

3.3 Canada should review its support for the enhancement of human rights mechanisms in Mexico and bilateral cooperation, taking into account the demonstrated weaknesses of the CNDH, and devoting resources to other forms of improved respect for rights, in particular the strengthening of independent human rights bodies and networks at the state and federal level. The potential for encouraging a strengthened role for legislative bodies and potential bilateral collaboration at that level should be reviewed following the mid-term congressional elections.

3.4 Canada should continue to encourage actions by the Canadian embassy and Canadian official visitors to Mexico which encourage the recognition of the legitimacy and roles of civil society organizations and their contribution to democracy, respect for the safety and integrity of human rights workers and which emphasize Canadian opposition to continued human rights violations.

#### *4. Building equity in rural Mexico*

A serious Canadian commitment to the defeat of poverty and growth of democratic civil society in Mexico should undertake a priority focus in rural development. The membership commitment, producer orientation and democratic autonomy of the AgroBarzon make it a strong candidate to be one of the organizations by which such an objective could be accomplished.

4.1 As part of the development of a Canadian assistance programme, with a focused effort on combatting rural poverty, support for the AgroBarzon through investment in organizational development and training enhancement for the organization at all levels, together with sustained support, in selected regions, for a programme of improved agricultural production with appropriate technical advice, surveys and support would be an excellent window for direct or indirect Canadian assistance.

#### *5. Organizational development for autonomous unions*

While the autonomy and independence of these syndical (Foro) and professional (Democratic Lawyers) is key, both sectors cite needs for increased capacity in training and professionalization, increased capacity for the promotion and defence of core labour rights as well as the capacity to monitor and evaluate compliance with national and international standards and agreements. Support for such capacity enhancement could be developed by the Canadian government in cooperation with Canadian labour bodies independent of or as part of an overall Canadian assistance plan for Mexico.

#### *6. Building citizenship*

As part of its support for democratization in Mexico and enhancement of the electoral process, Canada should provide support for the further development of the Alianza Civica, for pre-electoral studies, observation, voter-education and organizational development. In view of the current sensitivities of the Mexican government, such aid may best be delivered through Canadian non-governmental partners.

#### *7. Modelling civil diplomacy and policy formation*

7.1 The Canadian experience of public and non-governmental participation in foreign policy development -- as embodied in the Foreign Policy Review of the 1990s and the creation of the Canadian Centre for Foreign Policy Development -- provides an experience which might well be