

## Democratic governance

Objective: to strengthen democratic institutions, practices and principles that deliver freedom, human rights and the rule of law

The Americas have made important progress toward the consolidation of democracy. The Inter-American Democratic Charter symbolizes a regional commitment toward democracy. Emanating from the 2001 Quebec City Summit of the Americas and signed that same year in Peru, the charter mandates governments to promote and defend democracy.

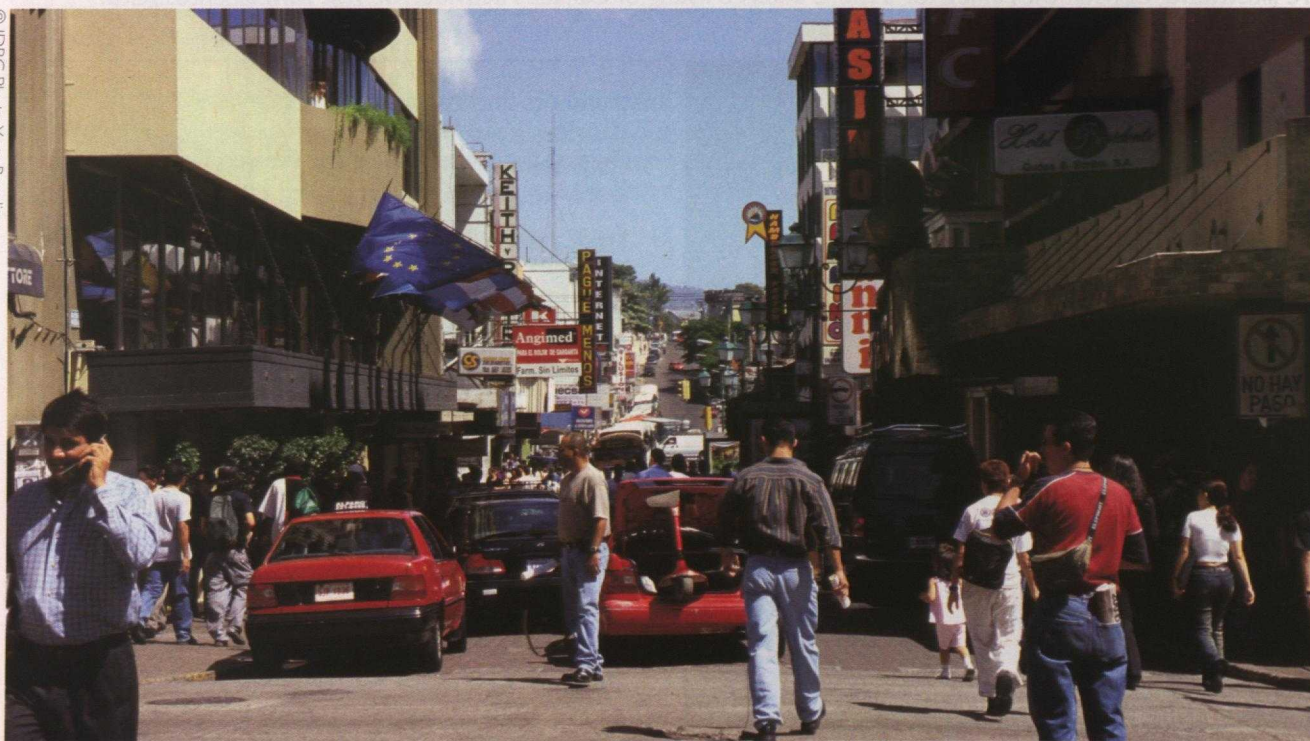
Canada is delivering on this objective by focusing on multiple elements of democratic governance such as ensuring free and fair election results, supporting independent civil society and media outlets, as well as working with multilateral organizations in the region.

In Bolivia, for example, Canada is supporting the electoral system to ensure that there will be free and fair results, strengthening judicial institutions and promoting free and open media outlets. CIDA supported Bolivia's National Election Commission in organizing free and fair elections in 2005, which resulted in the highest voter turnout in 25 years. To continue improving accountability and transparency, CIDA also helped to develop an independent national ombudsperson's office in Bolivia by training and supporting 4,000 public servants by mid 2007. Given growing social tensions in Bolivia, Canada assisted in the development of an anti-discrimination campaign that was broadcast by more than 125 radio and television stations.

### Rights & Democracy work in the Americas

Rights & Democracy is an independent institution with a mandate from Canada's Parliament to promote human rights and democratic development abroad. Through its programs in Haiti, Colombia and Bolivia, Rights & Democracy aims to strengthen democratic institutions and practices; to foster greater state-society dialogue around human rights; to promote the political participation of women and indigenous peoples in municipal government and within political parties; to reinforce state capacity to fulfill international human rights obligations; and to promote justice and reparations for victims of human rights violations.

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A busy downtown commercial area, San Jose, Costa Rica