

This will require decisive and timely action on the part of the Organization.

With this in mind, Canada is now proposing the creation of a more formal management mechanism at the OAS – a Special Committee on Summit Management. We believe this mechanism will demonstrate the importance the OAS ascribes to Summit follow-up, provide the Organization with the tools it needs to produce concrete, practical results, and thereby help it to consolidate its position as the hemisphere's foremost political forum.

New Vision of the OAS

The third significant development of the year was the tabling on April 6 of Secretary General Gaviria's *New Vision of the OAS*, which formed the basis for our informal dialogue on Sunday. In February, we had the honour of hosting a visit by the Secretary General to Canada, at which time he shared with us some of his ideas for the Organization. These ideas have now been given concrete form in the Vision Paper, which Canada believes to be an extremely valuable document. Not only does it identify some of the OAS's weaknesses, an often difficult and thankless task, but it also seeks to identify priority activities and means of focussing the OAS on these areas.

Canada is pleased to see that many of the items that we judge to be priorities for our own action at the OAS are also those deemed by the Secretary General to be priorities for the Organization. Human rights and democratic development, trade, environment, and hemispheric security are all signalled as being deserving of more OAS attention and resources.

The Secretary General also discusses, in his Vision Paper, several areas needful of administrative reform, including the technical co-operation system. Canada strongly supports many of his proposals in this regard, including having fewer priority areas, fewer individual projects and fewer recipients; increasing the emphasis on multinational projects, horizontal co-operation and partnerships; and overhauling the system of delivering such assistance. The new technical co-operation body – CIDI [Inter-American Council for Integral Development] – must, as the Secretary General noted, not only capitalize on the successes of its predecessors but also avoid repeating their mistakes.

The Vision Paper also notes the need for serious structural changes in the OAS's human resources and financial management systems. Canada wholeheartedly concurs in this assessment and is looking forward to more detailed proposals to improve the efficiency, effectiveness and transparency of those systems.

There is still, in Canada's opinion, a need for the Organization and its members to do some soul-searching and make some difficult