

The Summit: Democratic Process

QUESTION

Is the Summit process democratic? Does it really represent the people of the region? What consultations were done?

SUGGESTED REPLY

- Civil Society is a Summit Agenda item: initiatives to encourage dialogue and partnerships between civil society and the public sector will be discussed.
- Canada had nationwide consultations on the Summit agenda in five cities, involving more than 100 organizations, including a round table discussion on education in Ottawa.
- Canada's ministers of foreign affairs and international trade met with civil society representatives to discuss the Summit agenda.
- Three non-governmental organizations (International Centre for Human Rights and Democratic Development; International Institute for Sustainable Development; Canadian Centre for International Cooperation) were members of the Canadian delegation at one of the preparatory meetings on the Summit.
- Canada is giving partial funding (\$30,000) for preparations in Canada involving participants at the People's Summit.
- Two meetings of NGO's were held in Chile last year, hosted by PARTICIPA, a Chilean NGO focussed on promoting civic education and participation. The Chilean government supported both meetings. The meetings dealt with Summit related themes: education, democracy, eradication of poverty and citizen participation.
- Canada provided financial support for participation by Canadian NGOs at the meetings. Recommendations from these meetings were presented to the Summit Implementation Review Group.