

- racism continues to permeate the Americas. Although old attitudes die hard, this type of discrimination demands immediate attention;
- states increasingly neglect their social responsibilities; governments must strengthen the human and institutional capacities of their societies.

Participants recommend that Canada:

- use more strategically its "secret weapon" which is cultural diversity to become a more potent and visible actor at the international level;
- be more pro-active in supporting the social agenda of the Americas;
- encourage the political, social and economic transition of the Americas while respecting the choices made by each country;
- make its experience with the US better shared with the countries of the Americas as Canada has much to offer by way of dealing with the US;
- advocate anti-paternalism, encourage partnership and support non-racist and non-sexist policies;
- adopt a team approach to the Summit that will include all sectors of Canadian society;
- educate its population on the true meaning of partnership as a two-way process in which one side learns from the other and vice versa.
- promote local-level initiatives with financial support based on the merits and specificities of local situations and of each particular case;
- encourage greater sectoral involvement with the private sector playing a more important role in the promotion of the social agenda.

Prerequisite for Change

Participants note that, while Canada (along with Brazil) is coordinating the Human Rights and Democracy Basket, it has not yet signed and ratified the American Convention of Human Rights nor recognized the jurisdiction of the Inter-American Court of Human Rights.

It is recommended that, if Canada does ratify the treaty not only will this enhance its credibility as an advocate of international human rights abroad, but it will also enhance and expand the rights of Canadian citizens. There are rights contained within the American Convention - such as