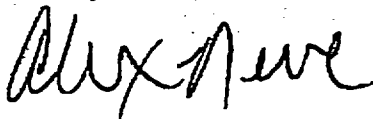


All four of the Central American states are parties to this Convention. Canada has not signed or ratified.

These six instruments deal with a wide range of human rights issues. If strongly supported and well-resourced they can be an important means of ensuring that human rights are not left behind in the rush to free trade. However the record of ratification by the Central American states is uneven. Canada is not a party to any of the agreements.

Amnesty International strongly urges that before moving forward with plans for free trade, Canada and these four Central American states must commit themselves to an effective means of monitoring, enforcing and promoting human rights. Full ratification of these treaties by each of the states would be a decisive step in that direction.

Sincerely,



Alex Neve
Secretary General