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# Summit of the Americas & Obra:

## An Overview

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# Summit of the Americas

- Brings together Heads of State and Government of the 34 member states.
- Goal: to discuss common concerns, seek solutions and develop a shared vision on economic, social or political issues that are of particular interest to the region.
- To date, five Summits have been held: Miami in 1994, Santiago de Chile in 1998, Quebec City in 2001, Mar del Plata in 2005, and Port of Spain in 2009.



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## 2009 Summit of the Americas

Theme: Securing Our Citizens' Future by Promoting Human Prosperity, Energy Security and Environmental Sustainability

The leaders committed to advance young people by:

- expanding their economic opportunities
- *providing access to comprehensive education and training for in-demand skills*
- opening avenues for leadership
- promoting healthy lifestyles.



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# 2009 Summit of the Americas: U.S. Commitments

## Energy and Climate Change

- Energy and Climate Partnership of the Americas
- Global Climate Change

## Citizen Safety – addressing threats to public safety

- Firearms Trafficking
- Caribbean Basin Security Dialogue
- Enhanced Public Safety Cooperation

## Social Inclusion and Economic Development

- Economic Recovery
- Multi-finance Growth Fund for the Western Hemisphere
- Social Protection Network
- **Education Partnerships for At-Risk Youth**



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# The Obra Mandate

- President Obama proposed a pilot program to form partnerships with countries that have the highest levels of inequality, significant numbers of unemployed and at risk youth, and considerable potential for leveraging additional public and private sector resources.
- Focus would be on youth-at-risk, including out-of-school youth, under-employed youth, and ex-gang members.
- This is the Obra Mandate



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# USAID & Partnerships

- The United States has a long history of valuing partnerships.
- USAID has many examples of successful and effective partnerships.
- The USAID approach focuses on
  - grassroots support
  - local ownership
  - sustainability
  - accountability



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# USAID & Obra

- Obra, designed by IYF, supported by USAID and the U.S. Department of State, builds upon efforts of governments, the private sector and civil society.
- Goal is to facilitate the development of partnerships
- These partnerships will
  - elevate the profile of youth-at-risk issues
  - strengthen local efforts through sharing experiences across the region



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# Obra

Expectation:

Real, tangible advancements in the outcomes of activities designed for youth in the region.