

## FOREWORD

### Method

This brief paper is based on interviews and a limited literature review of issues relating to the structure of civil society in contemporary Mexico and more generally in Latin America. The author undertook more than 40 interviews (see Appendix III) during visits to Mexico City and the states of Morelos, Oaxaca, Tabasco and Veracruz, and during participation at the Latin American Regional Consultation of CIVICUS, in Cartagena, Colombia. Interviews with individuals from Campeche, Chiapas, the State of Mexico, Sinaloa and Tlaxcala were conducted in Mexico City and Cartagena.

## STRENGTHENING CIVIL SOCIETY IN MEXICO "FROM CLIENTELISM TO CITIZENSHIP"

Through the course of the research, the author took part in community meetings of members of the organization *Wobler de la Gloria* in northern Oaxaca and in the regions of Mixistlan and Hidalgo in western Veracruz. The author also had the opportunity to participate in a *Comunidad* workshop prepared by the authors of the new book by the *Comunidad* Mexico Parish Group, Mr. Justin and Dr. Juan Solim, O.P., of the *Comunidad* of San Antonio in the *Comunidad* of San Juan, Chiapas, and in an NGO working in the first years of the NAFTA held at the *Comunidad* of Carmo in Mexico City.

The author was a participant in the Latin American Regional Consultation of CIVICUS, Cartagena, Colombia, an organization dedicated to strengthening civil society. The meeting provided an opportunity to participate in current Latin America-wide discussions regarding civil society, to hear comparative presentations and to discuss the role of multilateral organizations in nurturing civil society.

### A note on notes

To aid in brevity and readability footnotes are bracketed in abbreviated form at the point of reference. A bibliography with full titles listed in alphabetical order by author is found in Appendix I. The paper is informed in many respects by the interviews and site visits undertaken by the author. Where direct or near-direct quotation is involved the source is indicated by the author. Where direct or near-direct quotation is involved the source is

**A paper prepared for the  
John Holmes Fund of the  
Canadian Centre for Foreign Policy Development**

**by Dr. John W. Foster  
May, 1997**

### Notes

The author wishes to thank the John Holmes Fund of the Canadian Centre for Foreign Policy Development for its financial support of the research for this paper and the staff of the Centre for its encouragement and advice.

The author wishes to thank Lucho Van Hook and Louise Casselman for staff support with research and logistics, and the following for advice and information: Professor Barry Carr (Leeds), Christine Broad (Queen's), Jonathan Fox (OCSC), Maria Yarnes Gutierrez Hinojosa (UNAM/ITAM), Laura MacDonald (Carleton), Lisa North (York), as well as Ms Debra Bantel (York), Ms Teresa Healy (Trent), Guadalupe Platano (Centre for US Mexican Studies), Ms Diana Bronson, Ms Madeleine Demoyers and Ms Nancy