

administration systems in other countries and our own, where we made a very substantial reform, the most important in the last 100 years; or to the field of drugs, which led to a novel approach based on the Multilateral Evaluation Mechanism; or to the report on freedom of expression by the Inter-American Human Rights Commission.

This represents concrete progress in the wake of summit processes. Some countries, including Chile, are conducting a useful exercise in following up on the *Action Plan* through the different ministries to verify the extent to which the objectives proposed at the summits relating to domestic policy have been achieved.

A few days ago we made a public presentation on the work done by our country in that regard. Reflecting the contribution that society wishes to make to this process is undoubtedly a constructive and positive process, which we value.

And having made this review, allow me to mention the context surrounding this Summit. I refer, above all, to the great difference that exists between those of us who are here sitting around a table to listen to one another and those who are trying to protest outside against globalization and free trade.

Probably this is the result of the lack of good communication. We have been able to demonstrate — President Lagos said so yesterday — that free trade, democracy and integration are fundamental tools for making progress toward greater equality of opportunity and that free trade is not an end but an instrument.

It is also important to remember that the people demonstrating outside are expressing an emotion that we should not scorn. An emotion that is closer to frustration and isolation than violence. An emotion that is simply the expression of people's desire to participate in building the future.

When this aim — the desire to participate — is expressed through peaceful means, my government and my country welcome these expressions, since they help to improve the processes in which we are involved. However, when they take the form of violence, we condemn them with the same force.

Perhaps one conclusion that can be drawn from this Summit is the need to make an in-depth analysis of the subject of civil society, its relation to the world of politics and the creation of mechanisms for participation, that will permit us to put an end to this new and very painful culture of summits behind protective barriers.

