

Chairman's Statement

Remarks by the Right Honourable Jean Chrétien Prime Minister of Canada

We have had an intense and productive day. I was impressed by the quality of our frank and open discussions. We discussed the challenges that globalization represents for democratic countries, the very real and legitimate concerns expressed about the currents engendered by globalization and the need for governments to maintain their ability to respond to their specific needs and circumstances.

I am pleased to tell you that we reached agreement on a fundamental element for the development of the great family of the Americas. To be part of the process of the Summit of the Americas, a country must be led by a democratic government. That is an essential condition.

From this day forward, the benefits of any agreements we reach will flow only to those nations who abide by our democratic law. The clause will cover all elements of the Summit process, including the Free Trade Area of the Americas. We have also invited the governors of the Inter-American Development Bank to apply democratic laws to their activities.

The President of Costa Rica made a plea for the ratification of the convention against corruption by 2002. Canada and Costa Rica have already ratified a convention. Tomorrow, we will continue our discussion on the Summit themes of creating prosperity and realizing human potential. Then we will sign the *Quebec Declaration* and the *Plan of Action*.

Thank you very much.

