

Also, the law is not applied equally, despite the fact that it is legally stated on paper that human beings are all equal – regardless of gender, race, age, or ethnicity. For example, men's rights are still upheld more than women's.

- It is necessary to review critically international commitments made by Canada and other countries, to understand their impact on human rights. There may be cases where these commitments, based on narrow economic interests, undermine human rights.

Labour and Social Impacts

- The draft documents provided by DFAIT were abstract, superficial, and conservative. They make little mention of agriculture or land rights, indigenous people, and labour mobility. Social issues are completely separated from economic issues. The documents imply that economic growth leads naturally to improvements in education, health, and quality of life. This is not necessarily the case.
- The US proposal on labour is unclear regarding core labour standards and does not include compliance mechanisms. The documents do not contain proposals concerning remedies for workers who suffer violations of their rights.
- From a women's perspective, the system is fundamentally flawed and must be redefined. Women's views must be included as part of the discussion.
- The marginalization of aboriginal peoples should be a central point in Summit discussions and follow-up.

Economic Integration, the FTAA, and the Inter-American System

- The treatment of sustainable development and of economic integration in separate "tracks" (via the Bolivia Summit and via the "trade ministerials") is unacceptable. One cannot disentangle economic questions from the issue of sustainability.
- Countries' external debts create disparities in negotiations. One cannot have negotiations among equals unless the debt situation is resolved.
- A starting point is the recognition of the severe, harmful impact that trade agreements such as NAFTA have had on social indicators in North America. For example, it is important to assess the real impact of NAFTA on food security in Mexico. Such impacts are directly related to the results of the neoliberal economic model that trade agreements help entrench. However, the "official" analysis tries to paint a rosy picture of the outcome of NAFTA – an analysis that is wrong, inadequate, and intellectually dishonest.
- It is crucial to examine the problems created by the market-oriented model of development in Latin America and in Canada and how citizens deal locally with the impacts and consequences. We reject the effort to compartmentalize the discussion around different "baskets" that obscure the interrelatedness of impacts deriving from an hegemonic economic model. We need to create a new model that is not exclusionary of people and depredatory of the environment.

Participation of Civil Society

- The process of integration in the Americas is a one-sided process with an open door for