

a right to reply and a prohibition against monopolization of the media which are not protected by the Canadian Charter of Rights and Freedom.

Moreover, article 26 of the Americas Convention commits the state-parties to promoting and enacting legislation to enhance the economic, social and cultural rights outlined in the 1988 "Additional Protocol to the American Convention on Human Rights in the area of Economic, Social and Cultural Rights". This is a concrete step towards putting resources on both human rights and social integration.

Focus on Labour Issues

Participants note the negative consequences of a market-driven integration approach on workers in the Americas. In the countries of the North, economic integration has meant loss of jobs, wage reduction and erosion of social benefits, among others.

Participants recommend, as a matter of urgency, that labour protection be placed in the Canadian policy for the Americas. The following principles should be included:

- the official recognition of the Labour Forum and the establishment of a working group on labour rights;
- ~~the incorporation of new bilateral and multilateral trade agreements;~~
- the recognition of core labour standards and the creation of mechanisms for effective compliance with these by the countries in the Americas including:
 - . freedom of association,
 - . right to organize and bargain collectively,
 - . restrictions on child labour and forced labour,
 - . banning of employment discrimination on the basis of sex, race or religion;
- the creation of environmental protection mechanisms to regulate the action of large corporations and conglomerates which threaten the quality of life. In addition, social justice demands that agrarian reform be implemented in order to improve the quality of life of the rural population;
- a gradual negotiation process, allowing each country to adopt appropriate transitional policies. Progressive negotiations will allow better identification of opportunities and threats faced by different economic sectors;
- access to information, the establishment of mechanisms facilitating collective bargaining, a democratic control over the action of transnational corporations operating in the region, since these are the principal beneficiaries of economic integration;