

Some of Canada's official efforts to modestly include civil society in the APEC process have been admirable, but NGOs' direct influence on APEC has been minimal compared to the more progressive but still limited NGO participation in United Nations fora and the recommendations of a recent high level international commission. The commission's report suggested better policy development and service delivery must involve "global civil society" through government-NGO partnerships and that such involvement is essential for improved "global governance."⁹ To understand Canada's role in both suppressing and supporting civil society through APEC in 1997 and explore future options for improved public and NGO input into the APEC process, I'll first touch on the role of sustainable development in Canadian foreign policy. I'll then examine APEC, sustainability and civil society linkages in light of CYAP, and the People's Summit organized by Canadian and international NGOs.

⁹ Civil society and NGOs are described as an emergent and requisite force in global governance in Our Global Neighbourhood: The Report of the Commission on Global Governance (Oxford: Oxford University Press, 1995), esp. sections in Chapters Two and Five, "Values for the Global Neighbourhood" and "Reforming the United Nations", pp. 55-66, 253-262.