

Our general recommendation is that moves towards free trade be matched by moves towards a similar commitment to human rights by the states concerned. In this particular instance Amnesty International calls on the five states concerned to fully ratify the key human rights treaties of the Organization of American States, and to follow that up with active cooperation with the OAS human rights institutions in ensuring that the resulting obligations are fully implemented at the national level.

1. American Convention on Human Rights

While the four Central American states have signed and ratified this Convention, Canada has not. We have urged Canada to ratify the Convention at this year's Summit of the Americas.

2. Additional Protocol to the American Convention on Human Rights in the Area of Economic, Social and Cultural Rights, the "Protocol of San Salvador"

Economic, social and cultural rights are all directly effected by free trade. The Protocol of San Salvador is therefore of particular relevance to these discussions. Only Guatemala and El Salvador are parties to the Protocol. Nicaragua has signed but not ratified. Neither Canada nor Honduras have signed or ratified. Canada cannot do so until it becomes a party to the American Convention on Human Rights itself.

3. Protocol to the American Convention on Human Rights to Abolish the Death Penalty

Only Nicaragua is a party to the Protocol. Canada cannot become a party to the Protocol until it ratifies the American Convention on Human Rights.

4. Interamerican Convention to Prevent and Punish Torture

Guatemala and El Salvador are parties to this Convention. Honduras and Nicaragua have signed but not ratified. Canada has not signed or ratified.

5. Interamerican Convention on Forced Disappearance of Persons

Guatemala is a party to this Convention. Honduras and Nicaragua have signed. El Salvador and Canada have not signed or ratified.

6. Interamerican Convention on the Prevention, Punishment and Eradication of Violence against Women, the "Convention of Belém do Pará"