

disparate communities could meet, he said.

Allan Torbitt, AFN, encouraged the participants to take a longer term vision. While the OAS GA in Windsor and the Quebec City Summit present a good opportunity to announce/promote practical projects and initiatives, work on instilling a new mind set and developing new processes will continue beyond these two events. Wayne Lord, Aboriginal and Circumpolar Affairs Division, DFAIT, said that we should make sure to take advantage of the fact that leaders often set the tone for the future at the Summit. Quebec City provides a good opportunity to signal that Indigenous Peoples' issues are in the mainstream of public domestic and international policy.

*In order to establish a presence/platform for Indigenous Peoples at the OAS, the Inter-American Indigenous Institute should be reformed and revitalised. Allan Torbitt said that while it would be very useful to have such an exclusive window, Indigenous Peoples' issues should not be treated separately from other OAS issues, including poverty alleviation, access to education, and other "baskets." It should be clear that helping the millions of dispossessed and marginalised Indigenous Peoples in the Hemisphere to lift themselves from misery will contribute to the overall peace, security, and development of the region.*

*Daniel Sanchez Nestor, Guerrero Council of the 500 Years of Indigenous Resistance (Mexico), took Allan Torbitt's argument further and said that there could be no democracy without respecting the rights of Indigenous Peoples, including their right to land and self-determination. Canada should lead by example and respect Indigenous Peoples' rights. The Canadian government should develop implementation, enforcement, and punitive mechanisms to ensure the effectiveness of the relevant laws. Participation of Indigenous Peoples in the democratic process underlined by an effective legal framework would undoubtedly contribute to stability. Stability is in everybody's interest. The "value added" in showing/influencing by example is significant.*

*Consuelo Cutzal, Coordinating Council of Organisations of the Mayan Peoples of Guatemala, said that in some cases, the political structures actually perpetuate and reinforce marginalisation of Indigenous Peoples in Latin America. Violence may have dramatically diminished in the recent past, but there is no inclusion of Indigenous Peoples in Guatemalan "democracy," for example. Economically marginalised and politically circumscribed, Indigenous People in many Latin American countries have little chance to develop. Forces for change from across the Hemisphere have to be united and pressure on recalcitrant governments extended.*

*Hector Almendrades, Centre for Trade Policy and Law (Carleton University), said that governments of Latin America seem to listen more to their foreign counterparts than to the Indigenous Peoples living on territories they supposedly "govern." Moreover, only a very limited number of resolutions adopted by Latin American governments are fully (or at all) implemented. Therefore, international bodies such as WTO, the UN, and the OAS should set up units addressing Indigenous Peoples's issues on a continuous and consistent basis. Such units could*