

- ▶ **Protecting and strengthening civil society** was deemed a key to affecting desirable change. Canada should support the initiatives and harness the creativity of the front line NGO activists in civil society who are producing concrete solutions at the local level (grassroots co-operatives, micro-enterprises, small-scale credit schemes, seed conservation programmes, environmental rehabilitation projects, etc.).
- ▶ **Promoting sustainable development** was identified as imperative to human security. Supporting civil society initiatives (as opposed to mega projects) often produce a more cost-effective result for sustainable development. Canada should promote and accelerate the implementation of commitments for sustainable development made at the 1992 Rio Earth Summit.
- ▶ Canada's bilateral programmes and trade policy should promote **self-sufficiency and not dependency** in developing countries.
- ▶ Improvement in the quality and quantity of **aid** is needed. There is a need for quality assessment/impact assessment of aid.
- ▶ **Access to education**, including informal education, was considered crucial to human security. Therefore, Canada should support education that is responsive to the needs of the marginalised groups of people and put emphasis on providing students skills to meet basic human needs. Education should be within the local cultural and socioeconomic framework. It should be aimed at generating income for marginalised populations so that the income distribution gap is diminished. Education for women can help them assume a greater leadership role. Initiatives to enhance greater mobility for students were also encouraged.
- ▶ **Environment and ecological concerns** must remain paramount in the hemispheric agenda. Economic development must proceed with a much longer view to ecological issues.
- ▶ Human security should address **income disparity and poverty**. The goal to end poverty was considered practical and achievable by policy makers. A more equitable income and resource distribution was called for to strengthen human security.
- ▶ There was a call to respect and observe **human rights**, as enshrined in Universal Declaration of Human Rights, in Canadian foreign and trade policy. The Canadian government was encouraged to provide leadership in developing a well defined and effective mechanism like the International Criminal Court, to strengthen the international human rights regime in the hemisphere.
- ▶ Some participants agreed that Canada should continue to promote **democratic development**, judicial reform, and improved public service and good governance.
- ▶ Canada should take the lead in ensuring that the **Free Trade** negotiations process is open, transparent, and politically accountable to maximise the involvement of civil society and contribute to increased democratisation in the hemisphere.
- ▶ Canada should take the lead in encouraging the G8 for a cancellation of the **foreign debt** of the world's poorest countries. The government should work within the International Financial Institutions (IFIs) to develop programs of finance and development that are socially just and benefit the majority of populations. Canada should lead a process of ensuring that IFIs operate with increased transparency, openness and accountability. Furthermore steps should be taken in promoting the idea