



used in Recommendation 22, would refer to the elements of democracy such as the right to vote found in Article XX of the American Declaration on the Rights and Duties of Man and Article 25 of the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights.

The Inter-American Democratic Charter should not be considered the definitive blueprint for the development of democracy in the Americas. Nonetheless, the Charter represents an unprecedented commitment that provides for consultation at the highest political level (i.e. Leaders or foreign ministers) among countries in the event of the disruption of the democratic system in any Summit country.

In terms of the FTAA itself, questions are being raised about the possible character of an operational relationship between the democracy clause, as reflected in Article 19 of the Charter, and the trade instrument. Discussion on this point is still in the early stages. Some Summit partners do not accept any linkage; others consider that invoking the clause and the Charter within the context of the FTAA would be an extreme measure, to be taken only at the level of Summit Leaders. The Government expects that consensus on an operational democracy clause in the FTAA will be difficult to achieve in the short term. Nonetheless, the Government has signalled its perspective that there is a relationship between the Charter and the FTAA agreement through the Quebec City Declaration and Article 19 of the Charter. The Government will initiate domestic consultations in the coming year to seek views and options to operationalize the relationship between the FTAA and the Charter.

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In the context of the broader discussion in the report about labour and environmental issues, while Articles 10 and 15 of the Inter-American Democratic Charter refer specifically to core labour standards, workers' rights and the preservation of the environment, the Government notes that the report recognizes that the question of how to address these issues in the FTAA remains to be resolved.

CULTURE

Recommendation 23

"That the Government of Canada ensure its ability to preserve and promote cultural diversity by accelerating its efforts to achieve the desired New International Instrument on Cultural Diversity."

The Government has continuously promoted the development of a New International Instrument on Cultural Diversity (NIICD) since adopting its policy in support of an Instrument in 1999. Since then, the Government has engaged the international community in various forums, including within the Americas, on the challenges that globalization poses for cultural diversity. For instance, the 2001 Declaration of the Summit of the Americas,

