

2. Top Five Priorities

The top five priorities identified were clustered as follows:

1. Equity and Inclusion

This category includes issues related to social exclusion, justice for indigenous peoples, marginal groups (women, minorities - including blacks, the disabled, children and youth) and their inclusion in decision making, economic and social structures. Indigenous peoples issues were given high priority within this grouping.

2. Strengthening Democratic Governance

This included items such as state building, strengthening civil society organizations, consolidation of democratic reforms, building public institutions, building multi-lateral infrastructure, building social and economic infrastructure. As strong sub category dealt with strengthening the rule of law (reform to the judicial system, corruption and transparency) and human security issues (crime, violence and drugs).

3. Poverty and Income Distribution

This included issues related to improving individual incomes as well as concerns for the growing gap between rich and poor. Access to land, land speculation and property rights were noted.

4. Trade and Economic Liberalization

Issues noted included the need for economic growth within a context of sustainability, the FTAA and the potential of a labour/social/environmental accord, concerns for debt and SAPs, IMF conditionalities, money speculation and currency fluctuation, market access (including specific concerns about customs, privatization, intellectual rights etc), encouraging SMEs and technology transfer.

5. Environment and Sustainable Development

This included references to water, air pollution, soil degradation and energy production and consumption.

6. The other issues mentioned included:

- Rapid urbanization and the deteriorating quality of life in cities, housing and infrastructure.
- Human rights and civil rights
- Building trust relationships and partnerships across sectors
- Telecommunications and infrastructure
- Corporate Responsibility, the role of TNCs
- Education and health
- Lack of integration of approaches to issues
- Balancing Canadian support (ie. to human rights vs. trade, military vs civil society)

Abbreviated raw data is shown below.