

But these gains cannot be achieved by governments alone. In democratic societies it is the will of the people, expressed through the media and through influential pressure groups, such as those gathered here today that provides direction and substance to government policies. At the government level, Canada and Venezuela have established a joint consultative committee as a forum to exchange ideas and concerns. Meetings of this committee have been positive and stimulating. Governments can only go so far. Our two countries have much to offer each other, but it will require a much more active and continuous exchange between the opinion makers represented here today before specific advantages and opportunity can be identified. I encourage you to begin now to think of how you can follow-up and expand on the business contacts made during the visit and to seize the commercial opportunities that are and will be presented. There are gains to be made for all of us.