

## Introduction:

This paper is intended to provide background on two broad themes in preparation for the Santiago Summit: hemispheric economic integration and democracy / human rights. The objective is to delineate some of the trends of past decades, drawing particular attention to developments associated with the Miami Summit in December 1994.

The Summit of the Americas produced a *Declaration of Principles*, a *Plan of Action*, and a *Declaration on Human Rights*. Although the main agenda item was broadening trade and deepening regional integration, in official Summit documents that was only one of a number of important items. The final *Declaration of Principles* called for a "partnership for development and prosperity, democracy, free trade and sustainable development" for the Americas. The Declaration committed the signatories to several objectives:

- to preserve and strengthen the community of democracies,
- to promote prosperity through economic integration and free trade,
- to eradicate poverty and discrimination,
- to guarantee sustainable development and conserve our natural environment for future generations<sup>1</sup>.

The *Plan of Action* contained 23 provisions designed to provide both mechanisms and in some cases target dates by which specific goals would be achieved. In the area of integration, the Plan called for participants to create, by 2005, a Free Trade Area of the Americas in a manner consistent with the GATT and WTO. Subsections of the integration initiative involved capital market development and liberalization, improvement of infrastructure, energy cooperation, development of the region's telecommunications and information infrastructure, cooperation in science and technology, and increased tourism.

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<sup>1</sup>Robin Rosenberg and Steve Stein, eds., *Advancing the Miami Process: Civil Society and the Summit of the Americas* (Miami: North-South Center Press, 1995).