

business and a closed door which denies meaningful access for the rest of civil society. Civil society's role is relegated to each respective country, limiting its influence on a hemispheric level.

- The group underscored the importance of participation of civil society in the Summit and FTAA processes, involving various forms of participation. This includes an approach that seeks formal representation in the negotiations, as well as another pursuing alternative civil society networks that participate in the process "from the outside."
- The group stressed the importance of articulating alternatives to challenge the notion that the neoliberal model is the only viable one. It is crucial to present alternative proposals to those issued at the Santiago Summit through an alternative summit of social organizations. Thus, as a main priority, Canadian civil society should work together with groups from other countries to expand hemispheric social alliances.
- While the government of Canada consults to some extent with its civil society, in other countries, governments tend to adopt the role of caretakers of the interests of their respective societies. Canada's recognition of labour and social forums might help to overcome civil society's isolation.
- Appropriate structures should be set up to permit civil society to inform policy decisions on an ongoing basis. Civil society organizations (and not just individuals) should be represented in these structures. Relevant issues should be integrated rather than compartmentalized (thus, focus consultations on general trade policy directions rather than on separate consultations on the trade aspects of APEC, FTAA, WTO, and so on).

#### *Key Recommendations Related To This Consultation*

- Public policy consultations like this one are genuinely welcomed. However, what is needed is civil society participation in decision-making. Thus, consultations should be interactive processes of exchange with elected officials and government officers (and not just a one way flow of information from the participants to the government, where the participants never know what happened – if anything – to their recommendations).
- Participation should be open to organizations of civil society – and not just to individuals.
- The civil society organizations that met at this workshop expect to hear back from DFAIT regarding the use, impact, and follow-up to the recommendations arising from our discussions.
- This group expects to be informed by the Canadian government about what it will do to encourage ongoing civil society participation in the process leading to, and the follow-up to, the Summit, as well as the forthcoming FTAA negotiations.
- The workshop participants expect the Government of Canada to provide resources and spaces for participation by civil society organizations in the same way that it provides those for business and corporate organizations.