

civil society, the Santiago summit process will only contribute to further exclusion and crisis.

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- It is common to find the terms democracy and elections used interchangeably. The experience of Canadian NGOs and church organizations, however, is that the two are not synonymous. One of the most obvious examples is Mexico. Despite improvements in electoral procedures during the most recent elections of July 6, 1997, many voters were denied their right to vote and numerous votes were invalidated. This reflects the still limited participation of civil society in the electoral process. Democracy needs civil society's participation because civil society is the guarantor of democracy. With civil society resides the foundation of political, economic, and social development.
- Canada promotes civil society participation at home and in the South, but the spending cuts in ODA, in terms of both social development projects in the Americas and support to local NGOs, curtail this country's ability to promote democratization and strengthen civil society at the same time that they limit the participation of civil society in the negotiation and implementation of trade agreements.
- Prime Minister Chretien and his Team Canada should consider meeting with Canadian civil society in order to obtain their input for their agenda and participation before they travel abroad.
- The exclusion of Cuba from the Summit is of concern. It should be included in the FTAA negotiation process.

The Recommendations

The following recommendations were pooled from the recommendations of the three working groups. They were adopted through the consensus of all civil society representatives in the workshop plenary session.

*Human Rights and Democracy*

- Civil and political rights should not be separated from social and economic rights. All basic rights – to subsistence, security, participation, and mobility – are related. It is imperative that human rights should advance at the same time that trade and economic goals are pursued. The current context indicates the opposite; for example, the FTAA process does not incorporate freedom of mobility for migrant workers.
- Social rights need to be an integral part of the process of economic integration – not “tacked on” as in the NAFTA. Corporations must be made to adhere to what is now a volunteer code of conduct of international business.
- The enforcement of human rights laws is an area of concern. Various human rights instruments have still not been ratified by different states, while other instruments of international law, such as the UN Bill of Rights, have not been observed by signatories.