

Also on the table are proposals to open up government procurement practices across the hemisphere, new rules to strengthen intellectual property protection, and a new forum for the settlement of trade disputes.

At this point in time, it is impossible to know what the full implications of a completed FTAA would be. But the broad range of issues being discussed, and the failure of Canadian negotiators to look beyond "export opportunities for Canadian companies," is definitely cause for concern.

The bottom line is that the FTAA embodies the worst aspects of the WTO and the NAFTA. It deepens a globalization process that is fundamentally about enhancing the rights of corporations, while disarming governments and citizens. The FTAA is anti-democratic, and should be rejected by the people of the hemisphere.