

At the multilateral level, Canada continues to strengthen and work with the OAS on its key priorities of democracy and security. As the second largest contributor to the OAS in both assessed and voluntary contributions, Canada is supporting a strong OAS role in the hemisphere. Canada has been a steadfast supporter of the OAS Good Offices Mission to Colombia and Ecuador, which is working to facilitate confidence-building between those two countries.

Canada also funds the OAS Mission to Support the Peace Process in Colombia, which has overseen the demobilization of over 30,000 paramilitaries; and the OAS Special Mission to Haiti, which is contributing to strengthening the electoral process. Canada has contributed throughout the years to OAS electoral monitoring missions in the region, and supported nine missions in 2007-08 with both financial and human resources.

Indigenous democratic governance project

Canada's Indigenous Peoples Partnership Program (IPPP) has established 74 projects to foster partnerships between Canadian aboriginal entities and indigenous communities in Latin America and the Caribbean that promote social connections and inclusion through training, dialogue and sharing of good practices. Between July 2007 and December 2008, 17 new development initiatives were funded, bringing together indigenous communities in 10 countries – Bolivia, Brazil, Chile, Colombia, Costa Rica, Ecuador, Guatemala, Guyana, Nicaragua, and Peru – with Canadian aboriginal partners.

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A Guatemalan teenage girl weaving a traditional indigenous handcraft