

- ♦ ensure that Summit initiatives receive appropriate attention from relevant departments and continue to actively encourage Summit countries and Summit partner institutions to share implementation costs;
- ♦ establish partnerships at the domestic level and with international institutions to secure the necessary support for the implementation of Summit initiatives; and
- ♦ explore ways to increase the participation of the private sector in multi-sectoral consultations on issues where it has not traditionally been involved, in an effort to maintain a coherent approach and as part of its effort to promote greater corporate social responsibility.

ROLE OF PARLIAMENTARIANS

(RECOMMENDATIONS 4 AND 5)

THE IMPORTANCE OF PARLIAMENTARIANS

(RECOMMENDATION 4)

“**T**HE COMMITTEE RECOMMENDS THAT, IN ORDER TO ENSURE THAT CANADIANS ARE ABLE TO FOLLOW THE CONTINUING DEBATE OVER THE INTEGRATION OF THE AMERICAS, THE MINISTER OF FOREIGN AFFAIRS AND THE MINISTER FOR INTERNATIONAL TRADE APPEAR BEFORE THE COMMITTEE ON AT LEAST AN ANNUAL BASIS TO DISCUSS ISSUES RELATED TO PROGRESS ON THE HEMISPHERIC COOPERATION AGENDA, INCLUDING THE FTAA.”

The Government believes that parliamentarians have an important role to play in achieving Canada's overall objectives in the Americas. The Minister of Foreign Affairs, the Minister for International Trade and the Minister for International Cooperation attach priority to maintaining a regular dialogue with Parliament concerning the Summit of the Americas and related issues such as the FTAA. They agree with Recommendation 4, and are committed to keeping parliamentarians informed and taking the many opportunities afforded to them to appear before committees and discuss issues of concern related to the progress on the hemispheric cooperation agenda, including the FTAA. The Government further agrees that all necessary steps should be taken to ensure that parliamentary consultation and engagement on these issues is deepened.

This ministerial interest was manifested in recent appearances before the Committee. In June 2000, the Minister for International Trade appeared before the Committee to present the Government Response to the March

