

REPORT FROM THE ROUNDTABLE ON THE AMERICAS  
LOOK AHEAD TO WINDSOR

April 26, 2000  
Ottawa

On April 26, 2000, government officials, NGOs and others met to share information and ideas about activities leading up to the OAS General Assembly in Windsor (June 4-6, 2000). The roundtable was also a good opportunity for Canada's Members of Parliament and public servants to discuss the Hemisphere's Policy Development, the roundtable participants included: Minister of External Affairs, Alexander McLeod, Secretary of State, International Trade, Development and Cooperation, and others.

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1. Introduction: Discussion

Steven Lee, Chair, welcomed all and outlined the goal of the roundtable: to share information among the government officials and civil society participants.

Minister Kilgour made a brief presentation. He said that the participation of civil society in the development of foreign policy is important. The Hemisphere faces large challenges including the lack of investment, low levels of income, lack of participation in basic education, corruption, marginalised Indigenous Peoples, and gender inequalities.

Canada can play a meaningful part in Latin American development. The 10<sup>th</sup> anniversary of Canada's membership in the OAS marks a good opportunity to put people first in the Hemisphere and focus on issues such as human security, human rights, Indigenous Peoples, war-affected children and Corporate Social Responsibility. The OAS General Assembly in Windsor is not just a trade meeting. Minister Kilgour was encouraged by the agreement on the Model OAS General Assembly in Edmonton and expressed his support for multilateralism.

The OAS General Assembly will be a great opportunity for Canadians to learn about the Hemisphere. The presence of civil society in Windsor could also contribute to the public policy making process. The hope is for a greater cooperation throughout the Hemisphere and the revitalisation of the Inter-American Indigenous Institute. Minister

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