

## FORUM

### “ADVANCES AND CHALLENGES FACING CIVIL SOCIETY WITHIN THE FRAMEWORK OF THE SUMMITS OF THE AMERICAS”

Monterrey, Mexico, January 10-11, 2004

#### Introduction

The Government of Mexico and the Summit of the Americas Secretariat at the Organization of American States (OAS), together with Corporación PARTICIPA, Partners of the Americas, Alianza Cívica, Canadian Foundation for the Americas (FOCAL), Tulane University's Institute for Environmental Law and Policy (Tulane), the Inter-American Democracy Network (IADN), Asociación Latinoamérica de Organizaciones de Participación (ALOP), and Coordinadora Regional de Investigaciones Económicas y Sociales (CRIES), are hosting a forum to reflect on the role of civil society in the Summit process and to build on and further specify recommendations to be presented to foreign ministers at the Special Summit of the Americas.

"Advances and Challenges Facing Civil Society within the Framework of the Summits of the Americas" will take place on January 10 and 11, 2004, in Monterrey, Nuevo Leon, Mexico. The forum will provide a space in which civil society organizations (CSOs) can work together to develop mechanisms for civil society participation in the Summit process and specify concrete actions for the Special Summit of the Americas, which will be attended by the heads of state and government of the thirty-four democracies in the region. This Summit will be held in Monterrey, Nuevo Leon, Mexico, January 12 and 13, 2004.

The following includes background information on civil society participation in the Summit process, forum objectives and expected results, the agenda, organizers, and logistical aspects.

#### Background

The Summits of the Americas are regular meetings among the heads of state and government of the thirty-four democratic countries in the Western Hemisphere. The goal of these meetings is to develop a shared vision for the region's future and to agree to plans of action for addressing common economic, social, and political issues. The modern Summit process has thus far included three Summits of the Americas: Miami in 1994, Santiago in 1998, and Quebec in 2001. A special Summit on Sustainable Development took place in Santa Cruz in 1996. The fourth regularly scheduled Summit of the Americas will be held in Buenos Aires in 2005.

CSO participation in the Summits of the Americas has been a progressive process, with spaces for formal and informal participation opened along the way. The 1994 Miami Plan of Action mandated civil society participation, and since then, CSOs have achieved important gains but with continued difficulty. Without an official structure for civil society participation that meets the needs of both governments and CSOs and allows them to work together on key Summit themes, Summit host countries have varied in their assistance to civil society participation.

More information on the Summit process and civil society participation in the Inter-American system can be found in Annex 2 of this document as well as in *Civil Society Participation in the Inter-American System: The Case of the Organization of American States* by Laurie Cole, produced by FOCAL as part of The Summit of the Americas Follow-Up Series (available in English at [http://www.focal.ca/english/whats\\_new.htm](http://www.focal.ca/english/whats_new.htm)); *The Summit of the Americas Process*, on the Summit of the Americas Information Network website (available at <http://www.summit-americas.org/eng-2002/summit-process.htm>); and the website for the project "Civil Society Follow-Up Strategy to the Quebec Summit Plan of Action," at [www.sociedadcivil.org](http://www.sociedadcivil.org).

#### Special Summit of the Americas: Monterrey, Mexico, January 12-13, 2004

Since the 2001 Quebec Summit, nearly one-third of the heads of state and government in the Western Hemisphere have changed. In light of these new leaders and the political, economic, and social shifts experienced since 2001, the Special Summit of the Americas in Monterrey, Mexico, is being held to reach agreement on actions to address current issues facing the hemisphere. The three thematic areas include: economic growth with equity, social development, and democratic governance.

In preparation for the Special Summit, seventy-one CSOs from twenty-one countries met in Mexico City on November 24 and 25, 2003, in a forum organized by the OAS and hosted by the Government of Mexico. The CSOs worked together to devise proposals in each of the three thematic areas of the Special Summit. The proposals, in turn, were presented December 8, 2003, in Washington, DC, at the XXXIII Meeting of the SIRG and are included in Annex 1 to this document.

The civil society forum "Advances and Challenges Facing Civil Society within the Framework of the Summits of the Americas" is a continuation of work begun by this organizing group, and we hope that all interested civil society organizations will join us in contributing to the Summit process.

## Objectives

This forum will be a privileged space to become familiar with and discuss the mechanisms of participation that civil society is using in the Summits of the Americas process and then move forward with concrete proposals that widen CSOs role and deepen contributions made to the process. Also, priority will be given to specific proposals put forth during the Regional Forum “Civil Society in the Hemispheric Integration Process within the Framework of the Special Summit of the Americas,” which was held on November 24-25, 2003, in Mexico City.

In this manner, the Forum will be organized into two parts – civil society participation in the Summit process and proposals for the Special Summit of the Americas. The objectives of these sections are presented below.

### 1<sup>st</sup> Part. Civil Society Participation in the Summit Process: International and National Levels

This part will focus on understanding how civil society has participated in the Summit process and will evaluate achievements and setbacks. In light of these lessons learned, concrete proposals will be designed to widen CSOs future role, both on the international and national levels, and with a specific vision towards the 2005 Summit of the Americas in Argentina. To achieve these proposals, this part of the forum will be divided into two sessions. The first session, *Instances of Civil Society Participation in Summit Preparatory Activities*, has the following objectives:

- Recognize the results of previous evaluations concerning civil society participation in the Summit process.
- Share advances and setbacks that CSOs have faced in the Summit participation process.
- Identify, both on the international and national levels, opportunities and needs for civil society support in the implementation of Summits of the Americas mandates.

The second session, *Widening and Deepening the Role of Civil Society in Implementation*, has the following objectives:

- Identify and prioritize civil society actions that help governments, as partners, in their joint work of implementing mandates agreed upon in the Summits of the Americas.
- Discuss mechanisms for CSO organization and coordination within the framework of multilateral processes.

### 2<sup>nd</sup> Part. Proposals for the Special Summit of the Americas (SSA)

During this part, the forum will seek to advance and prioritize the discussion of the proposals to be put forth before the heads of state and government with the framework of the SSA. The basis for this discussion will be the proposals resulting from the Mexico City civil society regional forum; these bring together reflections, contributions and ideas discussed in other forums and activities before the Mexico meeting. This part of the forum has the following objectives:

- Identify if specific recommendations are missing from the topics considered priorities.
- Prioritize concrete concerns and recommendations, strategies and other issues that can be achieved before 2005 and present them to the heads of state and government.
- Produce a document that takes into account the principal interests and concerns of civil society within the framework of the Summits of the Americas.

The second part of the forum will occur during concurrent sessions, where agreement will be reached on specific recommendations in each of the SSA themes.

In regard to *economic growth with equity*, the forum will provide an in depth analysis of:

- Develop policies that ensure economic growth with equity through: Macroeconomic means, strengthening economic growth structures, and furthering strategies for the creation of quality jobs.
- Trade Regulations: Trade regulations have not given sufficient attention to the difference in size and development of countries.

In regard to *social development*, the forum will provide an in depth analysis of:

- Social participation: Institutionalize civil society participation in the design, targeting, implementation, and evaluation of social policies.
- Education: Increase and reallocate the amount of public education expenditure per student, and tackle the serious inequities that exist.
- Indigenous people: Support the preparation and adoption of the proposed American Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples; and/or recommend the creation of a bipartisan (States and indigenous peoples) permanent body at the highest level of the inter-American system.

In regard to *democratic governance*, the forum will provide an in depth analysis of:

- Access to public information, design of policies and legal norms that guarantee and regulate access rights, institutional mechanisms and means that regulate exceptions to public information access.
- Transparency: Political parties should ensure transparency in public and private financing of political activities; and/or public resources should prohibit covert financing of political activities.
- Local government and decentralization: Ensure that the opinion of the citizenry is taken into account in all community development decisions; and/or ensure the existence of rules and regulations that clearly determine the jurisdictions and responsibilities of local and sub-national governments in relation to the national government.

## **Location**

Monterrey Arena Center of Events (Madero Avenue and Fundidora Avenue, S/N. Fundidora Park).

## **Languages**

English and Spanish

## Agenda

### First Day (Saturday, January 10, 2004)

8:00-9:00 a.m.      ***Registration***

9:00-9:30 a.m.      ***Opening Session***

Welcoming Remarks:  
OAS Representative  
Mexican Government Representative

A Brief History of the Summits of the Americas Process and the Role of Civil Society:  
Andrea Sanhueza, Corporación Participa – Chile *and* Silvia Alonso, Alianza Cívica – Mexico

9:30-11:00 a.m.      ***Instances of Civil Society Participation in Summit Preparatory Activities***

Moderator:  
Catalina Delpiano, Corporación Participa – Chile

Rapporteur:  
Laurie Cole, FOCAL – Canada

Objectives:

- Recognize the results of previous evaluations concerning civil society participation in the Summit process.
- Share advances and setbacks that CSOs have faced in the Summit participation process.
- Identify, both on the international and national levels, opportunities and needs for civil society support in the implementation of Summits of the Americas mandates.

Key Questions:

- What concrete actions have civil society organizations achieved in preparation for the Summits?
- What formal and informal spaces exist and are open for civil society participation in the Summit process? What are their characteristics and requirements?
- What activities do the OAS and national governments organize with civil society in order to promote consultative processes and dialogue in preparation for the Summits?
- Is it effective for CSOs to continue consultative processes in preparation for the Summits or are there more effective mechanisms to gauge CSO opinions?

- What strategies and actions can and should be taken to ensure that civil society recommendations are actually considered in the negotiations processes leading up to the Summits?

Desired Results:

- Recognition of the advances and setbacks and strengths and weaknesses that civil society participation has faced within the Summit process through 2003.
- Identification of spaces and instances for participation that both already exist and are possible to open in order to increase civil society participation in OAS activities and with national governments.
- Determination of five key, concrete priorities to strengthen civil society participation in the Summit preparation and negotiation processes.

11:00-11:15 a.m.

***Break***

11:15-12:45 p.m.

***Widening and Deepening the Role of Civil Society in Implementation***

Moderator:

Eric Dannenmaier, Tulane University's Institute for Law and Environmental Policy – United States

Rapporteur:

Francine Jacomé, CRIES

Objectives:

- Identify and prioritize civil society actions that help governments, as partners, in their joint work of implementing mandates agreed upon in the Summits of the Americas.
- Discuss mechanisms for CSO organization and coordination within the framework of multilateral processes.

Key Questions:

- How can civil society strengthen the level of follow-up and implementation for recommendations and proposals suggested within the Summits of the Americas?
- What actions should be taken so that civil society enhances its visibility and strengthens its role as a collaborator with governments in implementing Summit mandates?
- How should civil society organize itself and what potential structures exist to better coordinate CSO work in the Summit process, and specifically, in the 2005 Summit of the Americas in Buenos Aires?

Desired Results:

- Identification of key, concrete CSO actions that strengthen the level of compromise and implementation for Summit mandates over the next two years.

- Agreement on a preliminary proposal to coordinate and summarize the efforts that networks and CSOs are carrying out in support of following-up the Summits of the Americas mandates with specific attention paid to the next Summit in Buenos Aires.

12:45-1:30 p.m.

***Lunch***

1:30-2:00 p.m.

***Summary of Morning Sessions***

Presenters: The two Rapporteurs

2:00-4:00 p.m.

***Concurrent Sessions (each participant should choose one)***

The participants will organize in three working groups to discuss specific proposals that will be presented to the heads of state and government within the framework of the Special Summit of the Americas (SSA). Specifically, the discussions will attempt to:

- Identify if specific recommendations are missing from the topics considered priorities.
- Prioritize concrete concerns and recommendations, strategies and other issues that can be achieved before 2005 and present them to the heads of state and government.
- Produce a document that takes into account the principal interests and concerns of civil society within the framework of the Summits of the Americas.

### **1. Economic Growth with Equity**

Moderator:

Shelley McConnell, The Carter Center – United States

Rapporteur:

Jason Marczak, Partners of the Americas – United States

Specific Themes:

- Develop policies that ensure economic growth with equity through: Macroeconomic means, strengthening economic growth structures, and furthering strategies for the creation of quality jobs.
- Trade Regulations: Trade regulations have not given sufficient attention to the difference in size and development of countries.

### **2. Social Development**

Moderator:

Eréndida Cruz Villegas, Centro Nacional de Comunicación Social – Mexico

Rapporteur:

Norma Castañeda, Equipo Pueblo México *and* representative of ALOP – Mexico

Specific Themes:

- Social participation: Institutionalize civil society participation in the design, targeting, implementation, and evaluation of social policies.
- Education: Increase and reallocate the amount of public education expenditure per student, and tackle the serious inequities that exist.
- Indigenous people: Support the preparation and adoption of the proposed American Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples; and/or recommend the creation of a bipartisan (States and indigenous peoples) permanent body at the highest level of the inter-American system.

### 3. Democratic Governance

Moderator:

Ramón Daubon, Esquel Foundation – United States

Rapporteur:

Victor Ricco, CEDHA – Argentina

Specific Themes:

- Access to public information, design of policies and legal norms that guarantee and regulate access rights, institutional mechanisms and means that regulate exceptions to public information access.
- Transparency: Political parties should ensure transparency in public and private financing of political activities; and/or public resources should prohibit covert financing of political activities.
- Local government and decentralization: Ensure that the opinion of the citizenry is taken into account in all community development decisions; and/or ensure the existence of rules and regulations that clearly determine the jurisdictions and responsibilities of local and sub-national governments in relation to the national government.

4:00-4:15 p.m.

***Break***

4:15-4:45 p.m.

***Summary of Afternoon Sessions***

Presenters: The three Moderators and/or Rapporteurs

4:45-5:15 p.m.

***Closing Session***

Gustavo Gamallo, Executive Secretary of the Inter-American Democracy Network (IADN)

**Second Day (Sunday, January 11, 2004)**

9:00-10:00 a.m.      ***Registration for the Meeting with Foreign Ministers***

Location: “Hotel Quinta Real” located at Diego Rivera #500 Fraccionamiento Valle Oriente Monterrey, N.L. C.P. 66260 Mexico.

10:00-12:00 p.m.      ***Meeting with Foreign Ministers***

Location: Hotel Quinta Real

## Coordinating Groups

The **Inter-American Democracy Network (IADN)**, established on September 1995, brings together roughly 250 civil society organizations from all over the Americas and orients its actions towards the consolidation of democracy in the countries of the region, and to the strengthening of its citizens. The Executive Secretariat of the RID has its headquarters in Buenos Aires, Argentina.

The **Asociación Latinoamérica de Organizaciones de Participación (ALOP)** is a non-governmental development association, composed of organizations from Latin America and the Caribbean. It was created in 1979 and constitutes one of the most durable integration efforts between NGO's of the region. Its objectives include the exchange of experiences and the development of proposals at the national, regional and national level; the promotion of integral projects; the strengthening of the disseminations capacity of ALOP and the level and quality of its associates.

The **Coordinadora Regional de Investigaciones Económicas y Sociales (CRIES)**, established in 1982, is a network of investigation centers, non-governmental organizations and foundations that promote economic investigations in the Caribbean with the purpose of strengthening civil society participation in the regional integration process and in the formulation and implementation of public policies.

Established in 1964, **Partners of the Americas** is an international organization with a people-to-people network of committed volunteers in Latin America, the Caribbean and the United States. In pairing U.S. states with the countries of Latin America and the Caribbean, Partners works to build opportunity and address common concerns of social, economic, and cultural development. Over the years, Partners has turned thousands of ideas into action, producing linkages among professionals, institutions and communities to improve quality of life throughout the Americas.

**The Canadian Foundation for the Americas (FOCAL)** is an independent policy institute which develops greater understanding of important hemispheric issues relating to inter-American relations, governance and human security, social policies, and economic integration, through debate and dialogue with all participants in the policy community in Canada and throughout the Americas. Based in Ottawa, FOCAL monitors developments in the Americas and, working with experts, analyses emerging issues. Many of these issues are discussed at workshops organized by FOCAL, often in partnership with non-government, academic and government organizations. The discussions lead to the development of policy options and research papers that FOCAL brings to the attention of governments, international organizations, the private sector, the non-governmental community and the media.

**Alianza Cívica** es una organización, independiente, plural y apartidista que busca contribuir a la transición democrática mexicana, impulsando la participación ciudadana en los asuntos públicos. Dentro de sus objetivos se encuentra: contribuir al fortalecimiento del poder ciudadano mediante el desarrollo de espacios, mecanismos e instrumentos para la participación de la sociedad civil en las decisiones públicas y en la vigilancia del ejercicio de gobierno, así como fortalecer la organización y la red de relaciones con organismos cívicos que busquen el fortalecimiento de la democracia. Desde su fundación, en abril de 1994, Alianza Cívica ha centrado sus esfuerzos en la generación de espacios para fortalecer la participación ciudadana en la vida nacional siendo ahora un interlocutor de la sociedad civil con presencia nacional, capacidad de incidencia y credibilidad.

The Mission of **Tulane University's Institute for Environmental Law and Policy** is: to support interdisciplinary research and critical analysis of law, policies and institutions for sustainable development, and to encourage dialogue among citizens, experts and government officials about development alternatives; and to promote the design and implementation of more effective legal and institutional frameworks for sustainable development through its research, analytical and educational missions.

**Corporación Participa** is a private association with public funds, pluralist and non-partisan that has worked in Chile since 1988. Its mandate is to promote effective citizen participation and the creation of links between different actors in society. The purpose of Participa is to contribute to an atmosphere where values and democratic rights are respected by an informed and organized citizenry. For seven years, Participa has been coordinating and leading initiatives to facilitate and amplify civil society participation in multilateral processes, especially the Summits of the Americas. Currently, it is coordinating the project "Civil Society Follow-Up Strategy to the Quebec Summit Plan of Action," which is being implemented in twenty countries in the region.

**Alianza Cívica** is an independent, pluralist, and nonpartisan organization that seeks to contribute to Mexico's transition to democracy by fostering citizen participation in public matters. As part of this goal, Alianza Cívica works to strengthen the power of citizens by developing spaces, mechanisms, and instruments for the participation of civil society in public decisions and in the monitoring of government implementation of public policy. Since its founding in April 1994, Alianza Cívica has become an organization with national reach, capacity, and credibility.

## ANNEX 1

### PROPOSALS FROM CIVIL SOCIETY ORGANIZATIONS TO THE SPECIAL SUMMIT OF THE AMERICAS MONTERREY, MEXICO, 2003

#### FINAL REPORT

#### PRESENTATION

The following document presents the recommendations developed by the civil society organizations (CSOs) that participated in the Regional Forum “Civil Society in the Hemispheric Integration Process within the Framework of the Special Summit of the Americas,” which was held on November 24-25, 2003 in Mexico City, Mexico.

The forum was organized by the Summits of the Americas Secretariat along with the Government of Mexico, Corporación Participa, Coordinadora Regional de Investigaciones Económicas y Sociales (CRIES), the Inter-American Democracy Network (IADN), Partners of the Americas (POA) and the U.S. Agency for International Development (USAID), Alianza Cívica, the Canadian Foundation for the Americas (FOCAL), and Asociación Latinoamericana de Organizaciones de Promoción (ALOP).

The objective of the forum was to offer a space for dialogue among civil society organizations, opinion leaders and academics in the region to discuss and formulate recommendations regarding the three themes of the Special Summit of the Americas (SSA) to be held on January 12-13, 2004 in Monterrey, Mexico.

The three central themes of the SSA and those discussed at the Forum are:

1. Economic Growth with Equity
2. Social Development
3. Democratic Governance

The forum was attended by 85 participants representing 71 civil society organizations from 21 countries of the Americas. The forum also was attended by six governmental representatives from Mexico, the United States, and Canada, seven representatives from international organizations such as the OAS, the Interamerican Development Bank, and the World Bank, and one representative of the indigenous peoples.

The following are the recommendations formulated and prioritized by the participants of the Forum and are intended for the governments of the region.

The recommendations reflect priorities identified by civil society with the *purpose of supporting the governments in their efforts to facilitate concrete action towards economic growth with equity, social development, and democratic governance among our countries.*

*The CSOs that participated in the forum regard the inclusion of these recommendations in the agenda of the Special Summit in Mexico as fundamental for its development. Furthermore, we request the incorporation of a space in the Special Summit of the Americas for a formal dialogue between governments and CSOs.*

## **1. ECONOMIC GROWTH WITH EQUITY**

### **1.1 Macroeconomic policies**

- 1.1.1 Macroeconomic policies have given priority to stability over growth and should combine both objectives.
- 1.1.2 More attention should be given in the opening up of trade to the fiscal dependence of countries that are heavily dependent on foreign trade.
- 1.1.3 The problem of the foreign debt of highly indebted countries requires a political solution (lightening the load).
- 1.1.4 Ensure quality economic growth; in other words, devote attention to the problem of the structure of growth and to employment creation strategies. This process should be associated with the development of social security networks designed to help reduce vulnerability. The notion of labor should be reexamined and extended to other human activities in other categories.
- 1.1.5 Support small business development by making it easier to access credit, creating an appropriate legal framework, and implementing services to enhance competitiveness.
- 1.1.6 Adopt decisive and concrete measures on the treatment of less developed economies in trade liberalization processes.
- 1.1.7 Include the issue of agrarian transformation on the hemispheric agenda.

### **1.2 Quality of growth**

- 1.2.1 The aim is not is not merely to achieve growth, but quality growth: attention must be given to the problem of the structure of economic growth and to the strategy for creating quality jobs. This structure determines the quality of the jobs created.
- 1.2.2 Job quality should be associated with the development of social security networks designed to help reduce vulnerability. In turn, the notion of labor should be reexamined and extended to other human activities in other categories.
- 1.2.3 Small business has been dynamic in the creation of jobs but has proved vulnerable to change. This sector needs comprehensive support: access to credit, legal frameworks, and services to boost competitiveness.

### **1.3 Trade regulations**

- 1.3.1 Trade regulations have not given sufficient attention to the difference in size and development of countries. Decisive and concrete measures should be adopted on the treatment of less developed economies.

### **1.4 Investment in education**

- 1.4.1 In a context of fiscal austerity, the state plays a key role in investment in education as a stimulus for economic development and citizen participation.
- 1.4.2 Education should focus not only on children, but adults also, in an effort to provide formal education and not simply vocational training. Any enterprise requires basic educational skills.

## **1.5 Agrarian transformation**

- 1.5.1 The rural population and agrarian development are among the main issues conspicuously absent from the hemispheric agenda. At the same time the rural population appears to have lost most from trade liberalization, which has augmented migratory pressure.
- 1.5.2 States need to move forward in agrarian transformation, an agenda in which property rights and the promotion of comprehensive agrarian reform are pivotal aspects. This sector would be part of the integration process and its rights and autonomy would be respected.

## **1.6 Institutional strengthening**

- 1.6.1 Strengthen the tax-collection capacity of the State through its fiscal apparatus.
- 1.6.2 Promote social participation.

## **2. SOCIAL DEVELOPMENT**

Recognizing that the states of the hemisphere are committed to the accomplishment of the Millennium Development Goals, we put forward a series of recommendations for achieving them and ensuring a process of integral development for our peoples, with particular attention to:

### **2.1 Human Rights**

- 2.1.1 Design and implement economic and social policies and programs based on internationally recognized human rights to ensure their effectiveness, sustainability, inclusive and equitable nature.
- 2.1.2 Conduct detailed follow-up on the commitments adopted at the World Conference against Racism, Racial Discrimination, Xenophobia and Related Intolerance.

### **2.2 Social participation**

Institutionalize civil society participation in the design, targeting, implementation, and evaluation of social policies. To guarantee the effective participation of society in decision making, a dialogue will be set up at the national, regional and local level. The necessary conditions and resources will be made available to ensure this and the involvement of excluded sectors in particular will be encouraged.

- 2.2.1 Institutionalize civil society participation in the design, targeting, implementation, and evaluation of social policies.

### **2.3 Education**

- 2.3.1 Continue to encourage decentralization and demand broad levels of participation in the management of education systems.
- 2.3.2 Increase and reallocate the amount of public education expenditure per student, and tackle the serious inequities that exist.
- 2.3.3 Improve incentives for quality teaching and link new salary increases to the implementation of policies that take performance into account.
- 2.3.4 Ensure that the development of standards is linked to other elements of the education system and that they are effectively useful.
- 2.3.5 Strengthen application of educational exams at the national level that guarantee equitable access to quality education.
- 2.3.6 Invest in formal education for adults, not simply for children and young people.

## **2.4 Health and social security**

Guarantee universal access to health and social security, which are essential for ensuring a decent standard of living for all, and promote family health care and preventive medicine through the following measures:

- 2.4.1 Education on reproductive health and access to different methods of contraception and prevention of HIV/AIDS and other STDs for both sexes.
- 2.4.2 Prenatal care and follow-up for pregnant women and nursing mothers.
- 2.4.3 Child growth and development monitoring, as well as access to multivitamins and drugs.
- 2.4.4 Mental health care and addiction prevention.
- 2.4.5 Care for priority groups, such as the elderly, people with disabilities, and victims of domestic violence.
- 2.4.6 HIV/AIDS: Based on the agreements of the Quebec Summit, which recognized that HIV/AIDS is a major threat to the security of our people, we recommend the increase of resources for prevention, education and access to care and treatment as well as research. We recommend encouraging, through the accomplishment of the following objectives, the participation of society and, in particular, of at-risk populations in plans of action to be implemented:
  - a. Effective information campaigns;
  - b. Implement effective and measurable national plans to increase access to antiretroviral drugs for people with HIV/AIDS, the results of which shall be presented at the next Summit of the Americas in Argentina, in 2005.

## **2.5 Water and sanitation**

- 2.5.1 Ensure access to potable water and sanitation as universal rights, giving particular attention to the most unprotected social sectors.

## **2.6 Indigenous people**

- 2.6.1 The States of the hemisphere should support the preparation and adoption of the proposed American Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples with the participation of the interested parties.

- 2.6.2 Recommend the creation of a bipartisan (States and indigenous peoples) permanent body at the highest level of the inter-American system, discussed with the interested parties, to follow-up on agreements adopted in this area.
- 2.6.3 Recommend to the IDB to establish a development policy for the indigenous peoples of the Americas designed in conjunction with the latter.
- 2.6.4 Support the preparation and adoption of the proposed American Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples with the participation of the interested parties.
- 2.6.5 Recommend the creation of a bipartisan (States and indigenous peoples) permanent body at the highest level of the inter-American system, discussed with the interested parties, to follow-up on agreements adopted in this area.

## **2.7 Migrants**

- 2.7.1. Promote observance of human rights for migrants and their families.
- 2.7.2. Strengthen application of the principle of non-discrimination and protection of the integrity of migrants, in particular when they are affected by administrative measures adopted by immigration authorities.
- 2.7.3 Urge ratification of the UN Convention on Migrant Workers and their Families.
- 2.7.4 Design and implement human-rights-based public policies on immigration.

## **3. DEMOCRATIC GOVERNANCE**

### **3.1 Structural Policy Reforms**

- 3.1.1 Political parties: Ensure transparency in public and private financing of political activities, both in electoral campaigns and in regular activities.
- 3.1.2 Establish controls and penalties through independent electoral tribunals.
- 3.1.3 Public resources: Prohibit covert financing of political activities through irregular diversion of public funds and resources allocated through public competitions to non-political public officials; and penalize political patronage, such as, for example, discretionary use of the welfare budget.

### **3.2 Local Government and Decentralization**

- 3.2.1 Ensure that the opinion of the citizenry is taken into account in all community development decisions; strengthen mechanisms, such as, *inter alia*, consultations and plebiscites, designed to guarantee the transparency and accountability of local and sub-national governments, as well as citizen participation; and make certain that these mechanisms function effectively.
- 3.2.2 Provide technical and institutional training designed to support local government modernization, particularly in the generation and collection of self-generated resources by municipalities.
- 3.2.3 Ensure the existence of rules and regulations that clearly determine the jurisdictions and responsibilities of local and sub-national governments in relation to the national government, and make certain there is coherence between the competencies and the resources transferred from national to local government.

- 3.2.4 Educate the public in the exercise of all their rights and duties, in order to increase the effectiveness of their participation at the local level.
- 3.2.5 Ensure that bodies set up to channel cooperation from sub-national and local government to the citizenry has the necessary resources to perform their legally prescribed functions.

### **3.3 Access to Public Information and Freedom of Expression.**

#### **3.3.1 Access to Public Information**

Design public policies on access to public information that: i) guarantee and regulate access; ii) institute state-run information generation systems; and, iii) provide the necessary resources for their effective implementation. In particular, it is recommended to:

- 3.3.1.1 Encourage the enactment of laws that ensure free access to public information in countries where it does not exist. In those countries where such laws already exist, improve their application so as to ensure effective and timely access for the public. It is essential for such laws to meet certain basic standards to safeguard the right of access to public information:<sup>1</sup>
- 3.3.1.2 Establish clearly in such laws the exceptions regarding access to public information. Those exceptions should only be basic and fundamental, of restrictive interpretation, and justified.
- 3.3.1.3 Establish effective penalties for officials who break the rules, and create independent oversight agencies to enforce the rules, with the power to impose those penalties.
- 3.3.1.4 Educate and raise the awareness of the public, political parties, and public officials about the exercise of this right, in order to reduce the gap between governor and governed.
- 3.3.1.5 Encourage widespread use of official web sites at the regional, national and local level, in order to increase transparency in government procurement processes. At the same time, encourage the use of other media to reach social sectors without access to information technology.
- 3.3.1.6 Improve information mechanisms in order to ensure it is exhaustive, relevant, up to date, free and comprehensible, bearing in mind the cultural diversity of countries, as appropriate. Determine the need for a binding regional instrument that introduces minimum legal standards on access to public information.

#### **3.3.2 Freedom of Expression**

- 3.3.2.1 Ensure that domestic laws on freedom of expression are consistent with international standards. In particular, all forms of censorship should be eliminated, and the mandates of the Inter-American Commission on Human Rights should be complied with.
- 3.3.2.2 Develop education, awareness raising, and training programs on the exercise of this right for citizens and public officials.
- 3.3.2.3 Ensure protection for journalists, respect their freedom to exercise their profession, and permit free access to public information sources, while guaranteeing at all times respect for people's right to privacy.

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<sup>1</sup> Those basic standards are:

- Public information is any information in the possession of the public administration;
- Any person may request public information;
- It is not necessary to explain reasons for requesting public information;
- The law should clearly set forth exceptions;
- The law should establish time limits.

- 3.3.2.4 Implement a reform of the legal framework in order to curb monopolies and ensure that the ownership of the media cannot be concentrated in the hands of a few proprietors.
- 3.3.2.5 Ensure that the domestic laws of each country guarantee freedom of association and of cultural and artistic expression, as well as the possibility for minority groups to express themselves freely.

### **3.4 Participation of Minority Groups in Electoral Processes**

- 3.4.1 Improve and increase the level of electoral participation and representation of minority groups in the region (indigenous, afro-latins, people with disabilities, and HIV/AIDS sufferers).
- 3.4.2 Carry out research on current rules and practices regarding the performance and level of participation of minority groups in electoral processes.
- 3.4.3 Implement technical advisory projects with organizations that represent minority groups, in order to encourage them to exercise their right to vote in election processes.

### **3.5 Civil Society Participation in Hemispheric Processes**

Recognizing the progress made in recent years in the area of CSO participation in regional processes and mechanisms, such as the Summits Process, the OAS, the IDB, and the FTAA, it is proposed to:

- 3.5.1 Create a permanent Advisory Committee composed of CSOs accredited to the OAS.
- 3.5.2 Formalize and institutionalize dialogue between governments and CSOs in the Summits Processes, in particular:

#### **At the regional level:**

- 3.5.3 Strengthen and enhance at each meeting of the SIRG the dialogue between National Coordinators and CSOs in order to present proposals or evaluate implementation of mandates.
- 3.5.4 Create a permanent Advisory Committee composed of CSOs accredited to the OAS, in order to engage in informal dialogue with governments during the Summits preparation and implementation process.
- 3.5.5 Institutionalize in the official Summits agenda a forum for dialogue between Minister of Foreign Affairs and CSOs.

The OAS Summits of the Americas Secretariat will be responsible for organizing this participation.

#### **At the national level:**

- 3.5.6 Each Ministry of Foreign Affairs should hold periodic meeting with CSOs in order to provide information on compliance with the Summits Process and to collect ideas.
- 3.5.7 Consider the possibility of including CSO representatives in official delegations at meetings of the SIRG and Summits.
- 3.5.8 Prepare an annual report for general distribution on progress and challenges in implementation of the commitments adopted at Summits.

As mentioned in the plans of action of past Summits, we recognize the need to provide resources to strengthen the Summits Process with the participation of CSOs.

### **3.6 Conflict prevention and peace building**

The profound changes that have occurred over the past decade show that traditional power policies and diplomacy alone are not able to achieve sustained peace. The nature of conflicts has changed. Currently in the hemisphere there are fewer interstate wars and more civil wars. There is increasingly significant participation of non-governmental players in both the provocation and the prevention of conflicts.

In this framework we consider it necessary that:

- 3.6.1 States should recognize the need to strengthen the role of civil society where conflict prevention (understood as *identification and prevention of the outbreak, escalation, re-escalation or spread of armed conflict*) and peace building are concerned.
- 3.6.2 There has been an increase and improvement in interaction between civil society, the Organization of American States, and governments, with a view to reaching a more integrated and coherent position on conflict prevention.

### **3.7 Human Rights**

The Quebec City Plan of Action provides that, “Recognizing that the universal protection and promotion of human rights, including civil, cultural, economic, political and social rights, as well as respect for the norms and principles of international humanitarian law based on the principles of universality, indivisibility and interdependence are fundamental to the functioning of democratic society, stressing the importance of respect for the rule of law, effective and equal access to justice and participation by all elements of society in public decision-making processes”

In pursuance of the commitments adopted at the Summits of the Americas in the area of human rights and in order to strengthen democratic governance in the countries of the region, we urge the states to:

- 3.7.1 Comply in full with all the commitments adopted in the Quebec City Plan of Action in the area of human rights.
- 3.7.2 Give effect to the undertaking to substantially and progressively increase the budgets of the IACHR and the Inter-American Court, in accordance with the resolutions adopted by the General Assembly in this area; as well as to adopt all the measures necessary to strengthen the inter-American system for protection of human rights, *inter alia*, through effective compliance with the recommendations of the IACHR and the decisions of the Inter-American Court.
- 3.7.3 Sign and ratify the inter-American and universal treaties on protection of human rights.

Furthermore, in order to ensure protection for the sectors that suffer the most discrimination, in accordance Quebec City Plan of Action, we urge the states to:

- 3.7.4 Adopt as soon as possible the American Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples.

- 3.7.5 In the framework of the commemoration of the 10th anniversary of the Convention of Belem Do Para and in keeping with the Quebec commitments, “[i]ntegrate fully the human rights of women into the work of hemispheric institutions, including the Inter-American Court on Human Rights and the IACHR, and increase the nomination of women as candidates for positions in these bodies.”
- 3.7.6 Conduct detailed follow-up on the undertakings adopted at the World Conference against Racism, Racial Discrimination, Xenophobia and Related Intolerance.

In order to monitor compliance with these commitments, we urge the states of the Americas to submit at the 2005 General Assembly a report recording specific activities carried out in compliance with the commitments adopted at Quebec City and at the Special Summit in Mexico City.

### **3.8 Disarmament**

- 3.8.1 We propose a UN-led “World Plebiscite” to be held simultaneously in every country throughout the world, in order to consult each person about an issue of fundamental importance to their lives: to do away with war forever, and abolish the manufacture, stockpiling and sale of arms.

In order to give this event legal force, we propose that the constitution of each country be amended to include this agreement.

- 3.8.2 As it is necessary to rebuild our current way of life, we propose the creation of an “International Solidarity Fund” with the money that each nation saves as a result of disarmament:
- a. 10% to assist the most dispossessed peoples and create a culture of peace throughout the world;
  - b. 10% to maintain a Multilateral Peacekeeping Force to prevent any pockets of violence and 10% to indemnify the agencies that are part of the current arms system, so that factories can be retrofitted and defense institutions can be converted into think tanks for growth at the service of humankind.

This indemnification will be for 10 years and will be tax-free.

## ANNEX 2

### CIVIL SOCIETY PARTICIPATION IN THE SUMMIT PROCESS

#### **First Summit of the Americas – Miami, Florida, United States**

At the Summit of Miami, in December 1994, the Heads of State and Government recognized for the first time that civil society participation was essential for strengthening democracies. The leaders highlighted the importance of fostering participation of individuals, political parties, academics, the private sector, civil society organizations (CSO) in public matters, and furthermore, recognized that public participation is crucial for the success of any responsible and transparent democracy.

The governments brought forth the revision of the normative framework for nongovernmental actors which would emphasize the management and supervision of resources, as well as the transparency and responsibility of these actors before society. On the other hand, measures were taken to improve participation from traditionally marginalized groups in social activities and initiatives.

#### **Summit of the Americas on Sustainable Development – Santa Cruz de la Sierra, Bolivia**

In December 1996, the Summit of the Americas on Sustainable Development, held in Santa Cruz, Bolivia, marked an important step in the follow-up of the Miami Summit initiative to implement civil society participation. The Heads of State and Government supported “greater participation of civil society in the decision-making process, including policies and programs, and their design, implementation, and evaluation.” The leaders decided to promote better opportunities to express ideas and exchange information regarding sustainable development between groups, organizations, businesses, and individuals. In this context, the leaders decided to take into account recommendations from the International Seminar on Public Participation held in Montevideo in 1996, and instructed the OAS to give priority to the formation of the Inter-American Strategy for the Promotion of Public Participation in the Decision-Making Process. The Strategy would promote the exchange of experiences and information between governments and civil society groups with respect to the formulation, implementation, and improvement of programs and politics of sustainable development, and of the high-level meetings organized by the OAS. The recommendations also included the establishment of regional consultation processes and the integration and strengthening of the National Councils of Sustainable Development.

It is important to emphasize that in the negotiation process for the Summit of Santa Cruz, a consultation session with governments and representatives of civil society from all over the Hemisphere was created. This session was carried out in the scope of the OAS and marked an important occasion in the evolution of civil society participation in the Summit Process—since, for the first time, the opinions of representatives from non-governmental organizations were listened and taken into account. Their voice contributed to the creation of documents that were later signed by the Heads of State and Government of the Hemisphere. Also, it is worthy to note that in the negotiation process of the Declaration and Plan of Action of Santa Cruz, some countries included representatives from civil society in their delegations.

## **Second Summit of the Americas – Santiago, Chile**

During the Second Summit of the Americas, held in Santiago, Chile in 1998, the Heads of State and Government recognized that education is "the determining factor for political, social, cultural and economic development of our people", and emphasized the need to promote civil society participation in educative development. In addition, the Second Summit reiterated the importance of strengthening more active civil society participation. The Plan of Action of Santiago summoned Member States and civil society organizations to promote the development of principles and recommendations for institutional frameworks that stimulate the formation of responsible and transparent democratic organizations, and foster dialogues and alliances with governments, in which the Organization of the American States (OAS) can serve as forum for the exchange of experiences and information.

Parallel to the Second Summit of the Americas, held in Santiago, Chile, civil society organized two hemispheric meetings that included the participation of CSO representatives, governmental and multilateral agencies from 34 countries. These two meetings created proposals on the issues of education, strengthening civil society, the role of women in eradicating poverty and discrimination, and the fight against corruption. These meetings were not necessarily tied to the official process. Nevertheless, several proposals were incorporated to the plan of action of Santiago.

## **Third Summit of the Americas – Quebec City, Canada**

In the Third Summit of the Americas, held in Quebec City in April 2001, the Heads of State and Government gave value to the contributions of civil society to the Plan of Action of Quebec and made a call for all citizens of the Americas to contribute to the Summit process. Also, they recognized the important role that civil society plays in the consolidation of democracy and its participation in government programs as one of the most important resources for the success of development policies. The Heads of State and Government instructed the OAS, other multilateral organizations, and development banks to create strategies to increase civil society participation in the inter-American system. At the same time, these measures have increased the institutional capacity of Member State governments to receive, appreciate and act on the contributions and support of civil society organizations.

## **Civil Society Participation in the Third Summit of the Americas**

Corporación Participa (Chile) coordinated, in alliance with the Esquel Foundation (United States), the Canadian Foundation for the Americas FOCAL (Canada), and the project "Citizen Participation: From the Summit of Santiago to the Summit of Canada," which had the objective to promote an active and constructive participation of civil society organizations of all the Hemisphere in the preparation and celebration of the Third Summit of the Americas.

This project consisted in executing a consultation processes of 900 civil society organizations in 17 countries of the Americas, which formulated 243 proposals to the Quebec Summit, 114 in the theme of "the strengthening of democracy;" 80 proposals in the theme "creating prosperity;" and 49 proposals in the theme of "development of the human potential". These proposals were presented to the Summit Implementation Review Group (SIRG) for their consideration in the elaboration of the Quebec Plan of Action. The Summits of the Americas Secretariat of the OAS had an important role

in facilitating the dialogue and presentation of the final report to the governments. This process allowed the incorporation of more than half of the 243 proposals to the final Plan of Action.

After the Summit, Corporación Participa, along with La Coordinación Regional e Investigaciones Económicas y Sociales (CRIES), the Department of Political Science of the University of the Andes of Colombia (UNIANDES), *FOCAL* of Canada, The ESQUEL Foundation of the United States, the Inter-American Democracy Network (IADN) and FLACSO-Chile, implemented an evaluation of the consultation process. From the lessons and the results obtained arose the necessity to generate a strategy to give continuity to the process of civil society participation in the Summit processes.

In a combined-work effort from these organizations, the "Strategy of Follow-Up of the Civil Society to the Implementation of the Quebec City Plan of Action" was produced. This strategy consists in the design and implementation of mechanisms that allow for follow-up to confirm advances, and support the implementation of the Plan of Action in themes related to the strengthening of democracy, specifically: 1) access to information; 2) freedom of expression; 3) local government and decentralization; 4) strengthening civil society; and 5) reform of judicial power and access to justice.

In the dialogue with civil society occurring within the framework of the XXXIII General Assembly of the OAS, in June 2003 the Government of Canada announced its support to the project through the *Canadian Agency for International Development (CAID)*. Also, the *Inter-American Development Bank (IDB)*, the *Organization of American States (OAS)*, the *United States Agency of International Development (USAID)*, the Inter-American Democracy Network (IADN) and Partners of the Americas (POA) support this initiative

At the moment, civil society organizations from 20 countries are implementing this follow-up strategy, whose results will be known by the end of 2003 and 2004. These results will be greatly disseminated to incorporate recommendations into the final document of the Special Summit of the Americas to be held in Mexico in 2004 and to the Summit of the Americas in Buenos Aires in 2005.