

Foreword



The success of the Third Summit of the Americas in Quebec City (April 20-22, 2001) is a source of pride for Canada and all participants in the Summit process.

The Heads of State and Government of the democratic countries of the hemisphere came together to endorse a bold vision for action to build a better future for the citizens of the Americas, a vision based on common values and shared objectives. Through the *Declaration of Quebec City* and its *Plan of Action*, Leaders responded to the

challenge of developing a practical agenda for strengthening democracy, creating greater prosperity and providing all citizens of the hemisphere with an opportunity to realize their full potential. They also adopted a *Declaration on Connectivity*, a framework for the use of information and communications technologies to enhance contacts among people, promote participation in democratic institutions, create new economic opportunities, and deliver government services more effectively. To facilitate the achievement of these goals, partner institutions, including the Organization of American States (OAS), the Inter-American Development Bank (IDB), the World Bank, the Pan American Health Organization (PAHO) and the Economic Commission for Latin America and the Caribbean (ECLAC), committed themselves to the Summit process and the mandates endorsed in Quebec City with a new vigour. This vigour and interest was also evident among parliamentarians, local government and civil society organizations as they were more engaged in the Summit process than ever before. Institutional support and active participation by these actors will continue to play a significant role in Summit follow-up and implementation.

The *Proceedings of the Quebec City Summit* captures this spirit of common commitment and purpose — the spirit of Quebec City. The *Proceedings* includes the official documents of the Summit, as well as several speeches delivered by Leaders at the opening ceremony, during the first plenary session on the theme of democracy and at the closing ceremony. The *Proceedings* also includes a section on the Third Summit of the Americas Roundtable with Civil Society.

The *Proceedings of the Quebec City Summit* not only demonstrates the already impressive depth and breadth of hemispheric cooperation, but also reflects the real and exciting potential for even greater achievements in the years ahead.

A handwritten signature in black ink, which reads "Jean Chrétien". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style with a long horizontal line extending from the end of the name.