



fostering the development of a Joint Working Group of Summit Partner Institutions in order to encourage the effective use of resources provided by hemispheric and multilateral organizations, optimize effectiveness of program delivery, avoid unnecessary overlap and duplication of existing mandates, maximize funding opportunities for beneficiaries, and ensure consistency in the implementation of the Summit initiatives. This coordinating body is chaired by the Organization of American States and includes the active participation of the IDB. Members of the Working Group meet with an interest in furthering their work on Summit implementation activities. They place special emphasis on the financing of Summit mandates and citizens' engagement.

Canada will continue to work with the Bank to achieve the Plan of Action and will encourage all IDB regional and non-regional members to strengthen the mandate of the Bank to support the Summit of the Americas process and goals.

Recommendation 18

"That, in order to further enhance transparency of free trade negotiations as well as civil society participation, the Government of Canada actively encourage governments within the Americas to consult widely with their populations and civil society during the FTAA negotiating process; to render public FTAA negotiating texts; to encourage the activities of non-governmental organizations within their respective countries; and to help initiate a dialogue between business and non-governmental organizations on free trade issues."

Please see the response after Recommendation 3 (above).

PUBLIC OPINION

Recommendation 19

"That Canada spearhead the development of a hemispheric education and awareness campaign on the merits of free trade in general, and the FTAA in particular. Consideration should be given to the use, within such a campaign, of Canadian trade experts, as well as to an enhanced employment of embassy and foreign Chamber of Commerce resources."

Canadian diplomatic representations in the region are already active in outreach activities in their host countries, often in partnership with local Chambers of Commerce, aimed at publicizing the merits of free trade and the FTAA in particular. These outreach activities include publication of articles in the general media; use of post Web sites and one-to-one contacts by heads of mission and appropriate staff with decision makers in government, the private sector and civil society; as well as the organization of or participation in seminars,

