



CIVIL SOCIETY HEMISPHERIC FORUM

Miami, Florida • May 1-2, 2008

ORGANIZATION OF AMERICAN STATES

INFORMATIVE BULLETIN

1. Venue

The Civil Society Hemispheric Forum *Securing our Citizen's Future by Promoting Human Prosperity, Energy Security and Environmental Sustainability* will take place on May 1-2, 2008 at the Miami Marriott Biscayne Bay in Miami, Florida. The agenda for this event and more detailed information are available at the OAS civil society website (www.civil-society.oas.org).

The Forum will consist of plenary sessions and thematic roundtables on the themes addressed in the Concept Paper prepared by the Government of Trinidad and Tobago for the Fifth Summit entitled *Securing our Citizen's Future by Promoting Human Prosperity, Energy Security and Environmental Sustainability*:

- Human development and poverty reduction, including health, nutrition, education and violent crime;
- Economic growth and competitiveness;
- Energy security and sustainable development, including climate change and natural disasters;
- Democracy, good governance and the promotion of human rights.

The recommendations generated in the Hemispheric Forum will be presented to the Government of Trinidad and Tobago in efforts to prepare a draft Declaration of Commitment for the Fifth Summit of the Americas.

2. Coordination of Civil Society Participation

The OAS Summits of the Americas Secretariat is coordinating civil society participation during this event. For further information please contact:

David Morris, Director

or

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3. Civil Society Registration



The Summits of the Americas Secretariat, with the support of the United States Agency of International Development (USAID), the Inter-American Foundation (IAF), the United States Department of State, and the Open Society Institute, will cover participation costs of a determined number of civil society representatives to participate in the *Civil Society Hemispheric Forum*. These participants have been informed of their selection and given appropriate instructions regarding the financial support provided.

Representatives selected for financing will be required to confirm their participation in writing and in advance. Failure to adhere to this commitment or absence without a justified reason will obligate participants to recompense the costs incurred in the purchase of their airline tickets and accommodation.

All participants that intend to participate with their own funds are requested to submit the [registration form](#) to *confirm* their participation in the Civil Society Hemispheric Forum.

4. Entry and Departure Requirements

All participants are responsible for obtaining the necessary entry requirements established by the government of the United States. Participants carrying official passports from Mexico, Central, South America and the Caribbean countries require a visa to enter the United States. These participants must contact the U.S. Consulate in their respective countries or the nearest consular office. General visa information is accessible by telephone at 202-663-1225 or online at www.travel.state.gov.

The OAS is not responsible for covering costs related to securing entry and departure requirements or for assisting participants to obtain visas.

5. Air Transportation

The OAS will coordinate and purchase air transportation for a determined number of civil society organizations with the purpose of assuring ample thematic and regional representation in *Civil Society Hemispheric Forum*. Flight information will be provided to all these participants. The OAS will not cover any penalties or charges resulting from any changes in flight schedules, participants will be responsible for these costs.

All civil society representatives participating with their own funds are responsible for reserving and paying for their own travel.

6. Ground Transportation in Miami, Florida

Transportation for travel award beneficiaries to and from airports in the Miami, Florida will be coordinated and paid for by the OAS. All civil society representatives participating with their own funds are responsible for arranging and paying for their own transportation.

For additional information on ground transportation from Miami International Airport to your hotel, please refer to the airport's webpage on [taxi and shuttle services](#).

7. Accommodation



The OAS will coordinate and pay for the accommodation of travel award beneficiaries at the Miami Marriott Biscayne Bay in Miami, Florida.

All civil society representatives participating with their own funds are responsible for reserving and paying for their own accommodation. Below is the contact information for the Miami Marriott Biscayne Bay.

Miami Marriott Biscayne Bay
1633 North Bayshore Drive
Miami, Florida 33132 USA
Phone: 1-305-374-3900
Fax: 1-305-536-6411
<http://www.marriott.com/hotels/travel/miabb-miami-marriott-biscayne-bay/>
Reservations: "OAS Civil Society Hemispheric Forum"
Group rate: US\$119.00

8. Costs of Stay

The OAS will provide the participants selected to receive funding with accommodation and food at the Miami Marriott Biscayne Bay. Selected participants will receive "meal tickets" when they register at the hotel.

Meals will not be provided for participants attending with their own funding. These participants must ensure they have sufficient funds to purchase their own meals on each day of the meeting.

The OAS will not be responsible for the costs of domestic transportation of the participants in their respective countries.

9. Weather Conditions

The weather forecast for Miami, Florida during the days of activities predicts that the temperature will range from a low of 70°F to a high of 86°F (21°C to 30°C).

10. Working Languages and Documents

The proceedings of *Civil Society Hemispheric Forum* will be conducted in two of the official languages of the OAS: English and Spanish. Simultaneous interpretation will be provided in those two languages.

11. Electricity

The electrical setting used in the United States is 110 volts. If participants would like to use electrical devices of 220 volts, they must use corresponding adaptors.