. While in South America and Mexico brain drain accounts for ten and five per cent of the college and high school educated population respectively, concerning Caribbean nations nearly one-third of college and high-school educated citizens live in the U.S. (Lowell and Suro, 2002). Jamaica and Haiti have some of the highest rates of emigration of the highly skilled in the world, with two-thirds of their college graduates abroad (O'Neil, 2005). Even if brain drain is also argued to yield direct beneficial effects to sending countries, Beine *et al.* (2002) argue that in the case of Jamaica and Haiti, they are made unambiguously poorer.

COMMENTS ON THE SOA CONCEPT PAPER:

- International human rights law is grounded upon the premise that all persons, by virtue of their humanity, have fundamental rights (right to education, health, family reunification, etc.). Accordingly, international human rights law generally requires the equal treatment of citizens and non-citizens. Exceptions –such as political rights and freedom of movement- may be made to this general principle only if they are to serve a legitimate state objective and are proportional to the achievement of that objective. The document makes reference to “citizens” as the primary beneficiaries of the Summits of the Americas. We strongly recommend changing that terminology to “peoples”, since it is more inclusive of migrants, among other so-called vulnerable groups.
- There is reference to trafficking in persons as “illegal trafficking in (...) people” (para. 15). The UN Convention on International Organized Crime (2000) defines “smuggling” and “trafficking in persons”. We believe the terminology should be consistent with the Convention and the Protocols.
- Migrant workers are mentioned in para. 9 and described as a “marginalized group”, in the context of high unemployment, and isolation from economic activity. There are a great number of migrant workers who are regular and work in the formal market, and contribute to the economy of the host country. We are concerned that speaking about migrant workers in a marginalization context would contribute to seeing them as irregular and a burden, rather than a positive factor. The UN Convention on the Rights of Migrant Workers and their Families (1990), is a good reference in this respect.
- IOM believes that the area of democracy, good governance and promotion of human rights is by force related to migration governance and migration management. But we would like to see that reflected in the final concept paper.