

# Model OAS Youth Summit 2009

## Trinidad and Tobago

We, the Youth of Trinidad and Tobago, hereby do present our views on the following issues being explored in the 5<sup>th</sup> Summit of the Americas 2009 in Port of Spain.

According to the consensus taken by our Foreign Ministers for Presentation to our Heads of State:

*We resolve to take this task to the consultative body to: -*

- a) To work on the immediate implementation of a "youth constituency on climate change, within the regime of the OAS calling on all governments to support the call by encouraging the young people, and secondary schools to join the Natural Disasters Youth Summit already operating in more than 70 countries, creating awareness and education through the use of Information Communication Technology to share information between ourselves, build safety maps, conduct Vulnerability Assessment Programs within our schools and communities.*
- b) We further call on the Inter-American Committee for Natural Disasters Reduction to support youth involvement by hosting within the region four (4) Climate Change/Natural Disasters Youth Summits in Central, South and North America and the Caribbean bringing all stakeholders to work together with youth within the next two years.*
- c) We further support the call for change in the education system to level the field and focus on 'project-based education' to make 'Education for All' meaningful. To illuminate the existing world problem of "Youth at Risk" by understanding there is a difference in the way boys learn as to the way girls learn. Encourage the introduction of changes in 21 Century teaching methods.*

### **Other Issues:**

- Climate change and environmental issues that arise out of energy sources
- Establishment of industries
- Economic crises that make people greedy

- Improvement of police services
- Voice for youth
- Provision of proper health facilities for counselling, testing and eradication of stigma, especially in relation to HIV and AIDS

General Comment:

The USA supported the call made by the Secretary General in the beginning of our deliberations for a 'youth constituency' on climate change within the regime of the OAS.

The main themes of the Summit:

- i) Promoting Human Prosperity
- ii) Energy Security
- iii) Environmental Sustainability

The sub-themes of the Summit:

- Sustainable development
- Education, Institutions
- Health facilities
- Information and Communication Technology
- Gender Issues
- Local Government
- Labour

- Human Rights
- Unite Culture

Some issues highlighted:

2) **Human Trafficking** (supported by delegates from Venezuela and the Dominican Republic)

Solutions:

- Security mechanisms for air and sea travel should be improved. Machine-readable passports are difficult to forge.
- Citizens from European countries e.g. Denmark should require a Visa for entry
- Containers at ports should go through rigorous security checks.
- The Coast Guard and Police Marine Units should have more frequent patrols of the coastline borders.

3) **Poverty and Illiteracy** (supported by delegates from Guatemala, Haiti, Bolivia and Nicaragua)

Solutions:

- Put aside racial prejudices.

- Increase literacy rates to improve productivity from agricultural sector and increase employability. More agricultural exports mean larger income to spend on alleviating poverty.

4) **Human rights and gender issues** (supported by delegates from The Bahamas and Guyana)

Solutions:

- Create opportunities for equal employment, regardless of gender, socio-economic class or education level.
- Women should not be penalized or disadvantages for motherhood.
- Enact anti-discrimination legislation for women in workplace.
- Train police officers to protect women who are abused and bring offenders to justice.

5) **The Environment - Water** (supported by delegates from Peru, Argentina, Guyana, Suriname, Uruguay, Paraguay, Panama)

Solutions:

- Environmental laws should be enforced and heavy fines imposed.
- Implement a clean-up campaign during which

toxic waste that may be harmful to marine life is disposed.

- 6) **The Environment – Beach Erosion** (raised by delegates from Barbados, Antigua, St Lucia, St. Vincent)

Solution:

- More action should be taken for coastal erosion, e.g. groynes, beach walls, artificial beaches

- 7) **The Environment - Deforestation** (supported by delegates from Colombia, St Kitts and Nevis, Costa Rica)

Solutions:

- Reforestation charitable development
- Implementation of environmental laws
- 20% of forests should be reserved for tourism
- Legislation to insist on the use of bio-fuels, that reduce green house pollution, global warming

- 8) **Economic issues** (supported by delegates from Dominica, Antigua and Barbuda)

Solutions:

- Dominica promises to sell goods/services to

OAS members at competitive prices and to reduce tariffs.

- Increase tariffs on alcohol, jewellery
- Reduce passport restrictions

9) **Energy** (supported by delegates from Chile, Argentina, Brazil)

Solutions:

- Extension of daylight savings time
- Installation of energy-efficient lighting
- Use of alternative energy sources e.g. wind, solar and geo-thermal
- Encourage use of bio-fuels - a source of renewable energy – especially in the agriculture industry

10) **Drug trafficking** (supported by delegates of Mexico)

Solutions:

- Enactment and enforcement of stricter laws against drug trafficking
- Improve border security
- Implement education programmes on the effects of drug abuse and trafficking
- Collaboration among OAS member states to

fight crime

11) **Health Care** (supported by delegates from St Lucia)

Solutions:

- Development of quality medical schools to train doctors

12) **Preserving Native languages** (supported by delegates from Brazil)

Solutions:

- Offer scholarships for foreign students to enter the country to pursue language studies.

13) **Developing countries** (supported by Canada)

Solutions:

- Building capacity by offering training and funding for projects.

The voices from 24 Secondary schools 200 students.

Participants of the MODEL Youth Summit Trinidad and Tobago 2009.