



# FOCAL

Canadian Foundation for the Americas  
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## FOCAL Civil Society Survey (CSS) Final Report – Compilation of Inputs

### EQUITY AND GROWTH

#### **QUESTION #1** - What priorities should a) governments and b) multilateral organizations focus on at the upcoming summit?

*..access to labour markets by marginalized groups, including persons with disabilities. Focus on community economic development which generates capacity for marginalized groups..*

- Canadian Association for Community Living

*La pequeña y mediana empresa como generadora de empleo, calificación de la mano de obra etc. es un sector con gran potencial económico, por lo que es importante su fortalecimiento. Esto implica la creación de un banco de fomento, la prestación de servicios no financieros, y el fortalecimiento del marco legal.*

- Inclusion Interamericana, Nicaragua

*Support for fair trade... the end to USA support for internal agricultural subsidies*

- Canadian Researcher

*Cambiar los paradigmas de las políticas macroeconómicas que han privilegiado la estabilidad y el control de la inflación sobre el crecimiento y la distribución del ingreso... Tomar como base para el diseño de las políticas económicas el concepto y las variables de desarrollo humano.*

- Centro Latinoamericano de la Globalidad (CELAG), Mexico

*... governments in the Andean region should create regional corporations, with state and private support and investment, for exploration and extraction of natural resources such as oil and gas. The development of regional technology would bring these Andean corporations to compete in a market currently dominated by transnational corporations... Multilateral organizations should create and promote instruments for development cooperation and integration, particularly measures regarding better access to international markets.*

- Peruvian Lawyer

*Implemetation of instruments for development co-operation & integration with emphasis on better access to international markets*

- Le Groupe Stanford, Canada

*Eliminating employer discrimination, recognizing foreign earned credentials, start taxing luxury goods and advertising as well as the Tobin tax to create a fund for the redistribution of income.*

- EMCN, Canada

*Onerous import taxes and fees, corrupt customs, bad union relations and other trade/investment impediments although understandable to a certain extent will not bring in investment. Companies that are not allowed to export into a country (or can't get paid due to restrictions on repatriation of funds), will not know if they have a market. Without that knowledge, a company will not invest in a market. Open up the borders and after awhile investment will happen because it is the next logical step in being competitive.*

- Kos International Inc., Canada

*Foreign investment is key to economic growth in Latin America, thus making Judicial and Labour law reforms, the top priorities of the upcoming summit agenda.*

- Hunter Dickinson Inc., Canada

*... promover la responsabilidad social de las empresas privadas... otorgar oportunidades iguales para los profesionales inmigrantes.*

- SUCO, Canada

*... elimination of poverty, hunger, disease and implementation of free education through to University... protection of the environment and concern about global warming... the elimination of impunity for military and political leaders guilty of crimes and the implementation of a fair judicial system...*

- Professor Emeritus, McMaster University, Canada

*... es básico hallar mecanismos para reducir las deudas externas, así como bajar los intereses. Igualmente, para el desarrollo de la naciones más vulnerables, deberán plantearse nuevas estrategias para el desarrollo del agro.*

- Instituto Nacional de Apoyo a Víctimas y Estudios en Criminalidad, A.C., Mexico

*Los gobiernos deberían enfrentar el problema del crecimiento de la brecha entre ricos y pobres en toda la region. America Latina es una de las regiones mas injustas del planeta en temas de reparto de recursos. Bajo la línea de maxima pobreza, las mujeres son mayoría. La ceguera de genero que caracteriza a nuestros gobernantes les cierra caminos para ver salidas mas creativas para el crecimiento economico. El conservadurismo en materia de derechos reproductivos, que se esta agudizando, impide que las personas pueden diseñar el tamaño de sus familias e incide directamente en la reproduccion del ciclo de la pobreza.*

- CLADEM, Mexico

1. *La obligación de un componente social de las inversiones privadas.*
2. *La focalización de esfuerzos privados contra la pobreza extrema, estimulando vía exoneración de impuestos a los logros evidentes en materia de ayuda social contra ella.*
3. *La focalización de los esfuerzos de los organismos internacionales de desarrollo hacia el desarrollo de microempresas en estratos pobres y medios, canalizando recursos, capacitación y seguimiento permanente.*
4. *La evaluación de resultados concretos en esta materia desde que se la abordado en las cumbres.*
5. *El planteamiento serio de una política de condonamiento de la deuda externa, libre de extremismos, en favor de los países del cuarto mundo.*
6. *El inicio de una campaña sólida hacia los organismos mundiales económicos y financieros orientada a obtener su compromiso con el necesario componente social.*

- Zea La Rochelle Solutions, Ecuador

*... build into the hemispheric framework mechanisms through which to address such racialized and related inequity.*

- Karuna Community Services, Canada

*Elaboracion de propuestas de iniciativas economicas a los grupos vulnerables que involucren otras variables como la ambiental, y la social... Frenado a los grandes comercios especulantes de la region que permita el desarrollo de iniciativas mas locales y/o regionales.*

- RENACE, Chile

*A set of priorities that cut across the Summit themes and the reality in the region is the need to improve the quality and relevance of human resources development, specifically the role of higher education and tertiary education institutions and programs.*

- SDP Group, Canada

*...strengthening of small firms...*

- Fundacion Esperanza, Colombia

*Debt relief; trade preferences for poor countries*

- Canadian professor

*Governments (and in particular the Canadian government) should ensure that the benefits of economic growth are equitably distributed through social programs, with an emphasis on universally accessible health and education. Multilateral organizations can both monitor and offer technical (specialized) support, and funding for the construction of these programs.*

- PAHO

*Cuestiones de comercio hemisferico como el ALCA y sus impactos en las pequeñas economías y en los pequeños productores regionales.*

- CEDHA, Argentina

*a) systematic development of peace and personal security of peaceful citizens*

*b) delivery of universal health and education*

*c) economic development of sustainable ventures*

- Crail Petroleum, Ltd., Canada

*1. Private sector as motor for growth*

*2. Regional debt forgiveness*

*3. Reduction of poverty*

*4. Access to funding by small enterprises*

*5. Eradication of corruption*

*6. Hemispheric security*

- LAMCO, Canada

*Microcredito como alternativa para el Desarrollo social*

- Asoc. Dominicana para el Desarrollo de la Mujer, Inc.

*(a) Governments should focus on ensuring that small developing states like Guyana are given special consideration in the FTAA, strategies for promoting sustainable economic growth and the equitable distribution of resources particularly among the most dispossed and the indigenous peoples of the region. Special attention should also be given to good governance and accountability of governments to their people.*

*(b) Organisations: Must emphasize the role they play as custodians of civil society, they can serve as a check of government's power, policies etc. Also promoting development in the region.*

- University of Guyana

*a) governments should strive for a more equitable income distribution and employment generation policies*

*b) multilateral organizations should emphasize the need for transparency and more training for policy makers*

- Florida International University, USA

*National basic food items sufficiency should be worked at to lower external dependency (ex: corn in Mexico)*

- Canadian professor

*The main priorities are to work towards reduced social and economic inequality and stronger but balanced growth through national policies coordinated with international donors.*

- AIETI, Spain

*Given the global blocks ensuing for the future, ie European, Asian, Americas, priority should be placed on determining competitive advantages by region and country to allow economic movement into those areas and obviate the time and fund consuming natural process of selection.*

- US-Mexico Chamber of Commerce, Mexico

*Insistir en programas de diálogo entre empresarios y sindicalistas para garantizar formas de crecimiento y de integración que protejan el empleo de mayor calidad -- industrial-- pero también aquel cuya desaparición implique pérdidas de numerosos puestos de trabajo sobretudo en las áreas rurales. Programas de cooperación para transición o reconversión económica dentro de acuerdos de libre comercio.*

- Venezuelan professor

*La prioridad fundamental es la lucha activa contra la pobreza, generando más y mejores puestos de trabajo. A tal fin, el acceso no discriminatorio y justo a los mercados es esencial para generar empleos de calidad.*

- Argentine professor

*Governments should focus on structural variables determining long-run economic performance, in particular their technical knowledge bases, and their output of scientists and engineers. Multilaterals must fight government short-termism, relentlessly try to refocus governments' attentions from short run, cyclical considerations to medium and long run structural ones. The key importance of technology, ongoing learning processes, innovation, and technical capabilities must be emphasized throughout*

- Venezuelan doctoral candidate

*Leveraging the enormous flow of remittances from immigrants for development impact. Providing financial services to underserved rural microfinance institutions in Latin America.*

- MicroFinance International Corporation, USA

*Establecimiento de mecanismos que favorezcan la inversión productiva en los países.*

- FUNDEMI TALITA KUMI, Guatemala

## **EQUITY AND GROWTH**

**QUESTION #2** - How can these priorities be best addressed in the framework of the Summit of the Americas process? In what way or through what institutions or mechanisms can governments pursue these objectives collectively?

*The voices of marginalized groups, including persons with disabilities, need to be brought to the table.*

- Canadian Association for Community Living

*Innovative tools for such [environmental] cooperation on a hemispheric level, which shares an unbroken chain of ecosystems and indigenous cultures, are many. They include sustainability impact assessment, integrated multi-stakeholder social/ economic /environmental decision-making, joint health and environment analysis, joint protected area systems, badly needed legal and management capacity building programmes, and other initiatives.*

- Centre for International Sustainable Development Law, McGill Faculty of Law

*La participación ciudadana es determinante... Un mecanismo concreto es el fortalecimiento de las instituciones representativas de los poderes locales y la sociedad civil.*

- Inclusion Interamericana, Nicaragua

*Planes de acción concretos con indicadores y resultados cuantificables para evaluar el progreso alcanzado.*

- Centro Latinoamericano de la Globalidad (CELAG), Mexico

*Exponiendo claramente las cifras no sólo de crecimiento o balanza comercial, sino también las cifras de ingreso ciudadano y sus distribución social, los porcentajes de control de los mercados por las grandes empresas y subsidios otorgados tanto a estas como a los consumidores.*

- IPC - Instituto Popular de Capacitación, Colombia

*By establishing the rule of law, insitutional reform, etc. these issues can be addressed. Bilateral and multilateral relations in the area of international commercial standards is one way to address them.*

- Kos International Inc., Canada

*Que el crecimiento Economico llegue a todos segmento de la pablacion y que tenga relacion con el desarrollo de los pueblos*

- Ced Buen Pastor, Dominican Republic

*These priorities can be adressed by reviewing and comparing standards used in the United States and Canada regarding labour issues and having governments revise and enact legislation to change the archaic laws currently in place.*

- Hunter Dickinson Inc., Canada

*...real solution for the big problem of debt crisis...*

- Centro de Estudios de la Unión Europea, Mexico

*The summit of the americas must listen to those who are demonstarting outside their meeting. The representatives on the inside primarily represent those with power in their countries and they are a minority*

- Professor Emeritus, McMaster University, Canada

*...edificar mayor presupuesto a la explotación racional del agro, eliminar la competencia desleal de productos de importación que inhiben a los productos nacionales.*

- Instituto Nacional de Apoyo a Víctimas y Estudios en Criminalidad, A.C., Mexico

*En las reuniones de las Cumbres de las Americas se maneja un discurso androcentrico que ignora o ve como menores a los problemas de la mitad de la poblacion: las mujeres. La participacion activa de las organizaciones del movimiento de mujeres en las Cumbres daría mayor visibilidad a sus experiencias y necesidades.*

- CLADEM, Mexico

*Esquemas participativos de toma de decisiones públicas-privadas*

- IPADE, Mexico

*Mecanismos:*

- *Creando frentes sociales estatales representativos y no de gobierno.*
- *Planteando Políticas de Estado a largo plazo sobre la base de tales acuerdos y encuentros.*
- *Estableciendo normas de mayor rigurosidad sobre la corrupción en las áreas tanto pública como privada.*
- *Elaborando agendas evaluables de corto, mediano y largo plazo.*

- Zea La Rochelle Solutions, Ecuador

*A key tool for building such initiatives redressing the marginalization as experienced by aboriginal, racialized and immigrant, migrant and refugee communities throughout the hemisphere would be the Declaration and Programme of Action as developed at the UN World Conference Against Racism, Racial Discrimination, Xenophobia and Related Intolerance ( WCAR ) - in Durban, South Africa 2001.*

- Karuna Community Services, Canada

*Introducing ICTs (information & communication technologies) in higher education. Improving higher education information, evaluation and accountability systems. Strengthening the linkages between private / productive sector and higher education institutions through new forms of partnership. Supporting the creation of regional accreditation systems, the establishment of international standards, and mechanisms for exchange of professional, know-how, and trainees.*

- SDP Group, Canada

**INVOLUCRAR A LA SOCIEDAD CIVIL EN EL DISEÑO DE POLÍTICAS DE INTEGRACION Y COOPERACION.**

- Fundacion Esperanza, Colombia

*...la importancia del acceso a la informacion en procesos hemisfericos y la participacion de la sociedad civil en los mismos (recordando que ellos seran impactados por las decisiones que se tomen en ese fuero). Para ello se debería negociar un instrumento hemisferico que garantice el acceso a la informacion publica en los Estados y que a su vez consagre standares minimos a respetar; y asimismo se debe garantizar la participacion de la sociedad civil en forma permanente, autonoma y con niveles de incidencia que permitan medir su impacto en la toma de decisiones en el proceso ALCA y en el ALCA mismo si se forma.*

- CEDHA, Argentina

*These priorities should be implemented and carefully monitored by MIXED private sector/government organizations and be subject to open public scrutiny*

- LAMCO, Canada

*If trade agreements do not emphasize transparency, and working labour and environmental standards wealthier countries should offer debt relief, aid, and investment packages to encourage democratization, quality of life improvements, environmental conservation, and moderate the emigration of manufacturing jobs. Eco-tourism in biodiversity areas and micro-credit to fight unemployment with small business should be supported.*

- Canadian intern in Ecuador

*By strengthening cooperation through existing regional institutions, ex: Interamerican Development Bank, Organization of American States, Pan-American Health Organization. Especially by creating mechanisms for increased civil society participation in the policy making and program evaluation procedures of these institutions.*

- McGill University student, Canada

*Primero, foros internos, domésticos sobre estos temas. Utilización adecuada de la academia e institutos de investigación económica y sociales en cada país.*

*Inclusión de la sociedad civil.*

*Segundo, traer conclusiones de esos foros a estas reuniones.*

- Canadian consultant

*A special commission should have the mandate to study international agricultural policies and their impacts on small-scale farming production and to search for balancing the powers between the economic partners.*

- Canadian professor

*Création d'un fond d'investissement pour les régions défavorisées (suivre le modèle offert par l'Union Européenne)*

- McGill University student, Canada

*No se trata de crear nuevas instituciones sino de poner a funcionar a las que ya existen.*

- Venezuelan professor

*Education and cross-border research cooperation agreements are key, but these must be carefully tailored to de-incentivize brain drains, especially if research is to be undertaken in the richer countries in the hemisphere (US/Canada)*

- Venezuelan doctoral candidate

*compromiso de los gobiernos en la rendición de cuentas de los programas de seguridad.*

*Atención a las tensiones fronterizas*

- FLACSO, Ecuador

*A dialogue on the potential synergies between ODA and FDI, and how governments and multilateral can facilitate, co-finance and provide technical assistance in the fostering of high-impact development partnerships.*

- Wayne Dunn & Associates, Canada

*Propuestas concretas sobre apoyo a las iniciativas de inversión productiva que estimule la generación de empleos, tanto a nivel urbano como rural. Orientar a los gobiernos sobre el adecuado aprovechamiento de los ingresos fiscales, evitando corrupción. Generar lineamientos para el estímulo de la micro, pequeña y mediana empresa, favoreciendo su inserción a la economía formal de los países .*

- FUNDEMI TALITA KUMI, Guatemala

## **SOCIAL DEVELOPMENT**

### **QUESTION #1 - What priorities should a) governments and b) multilateral organizations focus on at the upcoming summit?**

*...we consider it a priority to place special emphasis on the most vulnerable groups, such as indigenous peoples, women and children, and migrant workers. It is essential to address basic needs, as these are also social, economic and cultural rights covered in the Protocol of San Salvador, such as access to food, health, housing and education.*

- Centre for International Sustainable Development Law, McGill Faculty of Law

*...el desarrollo de una sociedad inclusiva, en la que la atención a todos los sectores de la sociedad, especialmente los más vulnerables...*

- Inclusion Interamericana, Nicaragua

*Las políticas y los programas económicos y sociales deben basarse en los derechos humanos.*

2. *Institucionalizar la participación de la sociedad civil en la toma de decisiones y el diseño y evaluación de políticas.*

3. *Aumentar la inversión pública en educación por alumno, otorgar los mecanismos para una docencia con calidad y garantizar el acceso a educación de calidad a todos.*

4. *Promover el desarrollo científico-tecnológico como una herramienta para la cohesión social.*

5. *Dar acceso a salud y seguridad social y la prevención de adicciones.*

6. *Garantizar el derecho social al agua y saneamiento.*

7. *Desarrollar e incluir derechos de pueblos indígenas*

8. *Firmar y ratificar la Convención de Derechos Humanos de los Trabajadores Migrantes y sus Familias.*

- Centro Latinoamericano de la Globalidad (CELAG), Mexico

*Governments should develop and implement policies and measures to reduce extreme poverty; also, to promote economic growth among peasants in rural areas; finally to disseminate and build up the means for access to technology for development that must be in harmony with mother nature*

- Peruvian Lawyer

*Promotion of credit at reasonable rates of interest to foster small business development; assurance of the productive use of science & technology through massive investment by governments and multi-lateral organisations in pure & applied research 'capacity' of the institutions of higher learning and fostering of collaboration with the appropriate 'partners' in the private sector*

- Le Groupe Stanford, Canada

*Forgive debts to developing countries. Payback is impossible and social development is seriously hindered*

- EMCN, Canada

*Acceso garantizado a nutrición y educación de calidad.*

*\* Apoyo a la organización social cultural y productiva.*

*\* Mejoramiento y construcción de infraestructuras físicas que faciliten el desarrollo y la participación social*

- IPC - Instituto Popular de Capacitación, Colombia



*Promoting political accountability and improving the delivery of basic services, such as education and justice, while making sure that the poor are included*

- Hunter Dickinson Inc., Canada

*international migration, since it: affects and is affected by social and economic development (and the environment); can pose severe human rights problems, particularly for vulnerable groups such as women and children; and needs governments to work together to maximise its overall benefits to their societies and minimise frictions.*

- Action Canada for Population and Development

*Respeto de las culturas ancestrales, de su forma de vida y de sus conocimientos. No ocupar sus territorios, otorgamiento de títulos de propiedad y respeto a ellos.*

*- Otorgamiento de patentes a las poblaciones ancestrales por sus conocimientos y por la utilización de la biodiversidad, lo que asegurará su supervivencia.*

- SUCO, Canada

*The present hysteria about terrorism is counterproductive, it should be only one of the issues and would disappear if there were not so much poverty and structural injustice.*

- Professor Emeritus, McMaster University, Canada

*Lo básico es la justicia social, esto es en los campos alimentación, salud, trabajo, educación, enfocados estos satisfactores para todos, sin exclusión social*

*- Instituto Nacional de Apoyo a Víctimas y Estudios en Criminalidad, A.C., Mexico*

*1. Políticas de Estado comunes a nivel regional.*

*2. Intercambio de experiencias en materia de financiamiento social y apoyo privado a microempresa.*

*3. Promoción de la autogestión para el desarrollo.*

*4. Procedimientos para la focalización de ayuda social.*

- Zea La Rochelle Solutions, Ecuador

*Poverty alleviation efforts / programs should be maintained. Emphasis should be given to education - particularly at the secondary level*

- SDP Group, Canada

*A greater presence of Cdn. universities would help. NGOs have to coordinate entre si.*

- Canadian professor

*Governments should focus on identifying and addressing the health, education and other needs of the most marginalized populations, including indigenous and rural populations, poor households, adolescents and the elderly. Responses to population needs should be targeted and individualized, one model for the entire population is neither just nor cost-effective. Thus social programs must be created and administered with from a rights-based perspective that takes into account gender, ethnic, and socio-economic differences. Multilateral organizations can again best serve this process by providing the funding and the necessary technical expertise to the countries of the Americas so that they may build better and more responsive social programs.*

- PAHO

*Les priorité des gouvernements doit être la pauvreté .La migration de la campagne a la ville sans planification .*

*La discriminación social a tout niveau surtout des groupes indigenes*

- University of Chile

*a) access to social rights for all citizens -security, basic education, health.*

*b) oversight and harmonization of education and health programs.*

- Craig Petroleum, Ltd., Canada

*Governments and multilateral organizations should prioritize issues of indigenous people in Latin America. Guatemala and Bolivia are have among the lowest living standards in the hemisphere. Trade does not adequately address injustices and structural obstacles that face indigenous people in the Americas.*

- Canadian intern in Ecuador

*Provision of basic social services especially in rural areas (health facilities, water, housing)*

- University of Guyana

*Special attention should be directed towards small-scale agricultural production, rural living standards, and rural development since this is an area that suffers from the withdrawal of the state from social policies in many countries, especially Mexico. Approximately 28 million Mexicans live in extreme poverty, most of whom are located in rural areas. To prevent massive rural-urban migration and more outmigration to the US, an effort should be made to link the rural population with broad easy-access poverty-reduction programs involving communitarian participation in the decision-making process.*

- Canadian professor

*la prioridad debería ser la generación de empleo premiando, por ej., con exenciones impositivas en distintos porcentajes a las empresas que generen y mantengan determinado número de nuevos puestos de trabajo.*

- Venezuelan professor

*La calidad de la educación primaria y secundaria. Sobre este punto versa el desarrollo equitativo de cualquier sociedad. Sin educación de calidad no existe desarrollo social posible.*

- Argentine professor

*Public sector organizations need to take into consideration the potential development value generated by partnerships with private sector and NGO/CBOs. The public sector needs to develop a better understanding of the synergies between ODA and private sector investment to support community development.*

- Wayne Dunn & Associates, Canada

*Generación de mecanismos de acceso al crédito productivo, apoyados por procesos de formación empresarial y la definición precisa de mercados a los productos para los cuales se incentive la producción.*

- FUNDEMI TALITA KUMI, Guatemala

## **SOCIAL DEVELOPMENT**

**QUESTION #2** - How can these priorities be best addressed in the framework of the Summit of the Americas process? In what way or through what institutions or mechanisms can governments pursue these objectives collectively?

*A new structural mechanism is needed to ensure that this [the voices of persons with disabilities are represented at the table] happens (i.e. National Disability Councils reporting to the most senior levels of government).*

- Canadian Association for Community Living

*all countries of the Americas should ratify and implement the American Convention on Human Rights and the San Salvador Protocol, which addresses social, economic and cultural rights. One of the best ways to address all of these problems and enable the achievements of these rights is to help develop sustainable livelihoods for all in the Americas. Social development is not worthwhile if it is not sustainable. Hemispheric programmes should integrate social and environmental priorities, ensuring these can be mutually supportive.*

- Centre for International Sustainable Development Law, McGill Faculty of Law

*The Canadian government should stress these social priorities [poverty alleviation] and the same time as pressing their trade liberalization policies*

- Canadian Researcher

*Atraves del dialogo y la participacion de todos los sectores de la poblacion en torno a los grande problemas nacionales.*

- Ced Buen Pastor, Dominican Republic

*By promoting and assisting in the formulation of national plans and their implementation strategies within certain time limits and definite goals for the reduction of overall poverty.*

- Hunter Dickinson Inc., Canada

*Governments should make migration a positive factor for their relations and their peoples, and strengthen respect for migrants' human rights. They could build on the "Puebla Process", grouping Central and North American countries on migration, and the comprehensive Chapter X (on international migration) of the 1994 ICPD accepted by all the hemisphere's governments. The Summit should also encourage the area's NGOs to band together to promote migration rights.*

- Action Canada for Population and Development

*Real economic integration with goods, capital and labour free flows.*

- Centro de Estudios de la Unión Europea, Mexico

*Governments should assume the responsibility of investing in their people's health, education and basic needs (transportation, energy, water and housing) and not allow these to become commodities. The latter should only be what people can afford after meeting their most basic needs. International obligations of rich nations are crucial here. We need to reverse the flow of resources that are going from poor to rich countries at the present time. This is because of unfair trade prices*

*El gobierno... debe compartir responsabilidades, aprovechar los recursos de la sociedad civil organizada*

- Instituto Nacional de Apoyo a Víctimas y Estudios en Criminalidad, A.C., Mexico

*La inequidad de genero y la etnico racial deberian considerarse como preocupacion y ser solucionadas desde las politicas matriciales del Estado: reforma economica, tratados de libre comercio, reforma fiscal y de salud.*

- CLADEM, Mexico

*Invitando a los sectores bancarios especialmente para ponerlos junto a los organismos de crédito frente a los compromisos sociales.*

- Zea La Rochelle Solutions, Ecuador

*Instancias tripartitas (gob, soc civil, multilateral)*

*Modificación de legislaciones antidemocráticas*

- RENACE, Chile

*The emphasis should be on supporting evaluations of existing policies and programs, assessments of the results of reforms to date, and development of data and information bases that can be of service to policy maker and practitioners in the development of social development innovations.*

- SDP Group, Canada

*The SOA process provides an ideal forum for sharing best practices on the construction of population information systems that are designed to gather the data necessary to effectively identify and respond to the needs of a diverse and heterogeneous population. Data should be disaggregated by sex, ethnicity, region of residence, age and other social variables that we must understand and acknowledge before we can design health, education and other social programs that meet the needs of all.*

- PAHO

*Para reducir la pobreza se deben flexibilizar los mecanismos de accesos a créditos para el desarrollo de los países en desarrollo y se deben aliviar las deudas externas. Se deben monitorear y fiscalizar los destinos de esos fondos para evitar situaciones de corrupción y desvío de fondos.*

- CEDHA, Argentina

*La ayuda debe de ser en función a la transparencia que tengan los gobiernos. En sus sistemas de gobierno y en sus órganos electorales. A mayor transparencia mayor ayuda.*

- Consejo Civico de Instituciones de N.L. A.C., Mexico

*I would suggest that states deal with ethnic and economic social development problems by creating a hemispheric development programme, or preferably, twin development programs for the twin continents. This strategy would be a hybrid to the UN's Common Country Analysis approach and the EU strategy for admitting new members. The NAFTA countries could be the impetus behind a North American Development Programme, as could the Brazil and the Southern Cone for the South. Legal experts from Canadian First Nations and Nunavut could be asked to contribute their expertise to indigenous issues throughout the hemisphere.*

- Canadian intern in Ecuador

*Organismos regionales y hemisféricos deberían de asumir papeles de consultores para los diferentes gobiernos, extrapolando experiencias. Muy al estilo de las agencias de desarrollo como CIDA, debería de haber agencias de este tipo en países en desarrollo para ayudar a países similares en la región, intercambiando experiencias.*

- Canadian consultant

*A special delegation working on rural development should be set-up and should commission a study on the fields to acknowledge the economic situation of rural people and their needs. Further steps should include asking rural communities to submit small-scale development projects demands and efficiently channel money as part of an assistance program to where the population thinks it is needed.*

- Canadian professor

*Augmenter considérablement les échanges inter-universitaires; financer des chaires d'études sur les amériques.*

- McGill University student, Canada

*Los gobiernos deberían comprometerse a alcanzar metas comunes en términos de empleo, acceso a educación, vivienda y salud en lapsos preestablecidos -- 3 años un 3 % más, 5 años un 6 %, etc. y fijarse una revisión de las metas y los logros alcanzados para el año 2010.*

- Venezuelan professor

*acciones de apoyo a migrantes, remitentes o receptores de remesas*

- Honduran consultant

*A través de programas de cooperación y asistencia técnica no solo entre Gobiernos sino también entre instituciones educativas en todo el hemisferio. La experiencia de Canadá y EE.UU. es fundamental para llevar adelante este cometido.*

- Argentine professor

*Probably you cannot pursue basic education collectively, but the Summit of the Americas can help refocus decision-makers' attentions on the key contributions that basic schooling makes to life-long learning opportunities.*

- Venezuelan doctoral candidate

*Apoyo de la cumbre hacia la definición de mecanismos estandarizados de participación de la sociedad civil organizada y demandante hacia la negociación y diálogo con donantes.*

- FUNDEMI TALITA KUMI, Guatemala

## **DEMOCRATIC GOVERNANCE**

### **QUESTION #1 - What priorities should a) governments and b) multilateral organizations focus on at the upcoming summit?**

*it is essential for the Summit process to make provision for the inclusion, engagement and consultation of civil society, as more than just a 'validation' of government policy. Many of the social programmes, today, in the Americas, are designed and delivered by civil society groups,*

- Centre for International Sustainable Development Law, McGill Faculty of Law

*The rule of law, end of impunity, strengthening of judiciary in all Latin American countries and by Canada increasing its technical assistance in these areas bi-laterally*

- Canadian Researcher

*Dar seguimiento al compromiso de Quebec en Derechos Humanos*

2. *Trabajar por el desarme regional y la creación de un fondo internacional con recursos antes destinados a armamento.*

3. *Impulsar la reforma del Estado en América Latina*

- Centro Latinoamericano de la Globalidad (CELAG), Mexico

*Governments should focus in the promotion of civil and political rights as well economic, social and cultural rights*

- Peruvian Lawyer

*Economic & social development, especially a 'social security net'---pensions, health care etc.*

- Le Groupe Stanford, Canada

*Do not let ANY global institution supersede governments' abilities to democratically serve their populations.*

- EMCN, Canada

*Transparencia y garantía acceso a la información por parte de la ciudadanía.*

*\* Responsabilidad (accountability) publica y política tanto del sector público como privado.*

- IPC - Instituto Popular de Capacitacion, Colombia

*Por cada liberalizacion de comercio que se realice deberia asegurarse la liberalizacion de fronteras para el transito de personas de la region.*

- CLADEM, Mexico

*En el acapite de gobernabilidad democrática no se considera de manera específica los temas relativos al apoyo, cooperación e impulso a la reforma de los sistemas de justicia, transparencia e independencia del poder judicial, así como el acceso a la justicia de los grupos más vulnerables de la sociedad.*

- Bolivian Professor

*Strengthening the "new role" of the State (in a global environment with less rigid national boundaries and greater trade pressures) and developing the appropriate legal and institutional frameworks to operate in a global economic / market environment is a must. Economic reforms to date have debilitated the role of the State*

- SDP Group, Canada

*Accountability is an essential component of democratic governance that to date has not received enough attention. Multilateral organizations can play a key role in developing and strengthening accountability mechanisms that include the participation of civil society stakeholders*

- PAHO

*El acceso a la información pública y la participación de la sociedad civil en los procesos de toma de decisiones sobre el desarrollo sustentable deben ser prioridad en la cumbre.*

- CEDHA, Argentina

**Identificar países con mejores ejemplos de democracia para desarrollar modelos**

- Asoc. Dominicana para el Desarrollo de la Mujer, Inc.

*a) strengthening of decentralization, support of fiscal reform and an end corruption. An overhaul of the judicial system.*

*b) training on participatory mechanism, strengthening of anticorruption training and emphasis on accountability.*

- Florida International University, USA

*A recognition that capacity building in local-level governments is critical to foster true sustainability, and provide a meaningful foundation to attract investment and development stakeholders to a community/region.*

- Wayne Dunn & Associates, Canada

## **DEMOCRATIC GOVERNANCE**

**QUESTION #2** - How can these priorities be best addressed in the framework of the Summit of the Americas process? In what way or through what institutions or mechanisms can governments pursue these objectives collectively?

*Procedures must be strengthened, to include civil society in the Summits process, and in the sub-regional deliberations, and to recognise their contributions.*

- Centre for International Sustainable Development Law, McGill Faculty of Law

*El fortalecimiento de aquellas iniciativas que tendrán como resultado una mayor participación, debe ser un aspecto prioritario.*

- Inclusion Interamericana, Nicaragua

*These priorities should be addressed through out the intervention and the advice of the Inter-American Commission of Human Rights within its mandate, working hand to hand with the Secretary General of the OAS.*

- Peruvian Lawyer

*e debe invitar a organizaciones sociales, partidos políticos y movimientos civicos para qué junto con los gobiernos debatan y promuevan al interior de las cumbres ejes comunes y pactos de gobernabilidad democrática.*

- IPC - Instituto Popular de Capacitacion, Colombia

*Democracia partisipativa y utilizandos los tecnologuico que esta en nuestro alcancer.*

- Ced Buen Pastor, Dominican Republi

*Hacer análisis nacionales y aplicar responsablemente las medidas, no seguir los dicatados del Banco Mundial, sin tener en cuenta las prioridades de la población civil*

- SUCO, Canada

*Incorporando un discurso de seguridad humana amplio, comprensivo de los derechos al medio ambiente, a la seguridad social, a la salud, vivienda y otros.*

- CLADEM, Mexico

*Democratic governance cannot be treated independently of economic and social development in general or as a separated priority from "economic democracy". Changes are required to existing legal institutions and the strengthening the role of educational institutuons as a mechanisms to enhance economic anbd political democratic governance.*

- SDP Group, Canada

*Los jefes de Estado deben comprometerse en la negociacion de un instrumento hemisferico que consagre el derecho de acceso a la informacion publica como un pilar de la gobernabilidad democratica.*

- CEDHA, Argentina

*Latin American countries should be encouraged to participate on an international stage. The G20 is a good forum for regional powers, Argentina, Mexico, and Brazil, to increase their international profile and participate in global economic and political discussions with the powers of the West, China, India and Russia.*

- Canadian intern in Ecuador



*Un país como Canada, debido a su estatura moral dentro de la región y su calidad de no ser la super-potencia, podría organizar cursos o diplomados, a distancia via internet si fuera necesario, a fin de que los tomadores de decisiones conocieran ciencia política así como los conceptos.*

- Canadian consultant

*Programas de monitoreo de índices de transparencia y corrupción aplicados a todos los gobiernos por igual y que incidan en el otorgamiento de préstamos o en alguna otra decisión que concierna a esos gobiernos. Debe haber incentivos para los que mejoren y menores % de ayuda para los que no lo hagan.*

- Venezuelan professor

*La labor de la UPD de la OEA es muy importante. No obstante, mecanismos como la carta democrática interamericana deberían ser reforzados con instrumentos efectivos similares en materia de lucha contra la corrupción, no solo en el país donde se lleva adelante el acto de corrupción, sino también en la cotraparte que corrompe, sea esta una empresa, institución, etc.*

- Argentine professor

*Governments ought to share information on specific accountability mechanisms and implementation strategies.*

- Venezuelan doctoral candidate

*Access to Information. Laws should be developed to provide their citizens with access to government documents... and oblige government to provide those documents in a timely manner. Exclusions should be construed as narrowly as possible while protecting privacy and national security.*

*Operationalizing the Inter-American Democratic Charter... civil society has a role to play in carrying out such assessments [of democratic erosion or weakening] and advising the member states about the application of the charter...*

*Party Financing... good democratic governance calls for regulation of campaign and party finance with emphasis on disclosure of the sources, amounts and uses of that money. Reports should ideally be made public in advance of the election so voters know when they go to the polls who has funded each party and candidate...*

- The Carter Center, USA

## BEST PRACTICES

**What are the lessons learned from past activities? Can you think of any positive initiatives or examples of "best practices" that Summit participants can build on?**

*OAS consultations with civil society and the resulting Bogota Statement*

- *Inter American Committee on Education exploring how to effectively involve and engage civil society*
- *G8 commitment to inclusive education*
- *Quebec City Declaration*
- *Declaration of Managua (a civil society led initiative that is being pursued by the OAS)*
  - Canadian Association for Community Living

*... joint collaborative research, analysis and consultation, builds hemispheric ties between civil society and their governments, and strengthens capacity for hemispheric cooperation among the peoples of the Americas on an essential issue: the sustainability of their shared development path.*

- Centre for International Sustainable Development Law, McGill Faculty of Law

*La Asociación Nicaragüense para la Integración Comunitaria y la Red Juvenil en coordinación con Ética y Transparencia, impulsaron en las elecciones del año 2001, la participación de jóvenes con discapacidad en la Observación Electoral, lo cual además de sensibilizar a la sociedad Nicaragüense, se convirtió en un hecho histórico sin precedentes en la vida nacional*

- Inclusion Interamericana, Nicaragua

*The Canadian 'social security' system seems to be a good model.*

- Le Groupe Stanford, Canada

*Auditorias de la democracia en Costa Rica.*

*\* Red de Veedurías Ciudadanas en Colombia.*

*\* Presupuestos Participativos en Brasil.*

*\* Programa de mejoramiento Barrial Primed (primera Fase) en Medellin - Colombia.*

- IPC - Instituto Popular de Capacitación, Colombia

*En la procuración y administración de justicia, las experiencias más novedosas, han sido la incorporación de las víctimas o de los más vulnerables a los ordenamientos constitucionales y la legislación adjetiva, lo que ha ido posicionando paulatinamente a la víctima como sujeto de derecho, frente a los victimarios, lo cual no había existido en toda la historia del derecho. Otro aspecto que se ha observado es el logro de un mayor equilibrio en la justicia de género, así como abordar con medidas alternativas los fenómenos de la violencia intrafamiliar, entre otros.*

- Instituto Nacional de Apoyo a Víctimas y Estudios en Criminalidad, A.C., Mexico

*En los últimos años se han fortalecido algunas instituciones democráticas en la región, como los Ombudsperson. Habría que fortalecer y generalizar estas instituciones, así como la institucionalidad de género, que si bien tuvo un impulso en la primera mitad de la década del 90, se está debilitando.*

- CLADEM, Mexico

*La sociedad civil organizada es el mejor aliado de los gobiernos estos debieran incentivar la organización social*

- RENACE, Chile

*Without a comprehensive assessment framework closely linked to the processes of public policy making and to the role of donor agencies and international financial institutions, identifying "best practice" as isolated cases of micro success often serves no real purpose except for public relation purposes of the interested parties.*

- SDP Group, Canada

*Vemos con agrado la Carta Democrática Interamericana y consideramos que el art. 6 de la misma la consagra como un derecho y una responsabilidad. El acceso a la información está íntimamente ligado a la participación. Un instrumento hemisférico que trabaje tanto participación como información es vital para el hemisferio.*

- CEDHA, Argentina

*The participatory budget process of Porto Alegre, Brazil. The experiences in barrio El Salvador in Peru*

- Florida International University, USA

*see the present successful and efficient project of rural development financed by the World Bank in Indonesia. Credit to small and medium-size enterprises should also be considered as a building block for national economies.*

- Canadian professor

*L'Union Européenne offre le meilleur exemple. Plusieurs pays, comme par exemple l'Irlande, le Portugal et l'Espagne se sont énormément développés grâce à l'aide offerte par l'UE. Par ailleurs, il y a la libre circulation des personnes, puis beaucoup d'échanges sociaux entre les différentes sociétés. Évidemment, on ne pourrait pas reproduire le même modèle au niveau des Amériques, la situation est totalement différente. Il n'en demeure pas moins que nous pourrions nous inspirer des meilleures pratiques de l'UE. A-t-on pensé à inviter des spécialistes ou architectes de l'Union Européenne au Mexique pour qu'ils présentent leurs pratiques?*

- McGill University student, Canada

*The focus on best-practice is often unhelpful, because, among other problems, best practice is not always transferable from one socio-institutional context to another. Governments should focus instead on identifying worst practices - the most dysfunctional areas of policy, which can be most productively and easily remedied. Marginal efficiency gains will be far greater under this approach.*

- Venezuelan doctoral candidate

*Las medidas de confianza mutua entre Ecuador y Perú. Comisiones Binacionales. Proyectos conjuntos.*

- FLACSO, Ecuador

## GENERAL COMMENTS

It is not possible to be successful in any of the three thematic areas if persons with disabilities are excluded. Civil society needs to be working with governments to ensure that all marginalized groups have the capacity for economic security, the necessary tools and resources for inclusive social development, and the access to democratic processes.

- Canadian Association for Community Living

No podemos hablar de Democracia, mientras existan grupos segregados. Debemos aunar esfuerzos a fin de hacer realidad una sociedad inclusiva, en la que prime la igualdad, equidad y justicia social.

- Inclusion Interamericana, Nicaragua

We must think in terms of investment in people as being more important than investment in equipment, instalations etc, and these investments need not be only thought of in economic terms but also in long term safety and security terms. Now that the cold war is over, it is time to look dispassionately at the advantages and disadvantages of different political systems and try to find the best mix for each situation.

- Professor Emeritus, McMaster University, Canada

La sociedad civil ha estado demandando desde hace bastante tiempo un instrumento vinculante y hemisferico sobre el acceso a la informacion publica y la participacion en la toma de decisiones. Los Estados deben escuchar estas peticiones y obrar al respecto.

- CEDHA, Argentina

As an incentive, financial rewards should be given to governments that complies with good democratic governance ( i.e. foreign debt reduction ). The better they comply, the greater the reduction.

LAMCO, Canada