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Accountability in the Summits of the Americas

The Organization of American States Summit of the Americas Executive Secretary, Irene Klinger, highlighted the importance of establishing indicators to measure the fulfillment of mandates.

(INFORID, March 29, 2004).- Looking towards the IV Summit of the Americas that will be held in Argentina in 2005, the Organization of American States (OAS) Summit of the Americas Executive Secretary, Irene Klinger, highlighted the importance of being accountable for mandates so that their effective fulfillment may be analyzed.

Klinger made this statement last Thursday before approximately 60 representatives of non-governmental organizations at a meeting called in Argentina by the Executive Secretariat of the Inter-American Democracy Network (IADN), formed by Asociación Conciencia and Poder Ciudadano Foundation.

At this meeting, Silvia Callegaro de Guardé, Asociación Conciencia Vice President, introduced the IADN history, mission and vision, listed the members of the network's coordinating group and emphasized the work conducted by Conciencia during the Summit processes.

In turn, Klinger said: "In the Summit process, being accountable is really important. It is not only about making statements that generate mandates, but also about taking measurements that allow to analyze their implementation and to know which have been their impacts and results. Indicators need to be established. For example, when it is said that credits for small, medium and large companies are going to be tripled, we need to know which are the amounts of those credits today."

The Summits Executive Secretary emphasized: "With regard to this issue, each country's civil society plays the fundamental role of monitoring the process, of asking for information and of contributing to the implementation of mandates. We must not expect governments to do everything, each of us has a role to play in this sense", she asserted.

In this regard, the Summit of the Americas Secretary published a report called *Summit Report 2001-2003. Advancing in the Americas. Progress and Challenges*, which analyzes the progress and challenges of each of the 20 items discussed in the Third Summit of the Americas held in Quebec (Canada) in 2001.

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