

**ROUNDTABLE ON THE AMERICAS:
PRIORITIES, PLANS AND ACTIVITIES**
August 30, 1999
Ottawa

On August 30, 1999, the Canadian Centre for Foreign Policy Development brought together a group of academics, government officials, NGO, labour, and business representatives to discuss their priorities, plans and activities related to the Hemisphere. The goal of the meeting was to share information, develop cross-sector contacts and continue thinking about Canada's interests and opportunities in the region. It was the fourth event in a series of roundtables. The aim of this series is to engage Canadians across the country and to help develop Canadian foreign policy and approaches to Hemisphere issues. In preparation for the meeting, Nola-Kate Seymoar, International Centre for Sustainable Cities, circulated a questionnaire to 14 organisations asking for information on priorities and suggestions for Canadian focus.

I Executive Summary

After a welcome by Steven Lee, National Director of the CCFPD, and a brief overview of government policies and thinking by George Haynal, Assistant Deputy Minister Americas, Nola-Kate Seymoar summarised the results of the questionnaire circulated in preparation for the roundtable. The aim of the questionnaire was to find out what are the priorities of selected civil society organisations involved with the Hemisphere. Respondents were asked to identify top opportunities for Canada's foreign policy. A summary of the questionnaire results is presented below. The full results are attached. (Enclosed you will also find the respondents' calendars of planned events.)

Summary of The Civil Society Questionnaire:

The respondents identified these five top priorities:

- 1. Equity and Inclusion*
- 2. Strengthening Democratic Governance*
- 3. Poverty and Income Distribution*
- 4. Trade and Economic Liberalisation*
- 5. Environment and Sustainable Development*