

Background Paper on Security and Prosperity Partnership of North America

The Security and Prosperity Partnership of North America (SPP) was launched in March of 2005 as a trilateral effort to increase security and enhance prosperity among Canada, Mexico and the United States through greater cooperation and information sharing. The SPP includes ambitious security and prosperity programs to keep our borders closed to terrorism yet open to trade.

In March of 2006, the three leaders of North America met in Cancún Mexico for the annual summit. At the 2006, the leaders agreed to advance the agenda of the SPP by focusing on five high priority initiatives:

1. The North American Competitiveness Council
2. Advancing Cooperation on Avian and Pandemic Influenza
3. North American Energy Security Initiative
4. North American Emergency Management
5. Smart, Secure Borders

Recognizing a need to accelerate the progress under the SPP and the benefit of direct advice from the private sector, the three leaders of North America formed the North American Competitiveness Council (NACC).

North American Competitiveness Council (NACC)

Recognizing that private sector participation is a key element to enhancing North America's competitive position in global markets and is a driving force behind innovation and growth, in March 2006 the Leaders of Canada, Mexico and the United States encouraged the creation of the NACC. The creation of the NACC not only provides a voice for the private sector, it also engages them as partners in finding solutions. The NACC was officially launched on June 15, 2006 by Canadian Minister of Industry Maxime Bernier, Mexican Economy Minister Sergio Garcia de Alba, and U.S. Secretary of Commerce Carlos Gutierrez.

The mandate of the NACC is to propose concrete recommendations on issues concerning competitiveness in Canada, Mexico, and the United States that can be addressed through the SPP, either trilaterally or bilaterally.

Given the linkages between security and prosperity in the global marketplace, the NACC was charged with providing input on the compatibility of the security and prosperity agendas of the three governments and was asked to address issues of immediate importance and provide high-level strategic medium- and long-term advice. However, while the NACC was expected to develop recommendations focused primarily on issues to be addressed by the three governments, they were also challenged to offer ideas on how the private sector may itself be able to be part of the solution and assist in promoting North American competitiveness.

The NACC is comprised of 30 members with equal representation from each country. Each country determines its own members and the membership selection process. Accordingly, Canada, Mexico and the United States all employed different methods for selecting their members. The United States selected 15 companies as members (with only 10 participating in

trilateral meetings). The Council of the Americas and the U.S. Chamber of Commerce jointly serve as the Secretariat of the U.S. Section of the NACC.

In February 2007, the trilateral NACC submitted an initial report to security and prosperity ministers, making a total of 51 recommendations for actions in three areas, both within and building upon the SPP: border crossing facilitation; standards and regulatory cooperation; and energy integration. These recommendations were organized into three time frames: those that can be accomplished immediately, those that can be accomplished before the end of 2008; and those that will require additional time to address, with a goal of completion by 2010.

The NACC met with Prime Minister Harper, President Calderon, and President Bush during the North American Leaders Summit in Montebello, Quebec on August 21, 2007. The first *Report to Leaders* was presented, outlining the work that the NACC has done in its first year and a half, offering reflections on the progress that has been made to date, and on the mandate of the NACC moving forward.

Goals of the Security and Prosperity Partnership of North America

The stated goals of the SPP are cooperation and information sharing, improving productivity, reducing the costs of trade, enhancing the joint stewardship of the environment, facilitating agricultural trade while creating a safer and more reliable food supply, and protecting people from disease.

The SPP is based upon the belief that prosperity is dependent on security, and claims that the three nations are bound by a shared belief in freedom, economic opportunity, and strong democratic institutions. It is intended to assist, rather than replace, existing bilateral and trilateral institutions like NAFTA and claims to work toward the three North American countries working cooperatively in the face of common risks and economic competition to improve the trade competitiveness and quality of life in North America.

Trilateral Summit Meetings

To date, the following summits have occurred:

- March 23, 2005 – Baylor University, Waco, Texas
 - Heads of state Prime Minister Martin (Canada), President Fox (Mexico) and President Bush (United States) met for a summit of North American leaders. The principle outcome of this meeting was the launch of the security and Prosperity Partnership (SPP).
 - June 23, 2005 - Report to leaders addresses subjects of mutual interest and concern among the North American nations.
- January 10-11, 2006 - Louisville, Kentucky
 - Public/Private Sector Dialogue on the SPP
 - Included approximately 50 government officials and business leaders from Canada, Mexico, and the United States.
- March 31, 2006 – Cancún, Mexico
 - Heads of state Prime Minister Harper (Canada), President Fox (Mexico) and President George Bush (United States) met for annual leaders Summit. The

principle outcome of the meeting was the launch of the North American Competitiveness Council (NACC).

- February 23, 2007 – Ottawa, Ontario, Canada
 - NACC Recommendations “*Enhancing Competitiveness in Canada, Mexico and the United States*” were presented to nine senior Cabinet ministers and secretaries:
 - United States – Secretary of State Condoleeza Rice, Secretary of Commerce Carlos Gutierrez, and Secretary of Homeland Security Michael Chertoff.
 - Canada – Foreign Affairs Minister Peter MacKay, Public Safety Minister Stockwell Day, and Industry Minister Maxime Bernier.
 - Mexico – Foreign Affairs Minister Patricia Espinosa Cantellano, Economy Minister Eduardo Sojo Garza-Aldape, and Interior Minister Francisco Ramírez Acuña.
 - Recommendations focus on three priority areas: Border-crossing Facilitation, Standards and Regulatory Cooperation, and Energy Supply and Distribution.
- August 20-21, 2007 – Montebello, Quebec, Canada
 - Heads of state Prime Minister Harper (Canada), President Fox (Mexico), and President Bush (United States) met for their annual trilateral summit meeting to report on the progress of the SPP.
 - The leaders agreed to focus on three priorities: North American Global Competitiveness, Energy Security Initiative and the Environment, Border-crossing Facilitation.

Annex A: Links related to SPP and NACC

1. Security and Prosperity Partnership of North America (www.spp.gov)
 - a. [SPP Report to the Leaders – August 2006](#)
 - b. [SPP Security Annex](#)
 - c. [SPP Prosperity Annex](#)
 - d. [Press Release for February 23, 2007 Ministerial](#)
 - e. [Press Release for August 15, 2006 Meeting](#)

2. North American Competitiveness Council
 - a. [Members](#)
 - b. [Secretariats](#)
 - c. [February 23, 2007 – Enhancing Competitiveness in Canada, Mexico, and the United States: Private – Sector Priorities for the Security and Prosperity Partnership of North America \(Initial Recommendations of the North American Competitiveness Council , NACC\)](#)
 - d. [August 21, 2007 – Building a Secure and Competitive North America: 2007 Report to Leaders from the North American Competitiveness Council \(NACC\)](#)
 - e. [August 21, 2007 – NACC Press Release](#)

Annex B: Acronym Guide

<u>ANSI</u>	<u>American National Standards Institute</u>
<u>NACC</u>	<u>North American Competitiveness Council</u>
<u>NAFTA</u>	<u>North American Free Trade Agreement</u>
<u>SPP</u>	<u>Security and Prosperity Partnership of North America</u>

Annex C: About ANSI

Throughout its history, the American National Standards Institute (ANSI) has maintained as its primary goal the enhancement of global competitiveness of U.S. business and the American quality of life by facilitating voluntary consensus standards and conformity assessment systems and promoting their integrity. ANSI is the official U.S. representative to the International Organization for Standardization (ISO), the International Accreditation Forum (IAF), and via the U.S. National Committee, to the International Electrotechnical Commission (IEC).

The Institute provides a forum for hundreds of ANSI-accredited standards developers that work cooperatively to develop American National Standards (ANS). Comprised of businesses, professional societies and trade associations, standards developers, government agencies, and consumer and labor organizations, the ANSI Federation represents the diverse interests of more than 125,000 companies and 3.5 million professionals worldwide.

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