

FOIA MARKER

This is not a textual record. This is used as an administrative marker by the Clinton Presidential Library Staff.

Folder Title:

Santiago, Chile Summit of the Americas [3]

Staff Office-Individual:

Special Envoy for the Americas-McLarty, Thomas (Mack)

Original OA/ID Number:

CF 1045

Row:	Section:	Shelf:	Position:	Stack:
26	6	7	3	V

Withdrawal/Redaction Sheet

Clinton Library

DOCUMENT NO. AND TYPE	SUBJECT/TITLE	DATE	RESTRICTION
001. cable	Re: Summit of the Americas and Core Labor Standards (2 pages)	03/04/1998	P1/b(1)
002a. memo	Patrick DeSouza to James Steinberg, re: Your Meeting on the Santiago Summit (5 pages)	03/20/1998	P1/b(1)
002b. list	Preliminary List of State Visit Deliverables (1 page)	ca. 03/1998	P1/b(1)

COLLECTION:

Clinton Presidential Records
Special Envoy for the Americas
McLarty, Thomas (Mack)
OA/Box Number: CF 1045

FOLDER TITLE:

Santiago, Chile Summit of the Americas [3]

2009-1155-F

ke2591

RESTRICTION CODES

Presidential Records Act - [44 U.S.C. 2204(a)]

- P1 National Security Classified Information [(a)(1) of the PRA]
- P2 Relating to the appointment to Federal office [(a)(2) of the PRA]
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C. Closed in accordance with restrictions contained in donor's deed of gift.

PRM. Personal record misfile defined in accordance with 44 U.S.C. 2201(3).

RR. Document will be reviewed upon request.

Freedom of Information Act - [5 U.S.C. 552(b)]

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DECLASSIFIED E.O. 13526
Department of State Guidelines
September 11, 2006

By KOE NARA Date 06/14
2009-1155-F

'97 JUL 15 P3 48

WASHFAX RECEIPT
DEPARTMENT OF STATE

B

S/S #

13 MAR '98 15:57

MESSAGE NO. 007540 CLASSIFICATION Confidential No. Pages 2
FROM: Mark Wells ARA/EPSC 7-0742 3248
(Officer name) (Office symbol) (Extension) (Room number)

MESSAGE DESCRIPTION

TO: (Agency)

WILL PICK-UP:
DELIVER TO:

Extension

Room No.

WH SITROOM

ERIC FARNSWORTH
Special Envoy's Office

6-7581

NEOB

OR: CLEARANCE ☐ INFORMATION ☒ PER REQUEST ☐ COMMENT ☐

REMARKS: Per your request

S/S Officer: _____

Mark
Nelson
Doe

Withdrawal/Redaction Marker

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March 14, 1998

MEMORANDUM FOR MACK McLARTY

FROM: STEVE RONNEL

SUBJECT: RUN UP TO SANTIAGO

cc: all McLarty staff

Based on staff discussions and your feedback, here is a draft ordering of events in the weeks leading up to the Santiago trip. It includes media, policy, and diplomatic outreach, as well as four major speeches (key message in parenthesis): IDB March 26 (rule of law), Princeton April 6 (education), Freedom Forum April 8 (deepen democracy), and the Nat'l Press Club April 9 (second generation reforms).

We believe you should refrain from scheduling additional major speeches during this period to hold time for internal planning or additional outreach. Also, you should focus on a possible Albright Caribbean trip and the possible addition of Lima, Quito, or Mexico City to your Santiago SIRG trip.

Week of March 22 - 28

Mon, March 23:	Open Day
Tue, March 24:	Wise Persons Event - WH Roosevelt Rm (EF) To Atlanta: Billy Payne evening reception
Wed, March 25:	Atlanta Journal-Constitution (SR) Tom Johnson / CNN Spanish (SR) Carter Ctr. Lunch (EF)
Thurs, March 26:	Open Day (Possible columnist lunch - Tom Friedman, New York Times) IDB Judicial Ctrs Dinner (AMS)
Fri, March 27:	Open Day (Possible columnist lunch - Steven Rosenfeld, Wash Post) McLarty / Steinberg meeting (t) (NC)

Week of March 29 - April 4

Sun, March 29: HOLD FOR TRAVEL
 Options: Lima, Quito, Mexico City

Mon, March 30: HOLD FOR TRAVEL

Tue, March 31: HOLD FOR TRAVEL

Wed, April 1: HOLD FOR TRAVEL (SANTIAGO)

Thurs, April 2: HOLD FOR TRAVEL (SANTIAGO / RETURN TO DC OVERNIGHT)

Fri, April 3: McLarty / Steinberg meeting (t) (NC)

Week of April 5 - 11

Mon, April 6: Princeton Speech (Possible Albright Caribbean trip) (EF)

Tue, April 7: Open Day

Wed, April 8: Freedom Forum Press Freedoms event and lunch (SR)
 Round table with Pundits (with Berger) (SR)

Thurs, April 9: National Press Club lunch speech (SR)

Fri, April 10: Good Friday

Week of April 12 - 18

Mon, April 13: Blair House reception with Hemispheric Diplomatic Corps (NC/EF)

Tue, April 14: White House briefing room (t) (SR)

Wed, April 15: Depart for Santiago (set up speech)

FEB 06 '98 04:19PM

Show: MORNING EDITION> <Date: FEBRUARY 06, 1998> <Time: 10:00>
<Head: Bolivian Legal System>
<Sect: News; International>
<Tran: 020604NP.210> <Type: PACKAGE> <Time: 11:24> Part 1 of 1

BOB EDWARDS, HOST: In Bolivia, the government has taken major steps toward addressing a problem common to many developing nations: an unjust justice system. Antiquated laws have been scrapped and the state has undertaken initiatives to ensure legal protection for poor people in trouble with the law. But the effort to modernize Bolivia's legal system is far from over.

From La Paz, NPR's Anne Garrels prepared this report.

SOUNDBITE OF A CROWD AT JAIL

ANNE GARRELS, NPR REPORTER: Every Saturday, a team of idealistic lawyers who work as federal public defenders visits the rundown San Pedro (ph) jail for men. The prison chapel is their office and the line of clients extends way out into the crowded courtyard.

The man behind the legal reforms in Bolivia is Rene Blatman (ph), justice minister from 1994 until presidential elections last summer brought in a new administration.

RENE BLATMAN, FORMER BOLIVIAN JUSTICE MINISTER: The criminal law was used to abuse poor people. So, you want how long you stayed in jail depended on how poor you were. The poorer, the longer.

GARRELS: Before Blatman created this corps of overworked defenders, most indigent prisoners had no lawyers at all. And even when they did, lawyers could do little to buck inhumane laws.

Debtors, no matter how small the sum they owed, were routinely locked up. Poor people could stay in prison indefinitely, 10, even 20 years, until they could somehow pay their bills. And even when proven innocent, poor people would stay in jail if they couldn't come up with a fee required for the issuance of the not guilty verdict.

BLATMAN: It was unbelievable.

GARRELS: Blatman says pressure from the U.S. against drug trafficking encouraged tough laws that also punished the innocent and the poor. Once prosecutors filed drug charges, the judge had to proceed to trial regardless of the merits. And even if found innocent, prisoners remained in prison while prosecutors made mandatory appeals. There was no bail and people languished in jail.

These laws were designed, among other things, to prevent corrupt judges from protecting drug lords. But Blatman says it simply encouraged police and prosecutors to extort money from people who knew that if arrested on drug charges they would be in jail for years however innocent they might be.

BLATMAN: It's a fantastic way to get money.

GARRELS: When Rene Blatman took office, Bolivia had Latin America's highest proportion of prison inmates awaiting judgment.

BLATMAN: We had the constitution where it says that nobody should be imprisoned without trial, but we had 91 percent of people without trial in prison. And we had the problem, I think, in Bolivia and in most South American countries is that you have a dichotomy between what says in the constitution and what actually happens in the day-by-day.

GARRELS: He says he merely tried to remove absurd laws, to do reasonable things that any person with common sense would understand. If Kafka had been born in Bolivia, Blatman says, he would have been considered a realist.

Despite the magnitude of the task, Blatman's justice ministry pushed through a host of laws providing speedier trials, the abolition of prison for debtors, and the reestablishment of the presumption of innocence. Anti drug laws were modified to empower judges to reject unworthy cases. And if declared innocent of drug charges, a person no longer has to wait in prison for the appeal process to run its lengthy course.

Blatman says he brought method to madness.

BLATMAN: I had a meeting with some prisoners -- with the delegates of the prisoners. I said, "look, if you have made crime and the judge says four years, it's four years." And they didn't believe it. They didn't believe it.

GARRELS: By the time Blatman left office last summer, Bolivia had Latin America's second-lowest percentage of untried prisoners. The jail population was down from 6,000 to 3,000.

But the new government is examining his reforms.

DR. JOSE ORIAS (PH), DIRECTOR OF BOLIVIA'S PENAL SYSTEM, SPEAKING IN SPANISH

GARRELS: Dr. Jose Orias, director of Bolivia's penal system, says some of the new laws are open to abuse, that without the fear of jail the number of debtors will increase, that people will jump bail.

Blatman counters that protection for the poor outweighs any abuses and he dismisses concerns about bail.

BLATMAN: The most interesting thing is that through this law the poor people were benefited and they accomplished all the things the judge said. And only 7 percent didn't accomplish -- they disappeared or something like that -- which was extraordinary.

GARRELS: Blatman was affectionately known as Batman by Bolivians, and his popularity reached the point last summer he was drafted to run for president. But this former law professor isn't cut out for the rough and tumble of politics, let alone Latin American

FEB 06 '98 04:20PM

P.4/4

politics. He leaves a work in progress.

I'm Anne Garrels, NPR News, La Paz, Bolivia.

<Dateline: Anne Garrels, La Paz, Bolivia; Bob Edwards, Washington, DC>
<High: NPR's Anne Garrels reports from Bolivia on the efforts by a former justice minister to reform the country's legal system by trying to offer legal aid for the poor and seek the abolition of debtors prison.>

<Spec: Bolivia; Latin America; Government; Politics; Law>

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<End Story: Bolivian Legal System>



Daniel Lesmez
03/19/98 06:08:36 PM

Record Type: Record

To: See the distribution list at the bottom of this message

cc:

Subject: SOA...

This is to follow up on the meeting that Nelson called, upon his return from Cartagena de Indias, to follow up on SOA deliverables.

Here is the update on where things stand on the following issues:

1. Climate Change: Amb. Brown has drafted a memorandum on progress/language agreed to at the SIRG on CC, which awaits changes/clearance by CEQ. Intention is to have final draft of Memo to Mack and have a note attached to it from Mack to be forwarded to the President (copies to VP and Berger).
2. Environment Coverage under Current SOA Baskets/Initiatives: Amb. Brown agreed to put a one pager together that describes how the environment relates to those initiatives that indicate an environmental component, which could be converted into a fact sheet to be handed out in Santiago.
3. OAS Secretary General Report on Santa Cruz Summit: Kirk Rogers, the Secretary's Adviser on Sustainable Development, stated that the Chilean's have not made a decision on whether Gaviria will be allowed to give a verbal report on the S.C. Summit. The report is formally being released by Gaviria at an OAS meeting in Argentina next week on Integral Development. Copies of this report will be made available at the SOA. I shared our view with Kirk that the OAS should issue a press release at Santiago, which would help diffuse any attempts to characterize commitments on the environment to be less than what they are. Kirk was amenable to our request agreeing to discuss this with the OAS press shop.
4. Global Climate Change Event: The advance team reported on several possible message events during the State visit Thursday afternoon, of which the one that seemed to include the "catchiest" message was to visit a new natural gas plant in Santiago built by Bechtel with GE Turbines and natural gas from Argentina (message: trade/energy cooperation, US jobs, clean energy/climate change, energy efficiency/modern technology). (D. Humphrey 586-6832)
5. Labor/Workers' Rights: As suspected, there is no language on Labor/Trade or on Workers' Rights included in the proposed Summit Declaration and Plan of Action. If there is to be any hope of getting language included for Santiago, it will require, according to State, a visit by a high level US delegation to Mexico to meet with Zedillo. This visit should take place next week, to allow enough time to circulate any proposed language, assuming an agreement, to the other capitals. I would suggest that Mack have an IWG to have clear guidance on the US position. Labor issues do not have to be directly linked to trade policy, which I believe would be the prevailing opinion coming out of an IWG. However, DOL is not quite on board with this position. What I am suggesting here is something analogous to the way the environment and sustainable development has been dealt with, by having a follow-on Summit as was done with the Santa Cruz Summit.

6. Education Event/ Summit Declaration: I'll consult with Eric, upon his return tomorrow on the Youth Summit. Chances at this point appear to be less than 50%. I have reviewed the Summit Declaration more carefully, and I'm working with USAID and DOE on an introductory paragraph for the Action Plan that captures everything that is currently stated in it succinctly.
7. Hemispheric Cooperation/A Country Funds: A memorandum was sent by Mark Schneider to Mack, Steinberg, Dobbins and Davidow on March 13th, updating them on the progress made at the margins of the SIRG on this issue. It is not intended to be either a multilateral fund or a donor fund. Instead, it is a cooperation fund that each country will pony up to specifically address summit issues, while establishing a mechanism for the more advance countries to exchange views on lessons learned and meet once a year for more formal dialogues. The US would be part of this group, but the only country that includes funds for foreign assistance under this cooperation initiative.
8. Poverty Alleviation Visual: Atwood will not be able to attend the Summit. He will be with the President for the Africa trip, and will be attending a meeting in Paris right after he returns from Africa. He has other commitments during the Summit dates, which will not allow him to attend the Summit. Mark Schneider is interested in being on the delegation, and is looking at possible poverty alleviation message events in Santiago.

Message Sent To:

Nelson W. Cunningham/WHO/EOP
Eric Farnsworth/WHO/EOP
Ana Maria Salazar/WHO/EOP
Carl Lingenfelter/WHO/EOP
Steven J. Ronnel/WHO/EOP

March 19, 1998

MEMORANDUM FOR THOMAS F. McLARTY

FROM: Richard C. Brown
Senior Summit Coordinator

David B. Sandalow
Council on Environmental Quality/National Security Council

SUBJECT: Santiago -- Climate Change/Environment

The Santiago Summit will address environment issues in several important ways. In addition, we are pursuing opportunities for progress on these issues in connection with the Chile state visit. At your request, this memorandum briefly describes our environmental agenda in Santiago, noting some key challenges.

I. Santiago Summit

Environment issues appear throughout the Santiago documents. Perhaps most important, the Santiago Plan of Action will include a section on climate change. The section calls on Summit countries to work toward the goals of the Kyoto Convention and begin fleshing out the Clean Development Mechanism. The Plan of Action also includes a clean energy initiative, introduced by the region's Energy Ministers. The initiative seeks to address regulatory and other barriers to clean energy development in the hemisphere.

Indeed, environmental action items are woven throughout the Action Plan. The education package, for example, contains provisions to include environmental stewardship in school curricula throughout the hemisphere. Purer drinking water and environmentally sound infrastructure projects are also highlighted. The extent to which trade and the environment are addressed will be determined at the San Jose Ministerial.

Wray In addition, the leader's agenda for the Summit includes a broad discussion on sustainable development, focusing on follow-up to the 65 initiatives approved at the Santa Cruz Summit Conference on Sustainable Development in December, 1996. OAS Secretary General Gaviria's written status report on Santa Cruz will kick off the discussion.

Nevertheless, we face an "everywhere but nowhere" problem on environment issues at Santiago. In contrast to Miami, where sustainable development was one of four major themes, neither environment nor sustainable development are identified as themes in the Santiago documents. This is in part because of the

separate summit conference devoted solely to these issues, but we will need careful communications work to underscore the importance of these issues in our hemispheric dialogue as the Santiago Summit approaches.

II. Chile State Visit

We are currently pursuing several environmental opportunities in connection with the Chile state visit. Most important, we are exploring whether Chile might indicate a willingness to take on commitments under the climate treaty (as Argentina did in the Declaration of Bariloche). State Department climate negotiators will be in Chile next week. In addition, we are exploring a possible event at a power plant recently retrofitted with clean energy technology.

We hope this is helpful and greatly appreciate your support on these issues. If you further questions, please let us know.

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2:00 pm-
2:45 pm

Embassy Event
US Embassy
Closed Press

3:30 pm (T)

Depart Santiago en route Temuco, Chile
[flight time: 1 hour]

Potus

with

*Note: Temuco/Pucon is not confirmed at this point. If not,
may spend the afternoon/evening in Santiago and return
the First Lady on the overnight flight.*

4:30 pm (T)

Arrive Temuco, Chile

4:40 pm (T)

Depart Tenuco Airport via Marine One en route Pacun, Chile
[flight time: 30 minutes]

logistical

hour drive

*Note: Helicopters are not confirmed at this point due to
questions. If helos are not an option, than it is an 1 ½
between Terpuco Airport and the town of Pucon.*

5:10 pm (T)

Arrive Pucon Landing Zone

5:40 pm (T)

Depart Pacun Landing Zone en route Hotel Cabin

5:55 pm

Arrive Hotel Cabin

TBD

OTR Dinner with the First Lady

RON

(T)

HOTEL CABIN - PACUN, CHILE

MONDAY, APRIL 20TH

TBD

(T)

Down for the Day and Evening

TBD

Depart Pacun via Marine One en route Temuco Airport
[flight time: 30 minutes]

TBD

Arrive Temuco Airport

TBD Depart Temuco en route Santiago
[flight time: 1 hour]

TBD Arrive Santiago

TBD Plane Change

TBD Depart Santiago en route Washington
[flight time: 10 hours]

RON AIR FORCE ONE

TUESDAY, APRIL 21ST

TBD Arrive Washington

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Summit of the Americas

SUMMIT OF THE AMERICAS: SANTIAGO

The Santiago Summit focuses on a "Second Generation" of political and economic reforms key to effective responses to the development challenges facing the hemisphere.

The transcendent nature of education and its critical importance to the second generation of economic and political reforms is a main theme of the Summit.

Sustainable development, which includes environmental initiatives that were agreed to in Miami and further elaborated upon at Santa Cruz, are not a focus of the Santiago Summit.

Second Generation of Political Reforms: aimed at guaranteeing full participation in the political life of the nation.

Concrete measures to attain this goal include a series of important elements. Of highest priority are:

A. Strengthened Rule of Law to guarantee that all individuals have the right to due process under the law. Focus is on the establishment of fair, impartial and independent judiciary. Others emphases should include the right to a speedy trial and legal equality for men and women.

B. Importance of decentralization and extension of democracy to local and subnational governments Emphasis is given to: direct elections of local officials, increased authority for raising revenue locally, increased responsibility for appropriate government functions such as the provision of social services, and improved capacity at the local level to assume these new responsibilities.

Other concrete measures requiring increased attention include:

C. Creation of conditions for a vibrant civil society with specific attention to: access to information, opportunity to participate in decision-making, and the establishment of clear procedures for seeking redress.

D. Efforts to ensure freedom of thought and expression. Special emphasis is given to the creation of a free press and the establishment of an Ombudsmen function at the IIDH.

"Second Generation" Economic Reforms which include completion of the macroeconomic foundation and further steps toward economic integration of the hemisphere. The Santiago Summit underscore

the need to remove barriers that deny the poor access to economic opportunity. These measures include:

- A. Increased access to credit and other financial services
- B. Access to secure title to land and other property.

In support of the above efforts to remove barriers to greater participation of the poor in the economic life of their nations, the Summit also focuses on efforts that:

- C. Ensure that the poor have access to quality health care
- D. Ensure workers as access to decent wages and working conditions.
- E. Promote gender equality and discrimination tht affects specific segments of the society including indigenous peoples and other minorities.

Transcendant Nature of Education: There is a consensus that education is vital for economic growth, social advance and deepening of democratic trends. Problems that plague education throughout the hemisphere stem from a common et of issues including the need to:

- A. Strengthen the teaching profession.
- B. Assure adequate investments at the primary and secondary level to meet the goals of the Summit.
- C. Provide local communities with more control over schools.
- D. Establish standards for educational performance and monitor progress against those standards.

Summit of the Americas

Declaration of Principles

Partnership for Development and Prosperity: Democracy, Free Trade and Sustainable Development in the Americas

The elected Heads of State and Government of the Americas are committed to advance the prosperity, democratic values and institutions, and security of our Hemisphere. For the first time in history, the Americas are a community of democratic societies. Although faced with differing development challenges, the Americas are united in pursuing prosperity through open markets, hemispheric integration, and sustainable development. We are determined to consolidate and advance closer bonds of cooperation and to transform our aspirations into concrete realities.

We reiterate our firm adherence to the principles of international law and the purposes and principles enshrined in the United Nations Charter and in the Charter of the Organization of American States (OAS), including the principles of the sovereign equality of states, non-intervention, self-determination, and the peaceful resolution of disputes. We recognize the heterogeneity and diversity of our resources and cultures, just as we are convinced that we can advance our shared interests and values by building strong partnerships.

To Preserve and Strengthen the Community of Democracies of the Americas

The Charter of the OAS establishes that representative democracy is indispensable for the stability, peace and development of the region. It is the sole political system which guarantees respect for human rights and the rule of law; it safeguards cultural diversity, pluralism, respect for the rights of minorities, and peace within and among nations. Democracy is based, among other fundamentals, on free and transparent elections and includes the right of all citizens to participate in government. Democracy and development reinforce one another.

We reaffirm our commitment to preserve and strengthen our democratic systems for the benefit of all people of the Hemisphere. We will work through the appropriate bodies of the OAS to strengthen democratic institutions and promote and defend constitutional democratic rule, in accordance with the OAS Charter. We endorse OAS efforts to enhance peace and the democratic, social, and economic stability of the region.

We recognize that our people earnestly seek greater responsiveness and efficiency from our respective governments. Democracy is strengthened by the modernization of the state, including reforms that streamline operations, reduce and simplify government rules and procedures, and

undertakings of each of our nations and the subregional trade arrangements in our Hemisphere. We will build on existing subregional and bilateral arrangements in order to broaden and deepen hemispheric economic integration and to bring the agreements together.

Aware that investment is the main engine for growth in the Hemisphere, we will encourage such investment by cooperating to build more open, transparent and integrated markets. In this regard, we are committed to create strengthened mechanisms that promote and protect the flow of productive investment in the Hemisphere, and to promote the development and progressive integration of capital markets.

To advance economic integration and free trade, we will work, with cooperation and financing from the private sector and international financial institutions, to create a hemispheric infrastructure. This process requires a cooperative effort in fields such as telecommunications, energy and transportation, which will permit the efficient movement of the goods, services, capital, information and technology that are the foundations of prosperity.

We recognize that despite the substantial progress in dealing with debt problems in the Hemisphere, high foreign debt burdens still hinder the development of some of our countries.

We recognize that economic integration and the creation of a free trade area will be complex endeavors, particularly in view of the wide differences in the levels of development and size of economies existing in our Hemisphere. We will remain cognizant of these differences as we work toward economic integration in the Hemisphere. We look to our own resources, ingenuity, and individual capacities as well as to the international community to help us achieve our goals.

To Eradicate Poverty And Discrimination In Our Hemisphere

It is politically intolerable and morally unacceptable that some segments of our populations are marginalized and do not share fully in the benefits of growth. With an aim of attaining greater social justice for all our people, we pledge to work individually and collectively to improve access to quality education and primary health care and to eradicate extreme poverty and illiteracy. The fruits of democratic stability and economic growth must be accessible to all, without discrimination by race, gender, national origin or religious affiliation.

In observance of the International Decade of the World's Indigenous People, we will focus our energies on improving the exercise of democratic rights and the access to social services by indigenous people and their communities.

Aware that widely shared prosperity contributes to hemispheric stability, lasting peace and democracy, we acknowledge our common interest in creating employment opportunities that improve the incomes, wages and working conditions of all our people. We will invest in people so that individuals throughout the Hemisphere have the opportunity to realize their full potential.

and organizations in both our national and regional efforts, thus strengthening the partnership between governments and society.

* * * * *

Our thirty-four nations share a fervent commitment to democratic practices, economic integration, and social justice. Our people are better able than ever to express their aspirations and to learn from one another. The conditions for hemispheric cooperation are propitious. Therefore, on behalf of all our people, in whose name we affix our signatures to this Declaration, we seize this historic opportunity to create a Partnership for Development and Prosperity in the Americas.

Summit of the Americas

Plan of Action

The heads of state and government participating in the 1994 Summit of the Americas in Miami, Florida, desirous of furthering the broad objectives set forth in their Declaration of Principles and mindful of the need for practical progress on the vital tasks of enhancing democracy, promoting development, achieving economic integration and free trade, improving the lives of their people, and protecting the natural environment for future generations, affirm their commitment to this Plan of Action.

I. PRESERVING AND STRENGTHENING THE COMMUNITY OF DEMOCRACIES OF THE AMERICAS

1. Strengthening Democracy

The strengthening, effective exercise and consolidation of democracy constitute the central political priority of the Americas. The Organization of American States (OAS) is the principal hemispheric body for the defense of democratic values and institutions; among its essential purposes is to promote and consolidate representative democracy, with due respect to the principle of non-intervention. The OAS has adopted multilateral procedures to address the problems created when democratic order has been interrupted unconstitutionally. In order to prevent such crises, the OAS needs to direct more effort toward the promotion of democratic values and practices and to the social and economic strengthening of already-established democratic regimes.

Governments will:

- Give expeditious consideration to ratifying the Cartagena de Indias, Washington and Managua Protocols to the OAS Charter, if they have not already done so.
- Strengthen the dialogue among social groups and foster grass roots participation in problem solving at the local level.
- Support efforts by the OAS to promote democracy by:
 - ◊ Encouraging exchanges of election-related technologies and assisting national electoral organizations, at the request of the interested state.
 - ◊ Strengthening the Unit for the Promotion of Democracy so that it can provide assistance at the request of the interested state on such matters as legislative and judicial processes, government reforms (including administration of justice, technical modernization of national legislative bodies, simplification of government regulations and promotion of

- Undertake all measures necessary to guarantee the rights of children, and, where they have not already done so, give serious consideration to ratifying the United Nations Convention on the Rights of the Child.
- Guarantee the protection of the human rights of all migrant workers and their families.
- Take the necessary steps to remedy inhumane conditions in prisons and to minimize the number of pretrial detainees.
- Review training curricula for law enforcement agents to ensure that they adequately cover proper treatment of suspects and detainees as well as relations with the community.
- Exchange experiences on protection of human rights at the national level and, where possible, cooperate in the development of law enforcement and security force training or other programs to reduce the potential for human rights violations.
- Call on the OAS and the Inter-American Development Bank (IDB) to establish or to reinforce programs, as appropriate, to support national projects for the promotion and observance of human rights in the Western Hemisphere.
- Further strengthen the Inter-American Commission on Human Rights and the Inter-American Court of Human Rights.

3. Invigorating Society/Community Participation

A strong and diverse civil society, organized in various ways and sectors, including individuals, the private sector, labor, political parties, academics, and other non-governmental actors and organizations, gives depth and durability to democracy. Similarly, a vigorous democracy requires broad participation in public issues. Such activities should be carried out with complete transparency and accountability, and to this end a proper legal and regulatory framework should be established to include the possibility of obtaining technical and financial support, including from private sources.

Governments will:

- Review the regulatory framework for non-governmental actors with a view to facilitating their operations and promoting their ability to receive funds. This review will emphasize the management and oversight of resources as well as transparency and the accountability to society of said actors.
- Take steps to improve the participation in social activities and initiatives of groups traditionally marginalized, including women, youth, indigenous people and the extremely poor.
- Exchange progress reports on activities in the civil society area at the 1996 Summit Conference on Sustainable Development in Bolivia.

- Develop mechanisms of cooperation in the judicial and banking areas to make possible rapid and effective response in the international investigation of corruption cases.
- Give priority to strengthening government regulations and procurement, tax collection, the administration of justice and the electoral and legislative processes, utilizing the support of the IDB and other international financial institutions where appropriate.
- Develop within the OAS, with due regard to applicable treaties and national legislation, a hemispheric approach to acts of corruption in both the public and private sectors that would include extradition and prosecution of individuals so charged, through negotiation of a new hemispheric agreement or new arrangements within existing frameworks for international cooperation.

6. Combating the Problem of Illegal Drugs and Related Crimes

The problems of illegal drug and related criminal activities pose grave threats to the societies, free market economies, and democratic institutions of the Hemisphere. Drug use imposes enormous social costs; drug money and income are net drains on economic growth; and drug lords and criminal organizations endanger the security of our people through corruption, intimidation, and violence. While drug trafficking continues to be a significant source of illegal funds, the money laundering industry increasingly deals with the proceeds of all types of criminal activity. An integrated and balanced approach that includes respect for national sovereignty is essential to confront all aspects of these problems. For these reasons, a broad coordinated hemispheric strategy to reduce drug use and production, including new enforcement methods that can disrupt drug trafficking and money laundering networks and prosecute those engaged in such activities, is required. In this context, governments note the work of the 1992 San Antonio Summit, endorse the efforts of the Inter-American Commission on Drug Abuse Control, and agree to work together to formulate a counter-narcotics strategy for the 21st Century.

Governments will:

- Ratify the 1988 United Nations Convention Against the Illicit Traffic of Narcotics and Psychotropic Substances and make it a criminal offense to launder the proceeds of all serious crimes.
- Enact legislation to permit the freezing and forfeiture of the proceeds of money laundering and consider the sharing of forfeited assets among governments.
- As agreed by ministers and representatives of Caribbean and Latin American governments in the Kingston Declaration, November 5-6, 1992, implement the recommendations of the Caribbean Financial Action Task Force on Money Laundering and work to adopt the Model Regulations of the Inter-American Commission on Drug Abuse Control (CICAD).

- Promote bilateral and subregional agreements with the aim of prosecuting terrorists and penalizing terrorist activities within the context of the protection of human rights and fundamental freedoms.
- Convene a special conference of the OAS on the prevention of terrorism.
- Reaffirm the importance of the extradition treaties ratified by the states of the Hemisphere, and note that these treaties will be strictly complied with as an expression of the political will of governments, in accordance with international law and domestic legislation.

8. Building Mutual Confidence

The expansion and consolidation of democracy in the Americas provide an opportunity to build upon the peaceful traditions and the cooperative relationships that have prevailed among the countries of the Western Hemisphere. Our aim is to strengthen the mutual confidence that contributes to the economic and social integration of our peoples.

Governments will:

- Support actions to encourage a regional dialogue to promote the strengthening of mutual confidence, preparing the way for a regional conference on confidence-building measures in 1995, which Chile has offered to host.

II. PROMOTING PROSPERITY THROUGH ECONOMIC INTEGRATION AND FREE TRADE

9. Free Trade in the Americas

1) While pursuing economic integration and free trade in the Hemisphere, we reinforce our strong commitment to multilateral rules and disciplines. We endorse full and rapid implementation of the Uruguay Round, active multilateral negotiations in the World Trade Organization, bilateral and subregional trade agreements, and other trade arrangements that are consistent with the provisions of the GATT/WTO and that do not raise barriers to other nations.

2) Extraordinary achievements have been made by countries of the Hemisphere in trade liberalization and subregional integration. Free trade and increased economic integration are key factors for sustainable development. This will be furthered as we strive to make our trade liberalization and environmental policies mutually supportive, taking into account efforts undertaken by the GATT/WTO and other international organizations. As economic integration in the Hemisphere proceeds, we will further secure the observance and promotion of worker rights, as defined by appropriate international conventions. We will avoid disguised restrictions on trade, in accordance with the GATT/WTO and other international obligations.

3) We will strive to maximize market openness through high levels of discipline as we build upon existing agreements in the Hemisphere. We also will strive for balanced and

- January 1995 o Initiation of work programs and establishment of schedules in the fora in paragraph 6 and in the Special Committee on Trade.
- June 1995 o Meeting of Ministers responsible for trade.
- preliminary report on status of work in the fora described in paragraph 6.
 - preliminary Special Committee on Trade report.
 - areas for immediate consideration.
- March 1996 o Meeting of Ministers responsible for trade.
- final report to ministers by the Special Committee on Trade.
 - final reports to ministers from the fora described in paragraph 6.
 - timetable for further work.

10. Capital Markets Development and Liberalization

The availability of capital at competitive rates is essential to finance private sector investment—a vital ingredient in economic development. Developing, liberalizing and integrating financial markets domestically and internationally, increasing transparency, and establishing sound, comparable supervision and regulation of banking and securities markets will help to reduce the cost of capital by enhancing investor and depositor confidence.

Governments will:

- Form a Committee on Hemispheric Financial Issues to examine steps to promote the liberalization of capital movements and the progressive integration of capital markets, including, if deemed appropriate, the negotiation of common guidelines on capital movements that would provide for their progressive liberalization.
- Prepare, in cooperation with the Inter-American Development Bank, a comprehensive list of national capital regulations in order to promote transparency and support the discussions in the Committee on Hemispheric Financial Issues.
- Support the cooperative endeavors of the Association of Latin American and Caribbean Bank Supervisors and the Council of Securities Regulators of the Americas to provide sound

energy sector, especially including those pertaining to the enhancement of efficiency in the use of energy and to non-conventional renewable energy.

- ◊ Cooperation to promote capital investment and to foster the use of innovative financial mechanisms to increase investment in the energy sector and the enhancement of efficiency in the use of energy and non-conventional renewable energy, in accordance with each country's legislation and developmental needs.
- ◊ Promotion of the use of efficient and non-polluting energy technologies, both conventional and renewable, leading to a higher degree of knowledge and technical expertise in this area.
- ◊ Consideration of the enhancement of ongoing efforts to establish electric and other energy facilities in accordance with domestic regulatory frameworks and, where appropriate, under sub-regional agreements.

* This initiative is integrally linked with the Partnership for Sustainable Energy Use item.

13. Telecommunications and Information Infrastructure

A country's information infrastructure--telecommunications, information technology, and broadcasting--is an essential component of political, economic, social and cultural development. The information infrastructure development needs in the Americas are immense. The governments of the Americas intend to meet these needs by engaging in multiple actions, where consistent with their respective governing laws, such as: encouraging private sector investment to increase participation in the telecommunications and information infrastructure sectors; promoting competition; implementing flexible regulatory regimes; stimulating diversity of content, including cultural and linguistic diversity; providing access to information networks for service and information providers; and ensuring universal service, so that the benefits of the information infrastructure will be available to all members of our societies.

Governments will:

- Engage in ongoing discussions at the international level of the actions referred to above and endeavor to take those actions in their own countries, taking account of domestic conditions and circumstances.
- Undertake efforts to make government information more publicly available via electronic means.
- Review the availability and interoperability of connections to international networks that facilitate trade, improve education and improve access to health care.
- Encourage major universities, libraries, hospitals and government agencies to have access to these networks, building on the work of the OAS Hemisphere-Wide Inter-University Scientific and Technological Information Network.

- Stimulate greater S&T interaction in the Hemisphere and support efforts already undertaken in other fora, including the Inter-American Institute for Global Change Research, and the International Research Institute for Climate Prediction. Governments will serve to advance and communicate new initiatives such as the Global Learning and Observations to Benefit the Environment (GLOBE) program.
- Confirm their interest in participating in new initiatives driven by a demand from private sector and non-government interests in technological opportunities.
- Confirm their national commitments to share S&T information with others in the Hemisphere, in accord with their respective laws, and to expand cooperation in scientific and environmental research.

15. Tourism

Tourism is important to our economies and valuable in promoting understanding among the people of the Americas.

Governments will:

- Undertake initiatives to stimulate tourism in the Hemisphere.

III. ERADICATING POVERTY AND DISCRIMINATION IN OUR HEMISPHERE

Large segments of society in our Hemisphere, particularly women, minorities, the disabled, indigenous groups, refugees and displaced persons, have not been equipped to participate fully in economic life. Nearly one-half of the Hemisphere's population still lives in poverty. Expanded participation of the poor in the region's economies, access to productive resources, appropriate support for social safety nets and increased human capital investments are important mechanisms to help eradicate poverty. In pursuit of these objectives, we reaffirm our support for the strategies contained within the "Commitment on a Partnership for Development and Struggle to Overcome Extreme Poverty" adopted by the OAS General Assembly.

The World Summit for Social Development to be held in Copenhagen in March 1995, as well as the United Nations World Conference on Women in Beijing in September 1995, will provide unique opportunities to define strategies to promote social integration, productive employment and the eradication of poverty.

16. Universal Access to Education

Universal literacy and access to education at all levels, without distinction by race, national origin or gender, are an indispensable basis for sustainable social and cultural development, economic growth and democratic stability.

Governments will:

and reaffirm their commitment to reduce child mortality by one-third and maternal mortality by one-half from 1990 levels by the year 2000.

- Endorse a basic package of clinical, preventive and public health services consistent with World Health Organization, Pan American Health Organization (PAHO) and World Bank recommendations and with the Program of Action agreed to at the 1994 International Conference on Population and Development. The package will address child, maternal and reproductive health interventions, including prenatal, delivery and postnatal care, family planning information and services, and HIV/AIDS prevention, as well as immunizations and programs combating the other major causes of infant mortality. The plans and programs will be developed according to a mechanism to be decided upon by each country.
- Develop or update country action plans or programs for reforms to achieve child, maternal and reproductive health goals and ensure universal, non-discriminatory access to basic services, including health education and preventive health care programs. The plans and programs will be developed according to a mechanism to be decided upon by each country. Reforms would encompass essential community-based services for the poor, the disabled, and indigenous groups; stronger public health infrastructure; alternative means of financing, managing and providing services; quality assurance; and greater use of non-governmental actors and organizations.
- Strengthen the existing Inter-American Network on Health Economics and Financing, which serves as an international forum for sharing technical expertise, information and experience, to focus on health reform efforts. The network gathers government officials, representatives of the private sector, non-governmental institutions and actors, donors and scholars for policy discussions, analysis, training and other activities to advance reform; strengthens national capabilities in this critical area; and fosters Hemisphere-wide cooperation.
- Convene a special meeting of hemispheric governments with interested donors and international technical agencies to be hosted by the IDB, the World Bank and PAHO to establish the framework for health reform mechanisms, to define PAHO's role in monitoring the regional implementation of country plans and programs, and to plan strengthening of the network, including the cosponsors' contributions to it.
- Take the opportunity of the annual PAHO Directing Council Meeting of Western Hemisphere Ministers of Health, with participation of the IDB and donors, to develop a program to combat endemic and communicable diseases as well as a program to prevent the spread of HIV/AIDS, and to identify sources of funding.
- Urge the March 1995 World Summit for Social Development and the September 1995 Fourth World Conference on Women to address the issue of access to health services.

18. Strengthening the Role of Women in Society

The strengthening of the role of women in society is of fundamental importance not only for their own complete fulfillment within a framework of equality and fairness, but to achieve true

19. Encouraging Microenterprises and Small Businesses

Microenterprises and small businesses account for a large percentage of the employment of the poor, particularly women, and contribute a considerable percentage of the gross domestic product of our countries. Strengthened support for microenterprises and small businesses is a key component of sustainable and equitable development.

Governments will:

- Further pursue or initiate programs of deregulation and administrative simplification.
- Increase efforts to enable enterprises to obtain information on appropriate technologies (especially those that are environmentally sound), markets, processes, raw materials and management systems that will permit them to be more competitive in the global economy.
- Develop programs of financial deregulation to reduce costs in credit transactions and strengthen the institutional capacity of the financial sector servicing microenterprises and small businesses, and encourage the active participation by multilateral and bilateral agencies, development banks, commercial banks and other intermediary credit organizations, consistent with strict performance standards.
- Strengthen the institutions and programs that supply services and facilitate access to training and technical assistance to make possible this sector's participation in the global economy through export of its products and services.
- Encourage cooperation among businesses in this sector to enable them to benefit from the advantages of economies of scale without losing their distinctive characteristics.
- Promote the strengthening of relations among the public, private and mixed (public/private) institutions that support the microenterprise and small business sector through programs of information, training, technical assistance, financing and association-building, enabling this sector to thrive over the long term.
- Recommend to the multilateral development organizations, especially the World Bank and the IDB, the establishment or fortification of funds and other mechanisms to support microenterprises and small businesses.

20. White Helmets—Emergency and Development Corps

The “White Helmets Initiative” is based on the conviction that a concerted international effort of developing and developed countries can facilitate the eradication of poverty and strengthen the humanitarian rapid response capability of the international community to emergency humanitarian, social and developmental needs.

- Pursue, in accordance with national legislation, least cost national energy strategies that consider all options, including energy efficiency, non-conventional renewable energy (i.e., solar, wind, geothermal, small hydro, and biomass), and conventional energy resources.
- Emphasize market-oriented pricing, which discourages wasteful energy use.
- Identify for priority financing and development at least one economically viable project in each of the following areas: non-conventional renewable energy, energy efficiency, and clean conventional energy.
- Promote, in cooperation with the private sector and rural and isolated communities, rural electrification programs which take into account where appropriate the utilization of renewable energy sources, in accordance with the domestic regulatory framework.
- Seek to ratify and begin implementation of the provisions of the Framework Convention on Climate Change which entered into force on March 21, 1994.
- Encourage the World Bank and IDB to increase promptly and substantially, as a portion of energy lending, financing of projects in energy efficiency and renewable energy and financing to improve the environmental sustainability of conventional energy sources, in accordance with economic rationality.
- Call on the multilateral financial institutions and other public and private financial institutions to finance regional and national programs in support of this action plan, such as training and exchange programs as well as technology cooperation, in accordance with the needs and conditions of receiving countries.
- Assist with coordination and technical cooperation between countries, using existing regional organizations, including project identification and implementation, training programs, and personnel and information exchanges to increase capacity.
- Promote the identification and implementation of private sector projects that reduce greenhouse gas emissions.
- Convene a Sustainable Energy Symposium in the first half of 1995 to discuss follow-up activities relative to this initiative. In the spirit of cooperation countries will share their experiences and discuss progress on implementing this action plan.

*This initiative is integrally linked with the Energy Cooperation item.

22. Partnership for Biodiversity

Our Hemisphere contains over half the world's biodiversity. To sustain the Hemisphere's social and economic development, we must intensify efforts to understand, assess, and sustainably use this living resource base. We must act now to increase the technical and management capacity and public awareness of national and international efforts in this area. Agenda 21, the

23. Partnership for Pollution Prevention

As recognized in Agenda 21, sound environmental management is an essential element of sustainable development. Cooperative efforts are needed to develop or improve, in accordance with national legislation and relevant international instruments: (1) frameworks for environment protection; and (2) mechanisms for implementing and enforcing environmental regulations. To achieve this goal, a new partnership will promote cooperative activities for developing environmental policies, laws, and institutions; increasing technical capacity; promoting public awareness and public participation; continuing to pursue technological, financial and other forms of cooperation; and facilitating information exchange, including on environmentally sound technologies. The activities of the partnership will build on and advance the implementation of international agreements and principles including those agreed to at the 1992 United Nations Conference on Environment and Development and the 1994 Global Conference on the Sustainable Development of Small Island Developing States, in areas identified as priorities by countries of the Hemisphere.

Governments will:

- Strengthen and build technical and institutional capacity to address environmental priorities such as pesticides, lead contamination, pollution prevention, risk reduction, waste and sanitation issues, improved water and air quality, access to safe drinking water, urban environmental problems, and to promote public participation and awareness.
- Develop and implement national action plans to phase out lead in gasoline.
- Strengthen national environmental protection frameworks and mechanisms for implementation and enforcement, and include sustainability criteria and objectives in national and other development strategies.
- Undertake national consultations to identify priorities for possible international collaboration.
- Support democratic governmental mechanisms to engage public participation, particularly from members of indigenous and other affected communities, in the consideration of policies regarding the environmental impact of development projects and the design and enforcement of environmental laws.
- Convene a meeting of technical experts, designated by each interested country, to develop a framework for cooperative partnership, building on existing institutions and networks to identify priority projects. These projects will initially focus on (1) the health and environmental problems associated with the misuse of pesticides, and (2) the impacts of lead contamination from gasoline and other sources. Subsequent activities could address waste, air, water quality, marine pollution from ships and other sources, and problems associated with urbanization.

Appendix

The primary responsibility for implementing this Plan of Action falls to governments, individually and collectively, with participation of all elements of our civil societies.

Existing organizations or institutions are called upon to implement the package of initiatives that has emerged from this Summit of the Americas. In many instances we have proposed that specific issues be examined by meetings of ministers, senior officials or experts. We are also proposing that some of these initiatives be carried out in partnerships between the public and private sector. Wanting to benefit from existing hemispheric mechanisms, and considering the various proposals included in this Plan of Action, we offer the following recommendations, which shall not impede any government from approaching other institutions not cited herein, as appropriate.

I. Principal Initiatives in Which International Organizations and Institutions Will Be Involved

A) The OAS will have a paramount role in following up on the various decisions of this Summit meeting. Regarding the Plan of Action, the OAS has a particularly important supporting role in connection with the following:

- Strengthening Democracy
- Promoting and Protecting Human Rights
- Combating Corruption
- Eliminating the Threat of National and International Terrorism
- Building Mutual Confidence
- Free Trade in the Americas
- Telecommunications and Information Infrastructure

The Action Plan also envisages roles for the OAS in the following areas:

- Promoting Cultural Values
- Combating the Problem of Illegal Drugs and Related Crimes
- Cooperation in Science and Technology
- Strengthening the Role of Women in Society

II. High-Level Meetings

The following high level meetings and conferences are called for to carry out the mandates emanating from the Summit:

- Summit Conference on Sustainable Development (Bolivia, 1996) with follow-on Annual Ministerials
- Ministerial Conference on Combating Money Laundering (preceded by working level meeting)
- Conference of Donors for Alternative Development Programs to Curb Narcotics Trafficking
- Global Counter-Narcotics Conference
- Special OAS Conference on Combating Terrorism
- Regional Conference on Confidence-Building Measures (Chile, 1995)
- Meetings of Ministers Responsible for Trade (June 1995, March 1996)
- Meeting of Committee on Hemispheric Financial Issues
- Hemispheric Meeting on Development of Energy Industries (first semester 1995)
- Meeting of Ministers Responsible for Science and Technology (1995)
- Meeting Between Governments and Donors/Technical Agencies to Establish Health Reform Mechanisms
- Sustainable Energy Symposium (first half of 1995)

III. Initiatives in Which Public and Private Sector Partnerships Play an Important Role

- Strengthening Democracy
- Promoting and Protecting Human Rights
- Invigorating Society/Community Participation
- Promoting Cultural Values
- Combating Corruption
- Hemispheric Infrastructure

PRELIMINARY DRAFT

PLAN OF ACTION

II HEMISPHERIC SUMMIT
OF CHIEFS OF STATES
AND GOVERNMENTS OF THE AMERICAS

SANTIAGO, CHILE, JANUARY, 1998

REPUBLICA DE CHILE
Ministerio de Relaciones Exteriores
Coordinación General
II Cumbre de las Américas

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PLAN OF ACTION

The democratically elected Chiefs of State and Government of the Americas, recognizing the need to make a collective effort that complements the actions being developed and executed at the national level to improve the quality of life of our peoples, affirm our strong commitment to carry out this Plan of Action, which constitutes a body of concrete initiatives intended to ensure access to, and improve, the quality of education, promote and strengthen democracy and the respect for human rights, deepen economic integration and free trade, and eradicate poverty and discrimination.

I. EDUCATION: THE KEY FOR PROGRESS

The Hemisphere's commitment to education is expressed in the sweeping reform processes encompassing all levels of the educational system, and is based on a broad consensus around the problems afflicting it and the shared commitment and effort of society as a whole to overcome them. These processes are founded on the principles of equity, quality, relevance and efficiency. Equity is understood as the establishment of conditions permitting the population as a whole to have the opportunity to receive quality education services, thereby significantly reducing the impacts of social and economic inequalities, disability, and ethnic, cultural, and gender discrimination. Quality comprises the attainment of high levels and cognitive development, skills, abilities and ethical attitudes. Relevance is defined as the capacity of an educational system to meet the needs and aspirations of society as a whole, taking into account its social, cultural, ethnic, and linguistic diversity and, lastly, efficiency is understood as the provision of adequate resources, used in an optimum manner, in order to attain better educational achievements.

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Accordingly, the subscribers hereto, in full recognition and respect for the national sovereignty and the responsibilities toward education of the institutions of our respective countries, reiterate the commitment of the Miami Summit to ensure, by the year 2010, access to and completion of quality primary education for 100% of children, and access for at least 75% of young people to secondary education -with increasing percentages of young people who complete secondary education- and assume responsibility for providing the general population with opportunities for life-long learning. Should we achieve these goals, we are certain that we will give our peoples the necessary and appropriate tools to develop their capacities and thus contribute to their respective societies as dignified citizens.

To attain these objectives, Governments will:

- Implement targeted and inter-sectoral educational policies, as necessary, and develop programs that focus specifically on disadvantaged groups in the areas of education, functional illiteracy, and socio-economic and cultural conditions, placing emphasis on women, minorities, and vulnerable populations. Inter-sectoral programs in education, health and nutrition, as well as early childhood educational strategies will be priorities, inasmuch as they contribute more directly to plans to combat poverty.
- Establish or reinforce national or subnational systems to evaluate the quality of education, which permit to assess the performance of various educational agencies, innovations, and factors associated with achievements in learning. Thus, information and indicators will be made available and may be used in designing, carrying out, and evaluating quality-improvement programs based on equity. Standards for reading and writing, mathematics, and science shall receive special attention. Also, where appropriate, criteria and methodologies for collecting data shall be established that permit comparison of some educational indicators in the Hemisphere.

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- Develop comprehensive professional appraisal and development programs among teachers and school administrators that combine adequate pre-service and in-service training, exploring incentive mechanisms tied to upgrading their skills and to meeting the standards that may have been agreed upon. Higher education must collaborate in this endeavor through research and pedagogy, both of which should be strengthened in order to meet this goal.
- Strengthen education management and institutional capacity the national, regional, local, and school levels, furthering, where appropriate, decentralization processes and the promotion of better forms of community and family involvement in education. Encourage the mass media to contribute to bolstering efforts being made by educational systems.
- Strengthen the preparation, education, and training for the world of work so that a continuously increasing number of workers can improve their standard of living, and thus, together with the employers, they may have the opportunity to benefit from hemispheric integration. In this context, the adoption of new technologies based on various options and alternatives, ranging from specific occupational training to strengthening general employability competencies will be considered. Particular attention will be given to the establishment or strengthening of mechanisms that permit workers to obtain certification of job related competencies acquired through formal education and work experience, with the aim of . These actions will include the development of entrepreneurial skills linked to the ability to confront changes in the labor market with enhanced employability prospects, involving different sectors and offering various options and alternatives.
- Establish or enhance according to their internal legal framework, educational strategies relevant to multicultural societies, so as to be able to shape, with the participation of indigenous populations and migrants,

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models for bilingual and intercultural basic education. Similarly, within the contents of basic education, more attention should be given to respect and appreciation for cultural diversity, and, to the extent of the possibilities of governments, expansion of knowledge of the different languages spoken in countries of the hemisphere.

- Develop within and outside schools, with the assistance of different actors and social organizations, educational strategies that foster the development of values, with special attention to the inclusion of democratic principles, human rights, gender-related issues, peace, tolerance, and respect for the environment and natural resources.
- Promote access to and use of the most effective information and communication technologies in education systems, with special emphasis on the use of computers, in combination with renewed pedagogical methods and proper training for teachers in the use of these technologies. Special attention shall be paid to the ethical imperative of reaching the most vulnerable sectors. To that end, distance education programs shall be strengthened and information networks established.

Efforts shall be made to increase the availability of learning materials, in collaboration with official institutions, and, depending on the specific conditions in each country, with the private sector.

Technology should be used to link schools and communities, as a way of establishing ties in the Hemisphere, while encouraging the participation of higher education institutions that have advantages in this field.

- Foster scholarship and exchange systems for students, teachers, researchers, and educational administrators using different strategies, including institution-to-institution ties, communications technology, and internships which permit exposure to pedagogical and management innovations in other countries of the Hemisphere.

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This will contribute to strengthening the institutional capacity of Ministries or Departments of Education, decentralized administrative entities, and centers of higher learning.

Funding, Follow-up and Horizontal and Multilateral Co-operation Strategies

We, the Heads of State and Government, recognizing the cardinal importance of education as a foundation for development, have agreed, in accordance with the respective legislative processes, to promote allocation of the resources necessary for educational expenditure with a view to attaining increasing levels of equity, quality, relevance, and efficiency in educational processes, emphasizing the optimal use of resources.

We also reaffirm our commitment to promote horizontal and multilateral co-operation in educational matters. To that end, we:

- Instruct the OAS and request the IDB and World Bank, together with the other national and multilateral technical and financial co-operation agencies operating in the Hemisphere, to support, within their respective areas of action, the programs and initiatives that are consistent with the goals, objectives, and actions proposed in this Chapter of the Plan of Action.
- Instruct the OAS and request the IDB to use the mechanisms within their scope to develop and strengthen regional co-operation in areas such as distance education including satellite technology; internships and exchange programs; the creation of an information technology clearinghouse; the updating of education statistics and quality assessment, while striving to ensure that this co-operation is in keeping with the specific needs of each country.

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- Instruct the OAS to foster, articulate, and facilitate, through ministerials and other mechanisms being developed by member States in the framework of the Inter-American Council for Integral Development (CIDI), collaboration and joint effort in the Hemisphere and, to that end, to convene, in consultation with the co-ordinating countries, technical consultation forums of the countries in the Hemisphere in order to contribute to the implementation of the commitments included in this Chapter of the Plan of Action.
- Entrust the Meeting of the Ministers of Education, to be convened by the OAS within the framework of CIDI's Strategic Plan for Partnership for Development, to be held in Brazil by August 1998 at the latest, with the development of an implementation plan for this education initiative.
- Instruct the OAS and request the IDB, World Bank, and other multilateral institutions to report on the execution of this Plan to government representatives responsible for review and follow-up of the commitments of the Summit of the Americas.

II. PRESERVING AND STRENGTHENING DEMOCRACY AND HUMAN RIGHTS

Democracy and Human Rights

The preservation and strengthening of democracy and human rights constitutes a priority in the hemispheric agenda. Thus the importance of reaffirming our commitment to continue to develop formula permitting to deepen actions leading to attaining this objective. In this respect, in addition to defining new initiatives and co-operation programs intended to progress in the process of

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enhancing democracy and the respect for human rights, we have established concrete actions intended to materialize these regional priorities. Thus, being aware of the new realities of the international scenario, its challenges and difficulties, we will strive to find formula permitting to focus on the growing role of the civil society and its substantial contribution to the development of our countries, to ensure the rights of migrant workers, strengthen the mechanisms to attain instruments that ensure probity and ethical values, counteract threats arising from terrorist actions, take new steps leading to promoting confidence and security among States and make the reforms required in the administration of the State to duly respond to the requirements and demands of our peoples.

For these purposes Governments will:

- Define and develop, with the participation of various sectors of the civil society, integrated policies aimed at promoting and protecting human rights, in accordance with relevant international rules and principles currently in force, incorporating those policies, where appropriate, into the national human rights plans or programs, as recommended by the World Conference of Vienna.
- Promote a review of their respective national legislation in order to eliminate or amend those provisions which may lead to any type of discrimination, in contravention of their international commitments. In particular, they will seek to attain legal equality between men and women by the year 2002. In this context, priority shall be given to equal treatment with respect to the right to work, property, inheritance, custody over children, and combating domestic violence.
- Promote the adoption of legal, educational and social measures, to combat the physical and sexual abuse of children, traffic in minors, child prostitution and child exploitation in all its forms, including pornography.

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Concurrently with that, they will strengthen international co-operation by implementing a regional information system on children, based on national information systems, with the participation of and promotion by concerned international organizations, to monitor the condition of children and evaluate social policies to facilitate decision making in this sphere.

- Guarantee that all detainees have the right to a due process of law, the right to a speedy trial and the full respect for their constitutional and legal rights. Governments will adopt measures to ensure that no person pending trial shall be detained for a period exceeding the minimum sentence for the crime with which the person is charged. Governments will continue their efforts to improve conditions of detention and enhance education on human rights for officials involved in the justice system.
- Promote both the signature, ratification or adherence to, as well as give effect to international human rights instruments.

The Governments will also enhance the capacity of the Organization of American States in order to:

- Strengthen the Inter-American human rights system through concrete initiatives and measures, which aim to reinforce its institutional structure and promote its links with national systems and regional entities which promote and protect human rights. In this context, governments consider important the institutional strengthening of the Inter American Human Rights Institute.
- Support states that so request in the processes of promoting and consolidating democratic values, practices and institutions, by strengthening the respective organs of the Organization, including the UPD.

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- Strengthen freedom of speech and thought as a fundamental human right for the exercise of all human rights and the consolidation of democracy, by fully co-operating and supporting the activities of the IACHR, including giving consideration to additional actions or measures and taking corresponding decisions, to defend and promote freedom of the media in the hemisphere.
- [Assist in the peaceful resolution of conflicts by examining possible improvements to existing mechanisms within the Inter-American System and making recommendations through the OAS General Assembly by 2000];
- Promote programs of co-operation, through the use of advanced information technology and with the support of the international institutions which deal with administration of justice, in areas identified by the OAS working group of democracy and human rights, which include:
 - Police Training
 - The necessary steps to remedy inhumane conditions in prisons and minimize the number of pre-trial detainees; and
 - A Strengthen existing programs in the area of Human Rights education for judges, magistrates and other court officials.

Education for Democracy

Governments will:

- Include, in national education projects, objectives and contents that develop democratic culture at all levels, to foster ethical values in people who are able to give solidarity and with probity. Hence, the participation of teachers, families and students will be favored in the task of designing and giving effect to projects leading to prepare democratic citizens.

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Civil Society

Governments will:

- With the support of the OAS and the IDB, they will establish a follow up mechanism aimed at principles and recommendations in order to foster the establishment of responsible, transparent, non-profit organizations, including -when appropriate- volunteer programs and foster, in accordance with national priorities, joint actions of the public sector and the civil society, in those areas considered pertinent in this Action Plan. For that purpose, governments may exchange experiences and information within the OAS framework.
- In this process, governments will draw upon existing initiatives that promote increased participation of civil society in the preparation and implementation of policies, such as relevant and successful experiences from the Inter-American Strategy for Public Participation and the National Councils for Sustainable Development, among others. As soon as possible, governments will adopt work plans to implement legal and institutional frameworks based on these principles and recommendations in their respective countries.
- Request the IDB to develop and implement, along with interested states, hemispheric financial mechanisms specially aimed at the execution of programs oriented toward strengthening civil society and public participation mechanisms.

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Migrant Workers

Governments will:

- Condemn and prosecute violations of the human rights of migrants, including all migrant workers and their families, and adopt effective measures, including the strengthening of public awareness, to prevent and eradicate such violations and to eliminate all forms of discrimination against them, particularly racial discrimination, xenophobia, and related intolerance.
- [Seek full respect for, and compliance with, the Vienna Convention on Consular Relations, especially as it relates to the rights of all migrants, regardless of their immigration status, to communicate with a consular officer of their country in case of detention.

or, alternatively

- Seek full respect for, and compliance with, the consular notification and access provisions of the 1963 Vienna Convention on Consular Relations.]
- Protect the rights of all migrant workers and their families, in accordance with each country's internal legal framework, by taking steps to: 1) provide, with respect to working conditions, the same legal protection as for national workers; 2) require the payment and forwarding, as appropriate, of full wages owed when the worker has returned to his/her country; 3) recognize the rights of citizenship and nationality of the children of all migrant workers and any other rights they may have in each country; 4) encourage the negotiation of bilateral or multilateral agreements, regarding the remission of social security benefits accrued by migrant workers; 5) protect all migrant workers and their families, through law enforcement and information campaigns, from becoming victims of exploitation and abuse from alien smuggling; 6) prevent abuse and mistreatment of all migrant

workers by employers or by authorities entrusted with enforcement of migration policies and border control; and 7) encourage and promote respect for the cultural identity of all migrants, and foster public awareness regarding the need to protect the human rights of all migrants workers.

Municipal And Regional Administrations

Governments will:

- Within their legal framework and within a reasonable time, establish or strengthen mechanisms for citizen participation in local and subnational decision-making, such as open public hearings and public budget reviews, and promote transparency in local and subnational government finance operations.
- In accordance with legislation at all levels, provide for financing options for local and other subnational governments, including groups of local government, such as through transfers of national revenue, access to private capital markets, and authority for raising revenue locally, in order to expand the delivery of quality services as well as provide for training opportunities to strengthen local and subnational administrative capabilities.
- In accord with their legal framework and different national circumstances, study the possible transfer of additional national executive functions to local and subnational levels as well as the possibility for enhancing local and subnational legislative authorities.

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Corruption

Governments will:

- Resolutely support the "Inter-American Program to Combat Corruption" and implement the actions established therein, particularly the adoption of a strategy to achieve prompt ratification of the 1996 Convention, the drafting of codes of conduct for public officials, the study of the problem of laundering assets or proceeds derived from corruption, and the promotion of information campaigns on the ethical values that sustain the democratic system.
- Sponsor a Symposium on Enhancing Probity in the Hemisphere, to be held no later than August 1998, in order to consider, among other topics, the "*application*" of the Inter-American Convention against Corruption and implementation of the aforementioned Program.
- Foster within the OAS framework the establishment of a mechanism to monitor progress under the Inter-American Convention against Corruption.
- Promote in their domestic legislation the obligation for public officials to declare or disclose their personal assets and liabilities to the appropriate agency.
- Encourage the approval of effective and specific measures to combat all forms of corruption, bribery, and related unlawful practices in commercial transactions.
- Take action to prevent contributions to election campaigns that originate with individuals, companies, organizations or groups related to organized crime and to narcotrafficking.

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Proposal of Chile

Enhancing Probity and Public Ethics

Governments will:

- Resolutely support the "Inter-American Program to Combat Corruption" and implement the actions established therein, particularly the adoption of a strategy to achieve the prompt ratification of the Inter-American Convention Against Corruption, approved in 1996, the drafting of codes of conduct for public officials, the study of the problem of asset laundering and the promotion of educational campaigns on the ethical values that sustain the democratic system.
- Sponsor the first Hemispheric Symposium of Competent Authorities and Experts, on Enhancing Probity and Public Ethics, to be held in Santiago, Chile, no later than August 1998, in order to comprehensively assess the progress and implementation of the Inter-American Convention against Corruption; to hear a balance on the results being attained on this issue by various international organizations, and exchange experiences on successful, concrete actions undertaken in this area by the countries of the Hemisphere.
- Foster within the OAS framework the establishment of a mechanism to monitor the progress of the Convention.
- Promote transparency, through their domestic laws, in relation to the pre-service personal assets of senior public officials, and the respective variations affecting such assets, during the holding of their senior public offices in the different State powers.
- Promote transparency in their respective domestic laws with respect to managing asset in political activities and electoral campaigns, so as to permit a public assessment over the respective sources of finance through public balances that may be audited. Finance sources may not derive from offshore funds, assets, donations, contributions or loans.

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Prevention and Control of Illicit Consumption And Traffic of Drugs and Psychotropic Substances

The Governments will:

- Continue to develop their national and multilateral efforts in order to achieve full application of the Hemispheric Anti-Drug Strategy, and will strengthen this alliance based on the principles of respect for the sovereignty and territorial jurisdiction of the States, reciprocity, shared responsibility and an integrated, balanced approach in conformity with their domestic laws.
- With the intention of strengthening mutual confidence, dialogue and hemispheric co-operation and on the basis of the aforementioned principles, develop, within the framework of the Inter-American Drug Control Commission (CICAD), a single and objective process of multilateral, governmental evaluation in order to monitor the progress on their individual and collective efforts in the Hemisphere and of all the countries participating in the Summit, in dealing with the diverse manifestations of the problem.¹
- Give their full support to the Special Session of the General Assembly (at the highest political level), of the United Nations to Promote International Co-operation against illicit drugs and related crimes, which will take place June 8-10,1998; will encourage all states to participate actively in this meeting in order to strengthen international co-operation to reduce demand for illicit drugs, promote judicial co-operation, strengthen co-operation against money laundering, improve control of chemical precursors, and eliminate illicit crops through alternative development, eradication, and interdiction.

¹ As approved in Plenary of the SIRG, December 11, 1997. The remaining action items are still being negotiated.

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- Remove all obstacles and impediments to the extradition of fugitives, including drug traffickers, and work co-operatively to streamline and update extradition procedures to ensure that criminals have no place to hide in the hemisphere.
- Establish special units that are properly trained and equipped to collect and analyze information on financial crimes and money laundering and to share such information with regulatory and law enforcement agencies; complementary to this, facilitate timely sharing of this information between and among national governments.
- Promote the rapid ratification and entry into force of the Inter-American Convention Against the Illicit Production and Trafficking of Firearms, approved at the OAS, November 14, 1997.

Terrorism

Governments will:

- Take measures, as agreed in the Declaration and the Lima Plan of Action, in order to prevent, combat and eliminate terrorism, applying for that purpose the most decisive will to comply with the general objectives set forth therein.
- Encourage States that have not yet done so to sign, ratify and/or adhere to international conventions related to terrorism, in accordance with their respective internal legislation.
- Convoke the Second Specialized Inter-American Conference to evaluate the progress attained and to define future courses of action for the prevention, combat and elimination of terrorism.

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Confidence and Security Building Measures

Governments will:

- Systematically implement the recommendations resulting from the Regional Conferences on Confidence and Security Measures held in Santiago, Chile, and San Salvador, El Salvador.

(list and inter-relate the three or four most relevant recommendations, particularly those arising from the El Salvador Conference, since that Conference should discuss the progress attained in the implementation of the Santiago commitments).

- Agree to request that the World Bank prepare a standardized methodology for the calculation of defense expenditures for the purpose of promoting transparency in the process of equipping and modernizing the Armed Forces.
- Emphasize the convenience of deepening the dialogue, in which the concepts of integration and globalization have attained a fundamental preponderance, with the purpose of modernizing the hemisphere security system in force through authorities and experts designated for that effect.

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Strengthening of the Justice System and of the Judicial Agencies

Governments will:

- Encourage full application of the principles of judicial independence, impartiality, and competence.
- Commit to continuing the process of strengthening the legal systems of the Americas, so as to ensure that individuals have full access to justice, to guarantee the independence of the judiciary and the effectiveness of prosecutors and public attorneys, and to encourage the establishment of responsive and transparent systems and modern institutions.
- Approach the process of modernizing justice from a multidisciplinary viewpoint that goes beyond strictly legal considerations.
- Promote the exchange of national experience and technical co-operation in matters related to prison and penitentiary policy; criminal prosecution systems; access to justice, and judicial administration.
- Support, while respecting the independence of the judiciary and the various legal systems, the training, development, and ongoing education of human resources [the institutions of civil society], with an ultimate goal of enhancing the professionalism of the judicial body. They will encourage the establishment and/or strengthening, as appropriate, at the domestic and international levels, of schools and centers for this purpose.
- Encourage, in accordance with the legislation of each country, mutual legal and judicial assistance in a flexible and effective manner, in particular with respect to extradition, requests for the delivery of documents and other forms of evidence, and the exchange of information in this field at the bilateral and multilateral levels.

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- Continue efforts to improve inter-American instruments for legal co-operation, to which end every state will evaluate the current application of existing instruments and take steps to disseminate them more broadly.
- Reinforce the fight against corruption, organized crime, and transnational criminal activity, and adopt new legislation, procedures, and mechanisms as necessary to continue to combat these scourges.
- Commit to implementing mechanisms that offer persons ready and timely access to justice that provides effective solutions. [To that end, community legal assistance measures will be put into practice, such as free legal advice and representation, community and neighborhood mediation centers, etc. Furthermore, with a view to alleviating pressure upon judicial bodies, they will put into place mechanisms such as small claims and monitory procedures, executory processes, etc.] ²
- Encourage the incorporation into national justice systems of alternative dispute settlement procedures, such as mediation, conciliation, and arbitration.
- Consolidate or promote, as appropriate, a new criminal justice system in the Hemisphere, based on oral proceedings before a single judge or collegiate court and on the existence of public prosecutors responsible for criminal prosecution and investigation, in which the right to due process is fully observed.
- Encourage improvement of the juvenile justice system.

² To be considered by the ministries of justice experts at the meeting in Santiago.

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- [Commit to eliminating from their national law the possibility of detaining persons for reasons other than the commission of a crime.]
- Promote the establishment of family courts.

(Note: All of the above action items were negotiated by a special working chaired by Argentina during the December SIRG meeting. The work of the Group, however, was not reviewed by the SIRG plenary.)

Modernization of the State in Labor Matter

Governments will:

- Adopt adequate measures to enable the labor ministries to enhance the quality of services they offer to workers and employers. Special emphasis will be placed on a greater decentralization of their functions, on the inclusion of new technologies, on better and more timely information about the labor market, and regarding the health and sanitary conditions in workplaces. With the participation of the ILO and of the IDB, labor ministries will undertake international co-operation programs to exchange information regarding modernization experiences of such ministries.
- Give special attention to bringing young people, women, and the disabled into the workforce, and to the particular needs and services of such persons. The Ministries of Labor will exchange experiences on the best practices in these areas.
- Assure that the ministries of labor have the necessary means to give effect to this Plan of Action in areas within their jurisdiction.

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III. ECONOMIC INTEGRATION AND FREE TRADE

Jointly with initiating negotiations on the Free Trade Area of the Americas, we have defined a series of supplementary actions aimed at deepening the process of economic integration, strengthen mechanisms to counteract the eventual negative effects that globalization may produce, facilitating transparency, efficiency and security in internal and international transactions, and contributing so that the benefits of integration cover all sectors of society. In this context, we have prepared a series of proposals to progress in the programs of science and technology, deepen the energy co-operation programs and establish additional initiatives in order to develop hemispheric infrastructure, in particular in the field of transportation and telecommunications.

Strengthening, Modernizing and Integrating Financial Markets

Governments will:

- Strengthen banking supervision in the hemisphere through: implementation of the Basle Core Principles for Effective Banking Supervision; training programs to strengthen supervisory capacity; and establishment sound, high-quality reporting and disclosure standards for banks, and creation of a Working Group to assist countries in this process.
- Improve banking and securities market clearance and settlement systems in the hemisphere, in order to facilitate the transparency, efficiency and security of internal and cross-border transactions.
- In the Free Trade Area of the Americas (FTAA) process, establish a separate financial services negotiating group in the context of a single undertaking.

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Science and Technology

Governments will:

- Apply the tools of science and technology to mitigate the damage caused by El Niño and other natural phenomena and their impact on the economy, specifically on the basis of improved weather analysis, better prevention and response capabilities; improved research and training methods to deal with natural phenomena; and the application of science and technology to address the effects of climate change on health, agriculture, and water. In that context, they will emphasize co-operation and the exchange of information on El Niño and other natural phenomena.
- Develop and implement measures for hemispheric co-operation to ensure access to appropriate technology and, where necessary, to strengthen relevant national institutions through, inter alia, human resources development programs and the exchange of personnel.
- Continue implementing the Plan of Action agreed to at Cartagena in 1996, with emphasis on information and communications technologies, science and technology indicators, and the link between science, technology, and development.
- Encourage partnerships between their governments and their productive sectors in technology and innovations, and encourage university-industry relationships for training in the management of technology.

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Regional Energy Co-operation

Governments will:

- Prepare, by 2000, national energy strategies defining actions and establishing deadlines for the implementation of market-based regulatory, fiscal, and legislative frameworks, including the creation of mechanisms for public participation and capacity-building, that ensure the efficient and socially beneficial development and use of cross-border energy trade, protect the environment, and advance rural electrification. To support these efforts, they will establish an organizational mechanism to coordinate activities in this area with the purpose of implementing the Energy Initiative of the Americas, as well as to ensure participation of the private sector in the regional co-operation and integration process.

Hemispheric Infrastructure

A. General Infrastructure

Governments will:

- Charge the Inter-American Development Bank with the preparation of a set of voluntary principles to be adopted by each of the countries, to facilitate private sector participation in local and transnational infrastructure projects, that can serve as a basis for bilateral and multilateral agreements. These principles will be discussed and agreed upon in a meeting of Infrastructure Ministers to be held in 1999.
- Sign, in accordance with national legislation, bilateral and multilateral agreements with neighboring countries, to facilitate the process of private participation in local and transnational infrastructure projects. These agreements will be based on the above-referred voluntary principles.

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B. Transportation

Governments will:

- Undertake the necessary measures to implement the Joint Ministerial Declaration of the Second Hemispheric Summit on Transportation, held in Santiago, Chile, in April 1996, aimed at promoting market-oriented, integrated, financially viable, and environmentally sustainable transportation systems and services, as well as providing safe, efficient, and reliable passenger and freight services, including taking concrete steps toward establishing open skies regimes through bilateral air transportation agreements to foster the economic growth and development of our countries.
- Develop a plan to improve compliance with international standards and recommended practices, such as those established by the International Aviation Organization and the International Maritime Organization, to ensure the highest level of safety in air, sea and transportation systems, to improve infrastructure and to increase environmental protection.
- Prepare a profile of regional transportation systems and services profile which will identify the main problems and opportunities faced by the countries in the Hemisphere as a first step towards establishing regional transportation priorities and policies, with respect to, among other things, the harmonization of standards, the exchange of technology, and trade in transportation-related goods.
- Seek, from international financial institutions, the resources necessary to undertake, as soon as possible, transportation (air, water and land) infrastructure projects in the Americas.

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C. Telecommunications

Governments will:

- Adopt strategies to support continuous updating and development of a regional information infrastructure plan that is consistent with national plans existing in this area.
- Agree to implement by 2000 regulatory principles of the WTO agreement on basic telecommunications reference paper with the aim of fostering competition and universal service and eliminating barriers to market access.
- Work together with the private sector to rapidly build-out the communications and information infrastructure in the region and, if needed, request CITELE and the IDB to assist with implementation of the World Trade Organization provisions on basic telecommunications services and the Declaration and Action Plan adopted by the 1996 Senior Telecommunications Officials Meeting held in Washington, D.C.
- Adopt strategies to make affordable access available to all for telephony and the Internet, and encourage the development of community information service centers that provide access to telephones, computers, e-mail, the Internet and multimedia services enabling competitive and low-cost access to information and expertise, education and training, productivity tools and basic communication services.
- Foster the development of applications over electronic networks, such as the Internet, broadcast television and radio, that will support education, health, agriculture and sustainable rural development, electronic commerce and, similarly, other ways of assisting small savers, Micro-enterprise and Small and Medium-size Businesses (SMEs).

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- Foster the development of electronic commerce by avoiding undue restrictions and regulation and by supporting a predictable, consistent, non-discriminatory and simple legal environment for electronic commerce, including by adopting international standards for the protection of electronic transmission.
- Direct ministries within the OAS/CITEL process to continue to examine ways to harmonize regulatory approaches among member countries in order to promote greater consistency in the certification process for telecommunications equipment and to establish a framework for mutual recognition agreements (MRA's) that will encompass all the countries of the region. This initiative will be developed in accordance with national legislations and the requirements of each country for access to technology and commercialization.

IV. ERADICATION OF POVERTY AND DISCRIMINATION

We, the Chiefs of State and Government of the Americas reaffirm our firm will to eradicate poverty and discrimination in the region. For such purpose, we have established programs that strengthen the activities of those economic agents that will contribute to eliminate this scourge and aid the most vulnerable sectors.

In our view, the support and fostering of the micro enterprises and small and medium-sized businesses constitutes a suitable element to generate greater and better opportunities for citizens. Similarly, the dissemination and extension of programs of access to credit and health for sectors with less resources also constitute core actions to attain those objectives. In particular, the inclusion of state-of-the-art technology in health areas will be a priority. Likewise, and being aware of the new challenges imposed by modern societies, we will

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deepen actions aimed at promoting gender equality, at ensuring workers' basic rights and the full incorporation of indigenous populations to society. Similarly, we have decided on the adoption of supplementary actions and programs to eliminate hunger and malnutrition.

Promotion of the Micro Enterprises and Small and Medium-Sized Businesses

Governments will:

- Ensure that the largest possible number of micro enterprises of the hemisphere, whose owners are poor, particularly women micro entrepreneurs, have access to financial services by the year 2000.
- Improve the access to financial services of micro enterprises and small, and medium-sized businesses by accelerating policy reforms that lead to the creation of competitive and solid financial markets, and that promote the entry of formal financial institutions into this market, and also by supporting institutions that work in the sector to improve their capacity to provide services.
- Make efforts to enable micro enterprises and small, and medium-sized businesses to develop the managerial and technological capabilities permitting them to increase their productivity and be more competitive, both nationally and internationally.
- Simplify and expedite the procedures for registration, obtaining licenses, complying with labor and tax laws, and the formalization, where appropriate, of micro enterprise and small, and medium-sized businesses by implementing simple, expeditious, and transparent policies.

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- Promote effective mechanisms of co-ordination between the national and local public institutions that support micro enterprises and small, and medium-sized businesses, and shall facilitate their linkages with the private sector.
- Recommend to the regional agencies and government multilateral and bilateral development institutions, especially the Inter-American Development Bank and the World Bank, that they strengthen their programs in support of micro enterprises and small, and medium-sized businesses.

Property Registration

Governments will:

- Streamline and decentralize, ^(AS NECESSARY) property registration procedures by: adopting transparent, simplified procedures for titling and registration; utilizing appropriate technologies, such as satellite and computer technology, for property mapping, networking, and records storage; introducing, as appropriate, dispute resolution mechanisms; and eliminating unnecessary and overlapping administrative fees for titling and registration.
- Recommend that multilateral and bilateral co-operation institutions, especially the Inter-American Development Bank and the World Bank, strengthen their financial and technical assistance programs to simplify property registration procedures and to ensure access for the poor to those systems
- Implement required measures to protect ^(La bona Fide) real property interests of and access to natural resources of indigenous populations, as well as information programs about their rights, if needed, ~~on such matters~~ ^{to}

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Health Technologies Linking the Americas

Governments will:

- Seek, through public and private efforts, or partnerships between the two, to increase the availability and access, and to ensure the quality of drugs and vaccines, especially for the most needy, by promoting efforts to safeguard the quality, rational selection and use, safety, and efficacy of pharmaceutical products, with special emphasis on essential drugs; and by supporting regional initiatives that by the year 2002 will have addressed research, development, production and utilization of vaccines, which will reduce the incidence of diseases, such as pneumonia, meningitis, measles rubella and mumps.
- Strengthen and improve existing national and regional networks of health information and surveillance systems, so that stakeholders have access to data to address critical health issues in the Region, in order to make appropriate clinical and managerial decisions. They will address the development, implementation and evaluation of needs-based health information systems and technology, including telecommunications, to support epidemiological surveillance, the operation and management of health services and programs, health education and promotion, telemedicine, computer networks, and investment in new health technologies.
- Develop initiatives directed to reduce deficits in access to and quality of drinking water, basic sanitation and solid waste management, with special emphasis in rural and poor urban areas, by applying existing or developing new, appropriate and effective low-cost technologies.

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- The Governments of the Region will make every effort to ensure that the necessary resources are allocated for the development of these three lines of action, with the technical support of the Pan-American Health Organization (PAHO). They also will promote bilateral and multilateral collaboration, and will request the Inter-American Development Bank and the World Bank, and other financial and technical co-operation institutions, to support the programs and activities included in this initiative, according to their own specific priorities and fields of action.

Women

Governments will:

- Strengthen and establish, where they do not exist, national mechanisms and governmental organism in charge of promoting equality between men and women, as well as the respective regional and subregional networks, and provide them with adequate and timely financial resources to enable these agencies to promote, coordinate and carry out the commitments undertaken by the States at the World Summit on Population and Development, the World Summit on Social Development, the Platform for Action of the Fourth United Nations World Conference on Women and various other conferences.
- Review the existing laws in order to identify legal barriers limiting the full participation of women in the political, economic, social and cultural life of our countries. Whenever necessary, they will promote reforms or create new laws to eliminate all forms of discrimination and violence against women and to protect children's rights.

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- Implement, through the Inter-American Commission on Women, in collaboration with civil society and with the support of the Inter- American Development Bank, the World Bank, and other organizations and agencies of co-operation, the agreements on the condition and situation of women reached at the Summit of the Americas.
- [Protect and promote the rights of adolescents to reproductive and health education, information and assistance in order to substantially reduce risks associated with pregnancy during that phase of life]
- [Reduce maternal mortality by 50% by year 2000.]

Basic Rights of Workers

Governments will:

- Examine their own labor codes, in accordance with their national legal frameworks, to ensure they provide for core labor standards, including freedom of association; the right to organize and bargain collectively; the prohibition of forced labor; the elimination of all exploitative forms of child labor; and non-discrimination in employment and occupation, which are currently being discussed in international bodies, including the International Labor Organization.
- Assess the capacity of their labor ministries to implement adequately core labor standards as a fundamental component of productive workplaces and positive labor management relations, including with the assistance of the ILO and IDB to help strengthen their ministries.

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- Report on their national labor code examinations, the status of implementation and enforcement of core labor standards and progress in the area of labor management relations at a meeting of labor ministries to be held in 1998 and subsequent meetings, as appropriate.
- Strengthen their commitment to the observance of internationally recognized core labor standards. In this context, they recognize that the ILO is the competent body to set and deal with these standards, while they undertake to support the ILO's work in promoting them. Governments believe that economic growth and development fostered by increased trade and further trade liberalization contribute to the promotion of these standards. Similarly, the governments reject the use of labor standards for protectionist purposes, and agree that the comparative advantage of countries, particularly low-wage, developing countries, must in no way be put in question. In this regard, governments note that the WTO and ILO Secretariats will continue their existing collaboration.

Indigenous Communities

Governments will:

- Support activities in the field of education aimed at improving the participation of indigenous populations in society. Such activities would seek to strengthen the identity of indigenous populations and promote respectful coexistence among different social groups in communities and states.
- Promote the widening of basic and secondary education services with training orientation, mainly in regions with high percentages of indigenous populations, through greater support from governments and international co-operation, at the request of interested governments, so that indigenous

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and non-indigenous populations have the opportunity to receive technical training and contribute to the development of their countries. As far as possible, the training areas which are implemented parallel to educational processes should respond to the needs of the region and to production strategies.

- In co-operation with regional organizations, development institutions and NGOs, actively support and promote capacity building activities and productive projects, in areas such as agriculture, handicrafts, small trade and industry, and marketing. To the extent possible, these should be guided and administered by indigenous communities and organizations.
- Facilitate the organization of round-tables at the national and hemispheric level, in partnership with indigenous communities and organizations, with a view to promoting greater understanding of and co-operation in the areas of education and health, with a particular emphasis on women and children. Governments will also promote research initiatives on the relationship between indigenous population, poverty and development.
- Promote the consideration and adoption of the proposed "American Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous People" prepared by the Inter-American Human Rights Commission.

Hunger and Malnutrition

Governments will:

- Give the highest priority to the reduction of infant malnutrition, concentrating efforts on health, nutrition and education programs for the nutrition of infants, particularly for those under three years of age, considering that these are the most vulnerable years. To that end, emphasis

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shall be given to adequate nutrition and the correction of specific nutritional deficiencies, specifically with vitamin supplements combined with the greater use of vaccinations and immunizations and monitoring during the growth of the child.

- Give high priority to the nutritional needs of pregnant and nursing mothers, the aged and those physically unable to work.
- Continue, as far as possible, with the dialogue began at the Inter-American Conference of Hunger, held in Buenos Aires in October, 1996, and explore the application of the measures that were suggested in their respective jurisdictions, in particular the creation of alliances with the private sector to fight hunger and malnutrition, the creation of food bank networks with the participation of volunteers and the creation of an Honorary Council which is dedicated to foster activities in order to reach the objectives of the Summit in this area.