

Summit of the Americas: From Miami to Santiago

- The December 1994 Miami Summit of the Americas was the first full meeting of Western Hemisphere leaders since 1967, and the first to involve all democratically elected leaders.
- Leaders of the hemisphere's 34 democracies released a declaration of principles and a plan of action highlighting four major themes:
 - Preserving and strengthening democracy
 - Promoting economic integration and free trade
 - Eradicating poverty and discrimination
 - Guaranteeing sustainable development
- The next Summit of the Americas will be held in Santiago, Chile, in April 1998. The agenda, approved by the hemisphere's foreign ministers in June 1997, includes the following themes:
 - Education
 - Preserving and strengthening democracy and human rights
 - Economic integration and free trade
 - Eradicating poverty and discrimination
- At the summit, launching negotiations for the Free Trade Area of the Americas is a priority for Canada.
- Sustainable development, a 1994 summit item, is being addressed separately under the action plan that resulted from the 1996 Bolivia Summit on Sustainable Development. Canada supports efforts to build on the achievements of the Bolivia summit through both the UN Commission on Sustainable Development and the newly created Organization of American States Committee on Sustainable Development.
- Summit participants have agreed that the 1998 summit should focus on issues where nations can make realistic progress within two to three years. They want organizations in the inter-American system, such as the Organization for American States, the Inter-American Development Bank, the Economic Commission for Latin America and the Caribbean, and the Pan American Health Organization, to expand their role in implementing the summit's action plan.
- Canada participates in summit-related events and attaches importance to the themes of human rights and democracy, which it co-ordinates with Brazil.