

the Government an opportunity to obtain citizens' perspectives on issues and a sense of the priorities of experts from various sectors. The objective is to facilitate more active participation by citizens in national and regional affairs with a view to building a larger consensus on Canada's hemispheric agenda.

The Government also recognizes the valuable contribution of events such as parallel summits, conferences and consultations organized by an array of groups. For this reason, Canada supports events organized by interest groups in the context of the Summit process, including the FTAA.

mechanism
A variety of mechanisms already exists and has been used to support other meetings and conferences of various civil society groups. In particular, Contributions in Support of Foreign Policy Consultations, Research and Outreach (DFAIT), the Human Security Program (DFAIT) and the Fund to Support the Participation of Civil Society in Hemispheric Processes (CIDA) have all contributed to furthering and diversifying dialogue among civil society groups and between them and governments of the hemisphere.

THE ROAD AHEAD: BUILDING ON SUCCESS

The Government is committed to refining and strengthening its domestic and hemispheric outreach strategy in light of the experience of the Summit, taking into account the fact that globalization has resulted in increasing numbers of social actors and an evolution in their role in influencing domestic and foreign policies. Moreover, the Government realizes the importance of working with non-governmental experts to explore ideas that may contribute to the improvement of this consultation process or establish more effective mechanisms for engaging citizens and increasing transparency.

THE GOVERNMENT'S STRATEGY FOR THE FUTURE IS BASED ON FOUR OVERRIDING OBJECTIVES:

MAINTAINING A COHERENT APPROACH

Canada has developed a coherent approach to ensure that Summit-related sectoral processes incorporate and strengthen participatory mechanisms that allow for the inclusion of non-governmental voices in multilateral processes in the Americas. Civil society groups, including the private sector, are becoming increasingly interested in sectors in which they were not traditionally involved. The greater complexity of issues in a more

