

Program, OXFAM-Canada, Canada World Youth, the Unitarian Service Committee, CCODP, and the Canada Asia Working Group. In addition, CoDevelopment Canada will organize a youth gathering. South Asia Partnership and other organizations are working on human rights and development profiles of APEC countries. Alternatives will organize the *Forum Populaire sur l'APEC* in Montreal prior to the Vancouver summit.

8. Corporate Social Responsibility

Policy goal: Promote corporate social responsibility and a more socially and ecologically balanced way of life among Canadians, with corporate accountability for the environmental and social consequences of their investments.

Current capacity and activities

In recent years there has been an increasing focus of advocacy work directly with corporations. Globalization of production, distribution, and financial flows has decreased the power of national governments and made corporations more important actors in the international system. Corporations play a key role in many of the issues addressed in CCIC's policy program, including sustainable development, human rights, food security, trade and investment, and peacebuilding.

The leading organization working on corporate social responsibility within the community is the Taskforce on the Churches and Corporate Responsibility (TCCR), an ecumenical organization entirely funded by its members, a broad range of churches and religious societies. Its formal purpose is to allow its members to be ethical shareholders of Canadian corporations. It conducts research and advocacy both with corporations and governments on several issues, particularly corporate governance and accountability, ecology, human rights, and aboriginal land rights.

The TCCR, in conjunction with counterparts in the U.K. and the U.S., has prepared a document entitled *Principles for Global Responsibility: Bench Marks for Measuring Business Performance* (known commonly as the *Bench Marks* document). It is a tool for examining the way transnational corporations behave across the full range of corporate responsibility issues -- including labour standards, environmental standards, and governance issues. The first version was released in September 1995. Work on a Round Two document began in early 1997. There has been initial dialogue with Canadian corporations, and promotion of its contents with organizations interested in using its framework for measuring global business performance and in its relevance for company codes of conduct.