

Dear Colleague:

The Summits of the Americas Secretariat of the Organization of American States (OAS), jointly with the Government of Mexico, Corporación Participa, Alianza Cívica, Partners of the Americas and the U.S. Agency for International Development, Red Interamericana para la Democracia (RID), Coordinadora Regional de Investigaciones Económicas y Sociales (CRIES), Canadian Foundation for the Americas (FOCAL), and Asociación Latinoamericana de Organizaciones de Promoción (ALOP), cordially invite you to the Regional Forum entitled, "Civil Society in the Process of Hemispheric Integration within the Framework of the Special Summit of the Americas." The forum will be held on November 24-25, 2003 in Mexico City, in the Conference area of the Secretary of Foreign Affairs, Ricardo Flores Magón No. 1, Tlatelolco.

This forum offers an opportunity for dialogue and cooperation among representatives of civil society organizations and the academic community who work on issues of peace, economic and social development, and democratic governance, and facilitate their contributions for the Special Summit of the Americas, to be held on January 12-13, 2004 in Monterrey, Mexico.

The forum is designed to promote participation from civil society organizations, opinion leaders, and academics from the regions, with the goal of generating recommendations regarding the central themes of the Special Summit of the Americas (SSA) and presenting these opinions to the National Coordinators of the Summit Process in the next Summit Implementation Review Group (SIRG), to be held on December 8-11, 2003 at the OAS in Washington, DC.

Enclosed with this invitation you will find detailed information on this event, including the objectives of the forum and how to register. We invite you to complete the application and send it to the Summits of the Americas Secretariat before November 7, 2003 by fax: 202.458.3665 or via email: summitcso@oas.org.

The Summits Secretariat, with the support of the Government of Mexico, has made arrangements with the Hotel Melía Reforma for participant accommodations at a rate of US\$90 per night. Participants are responsible for making their own reservations. Transportation will be provided from the hotel to the meeting. We will be providing more information on the event shortly.

We look forward to your attendance and hope you take this important opportunity to provide contributions to the Special Summit of the Americas.

Sincerely,

Irene Klinger
Executive Secretary
Summits of the Americas Secretariat



