

the content is still developing. Due to the increasing intensity, depth and richness of the Canadian involvement, the discourse should engage more players, beyond the corridors of Ottawa. George Haynal further elaborated that with this increasing involvement and a large formal agenda leading up to the Summit in Quebec City, Canada has gone from an interested observer, ten years ago, to being truly at the heart of the Hemisphere. Canada's new regional role is without precedent. There is, therefore, a need for more engagement through business as well as NGO fora.

While we have inherited a legacy from the previous Summits in Miami and Santiago, there is considerable room for putting a Canadian stamp on the upcoming Summit in Quebec City. What should this stamp be? What legacy should the Quebec City Summit leave behind? While some areas have been already intellectually explored, nothing has been laid down yet. One of the aims of a meeting such as this is to listen to what some of the answers might be.

The political mandate has been already mapped. The Prime Minister has clearly indicated his commitment to free markets. The free markets have an undoubted role to play in the transformation of the Americas. However, the focus must rest on the "virtuous" impact the spread of free market economies has on the Americas while the negative consequences must be mitigated. Globalization must go hand in hand with building institutions as well as spreading values. Meanwhile, Minister Axworthy's message contains the importance of human security in foreign policy. Therefore, globalization should promote human security rather than erode it. The engagement of civil society in foreign policy development is also of key significance to the Minister.

Work still has to be done on the process of decision making within the Hemispheric mechanisms (OAS). The Hemisphere is not at ease with the engagement of civil society. Nevertheless, this engagement is the "liberating" part of the globalization process, as opposed to the "liberalising." Canada tries to lead in this area. Initiatives aimed at this goal include, for example, involving Parliamentarians or building the capacity of Hemispheric mechanisms to strengthen democracy. Canada will encourage discourse on civil society input, good governance and the necessity for transparency.

Some of the cross-cutting issues that are on the priority list for the government are:

1. Health (Ninth Conference of Spouses of Heads of State and Government of the Americas)
2. Sustainability (a concept that needs further development)
3. Role of women
4. Role of Indigenous Peoples
5. Climate change (including the preparation to cope with disasters)
6. Use of technology and the role of communications technology in "liberating" and promoting tolerance (multiculturalism)

In conclusion George Haynal reiterated that there are still questions to be answered, that no formal agenda exists yet and that some legacy remains from previous Summits. It is up to us