

interdependent world means that multi-sectoral consultations are necessary. Responding to the need for greater coordination both domestically and regionally, the various meetings of ministers and high-level officials held in recent months — in sectors such as trade, local government, education and labour — established flexible mechanisms and procedures for increasing civil society participation. These mechanisms, in keeping with the mandates of the Summit of the Americas process, have led to practical recommendations and a constructive policy dialogue with Government representatives on key hemispheric issues. Accordingly, the Government will:

- ♦ continue to promote creative solutions to complex issues and to promote transparency and engagement with equal vigour, in all sectors and at all levels of hemispheric cooperation;
- ♦ continue to play an active role in ensuring that the upcoming hemispheric meetings of ministers and high-level officials seek to facilitate engagement and promote transparency; and
- ♦ continue to promote the maintenance of a coherent approach in responding to the concerns of citizens about political, social and economic issues in the region.

SHARING OUR EXPERIENCE WITH THE HEMISPHERE

As Chair of the Summit of the Americas process, Canada has the opportunity to continue both to promote the engagement of non-governmental actors and to increase openness and transparency in the Summit process. The Government recognizes the need to build active partnerships with other countries of the hemisphere to share best practices and explore ways to advance the role of civil society groups in the hemispheric cooperation process. Accordingly, the Government will:

- ♦ build on its positive experiences with countries such as Chile and Costa Rica in order to reinforce partnerships and the mutual exchange of best practices with other countries of the hemisphere;
- ♦ facilitate participation by civil society groups in the implementation of Summit initiatives; and
- ♦ promote its positive experience in establishing a program for civil society groups at the time of the Summit and actively seek the repetition and strengthening of this format in future Summits.