

Moreover, ICCHRLA is also concerned that the agenda for discussions on human rights, which are being led by the Canadian government, focuses almost exclusively on civil and political rights, and does not deal with the protection of economic and social rights such as the right to adequate food and housing, fair wages, health care and education.

This is of particular concern since ICCHRLA and other organizations called for economic and social rights to be added to the agenda of the Santiago Summit, when we participated in consultations the Canadian government held in preparation for the Summit. Canada, which has just accepted the responsibility of chairing negotiations on the Free Trade Area of the Americas for the first 18 months after the Santiago Summit, has indicated an openness to receiving public input on how the agreement should evolve. ICCHRLA applauds that position. However, we urge the Canadian government and those of the other countries in the hemisphere to ensure the process allows for *real* public participation, that consultations are broadly inclusive of authentic representatives of *all* sectors of society, that the needs and concerns of *all* sectors are sincerely taken into consideration, and that trade policies are developed in response to the needs and concerns of *all* sectors.