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X MEETING OF THE SUMMIT IMPLEMENTATION REVIEW GROUP

PLAN OF ACTION

II SUMMIT OF THE AMERICAS

WASHINGTON D.C., OCTOBER 1-2, 1997

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SCHEDULE

X Meeting of the Summit Implementation Review Group
October 1 - 2, 1997
The World Bank - Preston Auditorium, 1818 H Street
Washington, D.C.

Wednesday, October 1

8:30 a.m.	Registration.
9:00 a.m.	Welcome by the General Coordinator, Ambassador Juan Martabit.
9:05 a.m.	Welcome by the Acting President of the World Bank, Mr. Sven Sandstrom
9:15 a.m.	Remarks by Ambassador Genaro Arriagada, Adviser of the President of Chile for the Summit of the Americas.
9:30 a.m.	Remarks by Ambassador Jeffrey Davidow.
9:45 a.m.	Remarks by Secretary General O.A.S. Mr Cesar Gaviria
10:00 a.m.	Coffee-Break.
10:15 a.m.	Remarks by Ambassador Richard Brown
10:25 a.m.	Explanation of Agenda by the General Coordinator.
10:40 a.m.	Presentation by Mexico, Responsible Coordinator on "Education".
10:55 a.m.	Discussions and negotiation
1:00 p.m.	Lunch

- 2:30 p.m. Discussion and negotiation resumes
- 5:30 p.m. Summary of discussions - Presentation by Chairman.
- 5:50 p.m. Working Session ends.
- 6:00 p.m. Reception - MC Building, Floating Terrace- World Bank.

Thursday, October 2

- 9:00 a.m. Presentation by the I.D.B., Responsible Coordinator on "Microenterprises and Small and Medium-sized businesses".
- 9:15 a.m. Discussion and negotiation
- 9:45 a.m. Presentation by the United States, Responsible Coordinator on "Property Registration".
- 10:00 a.m. Discussion and negotiation.
- 10:30 a.m. Presentation by the P.A.H.O., Responsible Coordinator on "Health"
- 10:45 a.m. Discussion and negotiation.
- 11:15 a.m. Presentation by Nicaragua, Responsible Coordinator on "Women".
- 11:30 a.m. Discussion and negotiation.
- 12:00 p.m. Presentation by the United States, Responsible Coordinator on "Basic rights of workers".
- 12:15 p.m. Discussion and negotiation

REPUBLIC OF CHILE
Ministry of Foreign Relations
General Coordinations
Second Summit of the Americas

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|------------|--|
| 12:45 p.m. | Lunch. |
| 2:15 p.m. | Presentation by Canada, Responsible Coordinator on "Indigenous Population". |
| 2:30 p.m. | Discussion and negotiation. |
| 3:00 p.m. | Presentation by Argentina, Responsible Coordinator on "Hunger and Malnutrition". |
| 3:15 p.m. | Discussion and negotiation. |
| 3:45 p.m. | Presentation by the Chairman of the proposals for "Education" and "Eradication of Poverty and Discrimination". |
| 5:00 p.m. | Comments of the schedule of work.
Meeting Adjourns. |

II SUMMIT OF THE AMERICAS

EDUCATION

PROPOSAL OF MEXICO
RESPONSIBLE COORDINATOR

X MEETING OF THE SUMMIT IMPLEMENTATION REVIEW GROUP
WASHINGTON D.C. OCTOBER 1- 2 1997

**II SUMMIT OF THE AMERICAS
UNIVERSAL ACCESS TO QUALITY PRIMARY EDUCATION
SANTIAGO, CHILE, AUGUST 12, 1997**

Principles And Foundations

In the current international context, education has become a strategic policy for the development of nations. This pivotal position is linked to the role and functions education should play.

Education is expected to train autonomous, critical individuals who will form an empowered citizenry with a view toward strengthening democracy. Education is enjoined to prepare people to participate dynamically in the worlds of labor and of production. Training in such areas as teamwork, the development of creativity and autonomy, cooperation and decision-making are expected. A new combination of personal competencies and solidarity.

The educational system is expected to instill the capabilities for participation in community life, the fundamental codes of society and participation in the history of a nation. Education is also expected to provide training for understanding, recognition of others and respect, at a time when nations are integrating quickly and, through communications, are in frequent contact and communication. Education, as a critical conveyance for a nation's culture, is the tool for consolidating the cultural identity of peoples at a time of globalization and interdependence such as we are experiencing at the end of this millennium.

Furthermore, increasingly, the new styles of development are inspired by learning and knowledge and, in order for these to expand, require a solidly trained population. At present, the true wealth of nations lies in the qualities of the people who compose them. It is the capacity of women and men that define the limits and possibilities of nations' well-being.

With democracy recovered and the processes of economic transformation initiated, education takes on a fundamental role in consolidating these movements in the mid and long-term. Education on the continent has problems, challenges and perspectives in common and that have permitted important consensus to be secured in recent years in different fora and arenas.

There is broad consensus in the region with regard to the critical aspects that characterize the educational systems in our nations. For this reason, vast educational reforms have been unleashed that seek to implement the criteria of quality, equity and pertinence.

Increasingly, quality is tied to useful and appropriate education, associated with the patterns and standards recognized by science. This implies a renewal of contents, an increase in teacher instruction, improvements in infrastructure and a continual analysis of the results and performance of the educational system.

Speaking of equity means recognizing the educational deficits that affect all the nations, even while some have achieved high levels of coverage in their educational systems and have practically eradicated illiteracy. Despite the enormous efforts at expansion and reform, even the nations with the greatest development in education experience, to different extents, problems of access to the different levels of education and new forms and degrees of inequality and discrimination in attending to their children, youth and adults. Obviously, these problems are much more dramatic and of much greater magnitude in a majority of nations where the lesser economic development and the poverty of their inhabitants explain students' falling behind and keep education from playing a role as a tool in economic growth and social equity.

The concept of pertinence means responding to the social and cultural characteristics of the groups to whom education is being provided, taking on the realities in which they operate and incorporating significant experiences in their communities.

This spawns a fundamental challenge for the continent: confronting jointly the dual exigency of stemming underprivileged conditions and reducing poverty through education, as well as reformulating education based on the criteria of quality, equity and pertinence.

We reiterate that universal literacy and access to quality primary education, free of discrimination on the basis of race, national origin or gender, are the indispensable foundation for sustainable social and cultural development, economic growth and democratic stability, in keeping with the principles of the Action Plan from the 1st Summit of the Americas. Special emphasis is to be placed at this 2nd Summit on the strengthening of strategies that not only reduce underprivileged conditions but also increase the quality and pertinence of education.

We are confronted by the formidable task of including everyone and at the same time, of transforming education to adjust it to the socio-economic requirements of the end of the century. This may be facilitated by lower rates of demographic expansion in some nations.

The task is lofty, given its complexity and magnitude, but it can be eased by the presence of new knowledge, resources and strategies in hemispheric heterogeneity that can be strengthened and mobilized with solidarity toward the common goal.

NATIONAL ACTION PROPOSALS

The principles that underlie and sustain these action proposals are equity, understood as the creation of conditions so that all groups in the population have the opportunity to receive quality educational services, reducing in an appreciable manner the effects derived from social and economic inequality and from ethnic, cultural and gender diversity; quality, that shall encompass the attainment of certain cognitive levels and orientations, skills, abilities, and ethical attitudes; and permanence, understood as the capacity of educational systems to respond to the aspirations of the population groups that are characterized by social, cultural and ethnic diversity.

The Heads of State and of Government reiterate the commitment put forth at the Miami Summit.

Goal

To ensure universal access to quality primary education that is open to diversity by the year 2010, seeking to secure a completion rate of 100% for primary schools and an enrollment rate of 75% in secondary schools.

Objectives and Actions

To conduct compensatory and intersectoral educational policies and engage in programs targeting groups in educationally disadvantaged groups and in vulnerable socio-economic conditions, with special attention to indigenous people, the physically challenged and women.

- To establish specific programs aimed at fostering educational and social integration of minors in vulnerable and disadvantaged conditions, with a special emphasis on physically challenged minors and on the organization of seminars to exchange experiences in this area.

- To ensure that by the year 2010 a large percentage of the girls who begin their elementary studies complete primary school.
- To define an agenda for 1998 that allows for the experiences gathered in the different nations on the application of compensatory policies to be harmonized.
- To conduct seminars to exchange experiences and develop joint models, methodologies and materials for socio-economically and educationally disadvantaged populations eligible for compensatory attention.

In addition, the Heads of State and of Government suggest, for the Summit in Santiago de Chile, commitments surrounding the quality and qualitative aspects of the educational process.

Goal

To increase the quality of primary education that is open to diversity by the year 2010.

Objectives and Actions

To establish national skills standards and processes of evaluation to measure the performance of students and develop a system of qualitative and quantitative indicators that permit programs to be designed that target improvement in the quality of education.

- To establish national skills standards in reading, writing and arithmetic and develop means of evaluating students' academic progress.
- To ensure that primary school graduates command reading, writing and basic calculations and that an increasing number achieve these goals by fourth grade.
- To develop for 1998 a regional project to prepare audiovisual packages on mathematics and science in an effort to improve the levels of teaching and academic utilization.

To develop comprehensive programs to enhance teacher appreciation that allow for adequate initial training, combining incentives with strategies for continuing education and professional improvement.

- To systematize experiences in continuing education for teachers seen in different nations, in an effort to support or enrich existing programs.
- To engage in seminars for the exchange of experiences and joint development of models, methodologies, and training materials in initial teacher education and elementary education for populations that are socio-economically vulnerable and educationally disadvantaged, particularly in the application of didactic techniques in multi-grade schools (single or bi-teacher).

To develop or reinforce educational management systems which make it possible to move forward in decentralization processes and to establish agreements aimed at achieving a greater opening of educational systems to the participation of civic society, oriented towards the achievement of greater equity and equal opportunity in the achievement of the commitments contained in this action plan.

- To engage in analysis and evaluation seminars on educational decentralization processes as a means of influencing the quality of primary education.
- To develop and systematize the experiences focused on strengthening educational management at state, local and school levels as well as the coparticipation of the civic society in the process.

To strengthen vocational/technical training programs under different options and alternatives, moving from those which seek specifically to prepare students for the workplace to those that target education based on the reinforcement of general skills for productive performance. It is of the utmost importance to establish national systems for labor skills, certification and equivalencies. It will be necessary to consider the initiatives of the IDB, World Bank and OAS in this regard.

- To elaborate a strategy to incorporate the process of standardizing labor skills in order to integrate efforts, education and training programs in human resources, aimed at addressing needs for the qualification of workers and employers and favor the mobility of individuals in the entire educational system.
- To undertake an evaluation of major experiences at the international level on the certification of labor skills.

To establish educational strategies that enable indigenous peoples to build bilingual inter- cultural primary education models that train for a lifetime and respond both to their vision of the cosmos and the problems of their communities. Similar efforts shall be undertaken in order for elementary education to respond to a gender approach and to foster and develop the role of women in society.

- To create a working group for 1998 among the countries with the larger indigenous populations in order to systematize and disseminate bilingual inter cultural educational models.
- To build a hemispheric information network in order to disseminate the strategies and materials being used in each country to inform society about the characteristics, conditions, and purposes of initial and primary education for indigenous children.
- To set up educational programs focused on women with a gender perspective in order to reduce the inequality of access and permanence of girls and women in educational services.
- To systematize and disseminate the educational models, printed and audiovisual materials, dealing with initial education and focused on children under 4 years of age and on adult education targeting educationally disadvantaged women. We propose to rely for this on UNICEF's experience in the region.

To develop educational programs on values in primary education with special attention to the incorporation of democratic values and human rights, emphasizing the overcoming of all forms of discrimination; where preservation of natural resources and the environment are considered.

- To strengthen in the primary education national programs the inclusion of education processes and transversal contents on education for democracy and respect for the environment.
- To undertake regional seminars on experiences in primary education in the area of education for democracy and sustainable development.

As a means of supporting the achievement of the goals, the Heads of State and Government suggest the following commitments:

Goal

To foster the use of the new technologies available for the universalization of primary education and to establish internships and student exchanges.

Objectives and Actions

To promote remote education and the incorporation of new technologies in conjunction with proven educational formats in order to reduce the number of educationally disadvantage people and increase the quality of education. It is an ethical imperative to reach the most vulnerable areas with cutting edge scientific and technological breakthroughs. Special emphasis should be given to the action the IDB is promoting in computer science and multimedia.

- To develop correspondence training programs for teachers, senior management and middle management in education using Internet, TV and other electronic media.
- To systematize experiences, both in remote continuing education for teachers, as well as primary and high school education focused on disadvantaged populations , paying special attention both to the objectives and electronic media used and to the educational models and their results.
- To identify satellite systems present in the countries of the region and investigate their technological status with a view toward assessing the possibilities and willingness for exchange.
- To identify the production of TV shows in different countries and consider their availability for exchange and applicability in the short run.
- To develop an electronic network among Education Ministries throughout the hemisphere in order to exchange significant and innovative experiences on the continent.
- To undertake an internship program for students, teachers and experts in the educational area, not only to learn about successful experiences but also to implement them.

HORIZONTAL, BILATERAL AND MULTILATERAL COOPERATION STRATEGIES

Cooperation Strategies

The Presidents and Heads of State and Government, reaffirm their commitment to promote horizontal, bilateral and multilateral cooperation in the area of education, and with that purpose:

Instruct OAS and request that the IDB and World Bank, within the scope of their respective fields, support programs and initiatives consistent with the goals, objectives and actions proposed in this plan. A special request is put forth to the IDB to apply necessary measures to ensure specific support for the actions stated in this plan in its programs and projects in the region.

Request that the OAS, by means of the mechanisms that the Member States are developing in the framework of the Inter American Council for Comprehensive Development (CIDI), promote, articulate and facilitate horizontal cooperation and collective action within the hemisphere and that, with said purpose it convene the participation of agencies and organisms of the member states in order to:

Develop annual forums for technical consultation among interested countries to review progress.

- To organize working groups composed of the interested countries in order to exchange experiences and methodologies and build cooperation networks.
- To organize internships with the purpose of exchanging experiences regarding efficient policies.
- To put into practice pilot programs that foster collective learning and specific consulting among national institutions.

We call upon the agencies and cooperation programs of the countries of the hemisphere, as well as technical and financial cooperation organisms both at international and regional levels to render their support to the initiatives linked with this plan.

Follow-up of the Plan

In order to follow-up on the initiatives associated with this plan, the Presidents and Heads of State and Government:

Request that the OAS, in the framework of the Strategic Plan on Solidary Cooperation of CIDI, promote the implementation of a multilateral project to follow-up on this Summit Accord regarding education, that encompasses the maintenance of a record of the on going initiatives related to the action plan, as well as specific support initiatives in the area of the technical meetings and seminars included herein.

Reiterate their commitment to increasing, when possible by each nation, the budget allocated to primary education, searching not only to increase resources but also to secure greater internal efficiency.

Call upon the States of the hemisphere to consider the use of the sectoral accounts mechanism established by OAS within the scope of CIDI to make voluntary financial contributions that help support cooperation activities designed to make progress toward the goals contemplated in the action plan and,

Request that international financing institutions increase the availability of funds to foster the actions contained therein.

II SUMMIT OF THE AMERICAS

EDUCATION

COMMENTS

BRAZIL

COLOMBIA

NICARAGUA

UNITED STATES

X MEETING OF THE SUMMIT IMPLEMENTATION REVIEW GROUP
WASHINGTON D.C. OCTOBER 1- 2 1997

II SUMMIT OF THE AMERICAS

PLAN OF ACTION

CHAPTER I : EDUCATION

Comments submitted by Brazil

Brazil considers that the document presented by Mexico at the technical meeting on education held between August 11-12 in Santiago, in the context of the preparation for the Second Summit of the Americas is reasonable, but it has the following comments to make:

- a). The section that deals with the "Principles and Foundations" could be reelaborated into a more succinet text, and this wouldn't mean the loss of any of the ideas enunciated;
- b). Likewise, in the section regarding "National action proposals for the II Summit of the Americas", it seems more appropriate to have a more concise text which would define broad scopes and action lines, without detailing the actions. Said details could be covered by the Ministers of Education of the participating countries, which should be together at the Meeting of Ministers of Education of the OAS, that will be held immediately after the II Summit of the Americas in Brazil. Under these circumstances, the actions mentioned in small letters in the Mexican document, could be taken in a separate document and submitted, at that moment, to the Ministers of Education.
- c). It does not seem appropriate to repete in the document of the II Meeting the goals already approved in Miami, such as the case of the first goal in the Mexican document.

In the meantime, some mention of the compensatory policies could be maintained, focussing on vulnerable groups, in general, without having to specify them;

- d). In the last paragraph of page starting with the goal to "elevate the quality of open primary education to diversity for 2010", it does not seem necessary to mention IDB, World Bank and OAS, which are mentioned when the document refers to international cooperation;
- e). The mentions on education of specific groups (women and indigenous communities), as well as education for democracy, would be more appropriate in other section of the subject agenda of the Summit;
- f). In the section on "Cooperation Strategies", the expression "developing annual forums", as proposed, could be substituted with "meeting of Ministers of Education".

Comments submitted by Colombia

SEE APPENDIX

Comments submitted by Nicaragua

The theoretical bases for the Proposal on Principles and Foundations is appropriate, since it acknowledges that "nations' true wealth lies on the qualities of the people who comprise them". Education is considered as one of the most important factors for development and its fundamental role in the consolidation of democracy and economic transformations is noted.

It is also appropriate since it proposes, in relation to the problems characterizing educational systems, the need to trigger broad educational reforms based on the criteria of **quality, equity and relevance**.

Considerations and Suggestions

1. The proposal for action considers the gender perspective, which coincides with suggestions approved at the First Hemispheric Meeting on Topic No 18 of the First Summit.

2. It is relevant, as Mexico proposes, to reaffirm the target established by the First Summit of the Americas: To ensure universal access to primary education **adding that it should be of quality, open to diversity**, by the year 2010. Seeking to attain a 100% completion rate in primary schooling and a 75% enrollment rate in secondary schooling
3. In terms of the second target, "to increase the quality of primary education making it open to diversity by the year 2010" and, more specifically, **for the section on objectives and actions, Nicaragua proposes the following:**
 - * Develop or support strategies to overcome nutrition deficiencies in children in order to strengthen their learning capacity. This initiative is based on the Action Plan of the First Summit and it would be convenient to re-start it, considering the poverty and malnutrition levels of infants in countries such as ours. In Nicaragua, there is a program to provide A Glass of Milk and a Nutritious Bisquet to children, therefore it would be important to maintain such programs.

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COMMENTS AND SUGGESTIONS FROM COLOMBIA

IN RELATION TO GOAL 1 (Page 3)

"To ensure universal access to quality basic education open to diversity for the year 2010. Attempting to reach a basic school completion rate of 100% and a secondary enrolment rate of 75%.

"Objective and Actions:

"To carry out compensatory inter-sectoral educational policies and develop programs of specific attention to groups in a situation of educational deprivation and in vulnerable social and economic conditions with special attention to indigenous peoples, the handicapped and women."

Comment

The objective is ambiguous. It could be understood that "To ensure universal access to ... basic education" was merely a problem of "compensatory ... educational policies..."

Further, in a document of this nature, it should concentrate more on overall strategies for compliance with goals and objectives than on specific acts. Some of these last (seminars, agendas, the systematization of experiences) are means or procedures that allow actions to take place. (This comment is valid for the entire document).

The second action of the objective is a specific goal.

Proposal for Redefinition

1.1 Objective

To guarantee complete basic education for all individuals of school age by the year 2010.

Strategies

1.1.1 Strengthening of national plans to universalize basic education, especially in relation to the development of articulatory models of primary and secondary education, the modernization of strategies and resources for apprenticeship, flexible systems of evaluation and promotion and educational attention with gender awareness.

1.1.2 Design of compensatory and sectoral educational policies directed to specific attention to educationally deprived groups in vulnerable economic conditions.

1.1.3 Development of teaching modes appropriate to providing attention to ethnic groups and persons with disabilities that guarantee their academic and social integration.

Suggested Activities

- Exchange of national experiences in the development of programs to ensure basic education for school age individuals.
- Exchange of national experiences with regard to the application of compensatory and intersectoral educational policies.
- Establishment of specific programs to promote the educational and social integration of handicapped children.
- Development of models, methodologies and materials that provide educational attention to educationally deprived populations in vulnerable social and economic conditions.
- Others that may be suggested

IN RELATION TO GOAL 2 (Page 4)

"Goal: To raise the quality of basic education open to diversity by the year 2010."

Comment

The second action of the first objective proposed for this goal: "Ensure that those leaving the primary schools have mastered reading, writing and basic arithmetic and that an ever-increasing number achieve those objectives by the fourth grade," is in itself a specific goal. It is proposed to reformulate it.

Proposed Redefinition

2.1 Objective This objective remains the same as in the document:

"To establish national competency standards and evaluation processes to measure students' performance and develop a system of quantitative and qualitative indicators that allow the design of programs to improve educational quality."

Strategies

2.1.1 Establishment of national standards to determine competency in reading, writing and arithmetic required for basic education.

2.1.2 Develop new models to evaluate students' academic progress more centered on its qualitative dimensions.

Suggested Activities

Organization of a regional project to stimulate the preparation of audio-visual mathematics and science units with the objective of improving levels of instruction and student achievement.

- Others that may be suggested.

2.2 Objective This objective remains the same as in the document:

"To develop integrated programs to enhance the value of the teaching profession, making it possible to guarantee adequate initial preparation, combining salary incentives with in-service, refresher and teacher excellence strategies."

Strategies

2.2.1 Improvement of the cultural and social image of the teaching profession and the development of special incentives in accordance with the commitments acquired for improving the quality of education.

2.2.2 Strengthening teacher refresher and in-service training, with emphasis on investigative processes in teaching activities.

2.2.3 Development of teacher education programs designed for attention to persons with disabilities and to ethnic groups.

2.2.4 Incorporation into curriculum plans for teacher education of special strategies for providing attention to educationally deprived populations in situations of social and economic vulnerability.

Suggested Activities

Proposals formulated by the countries would be expected.

2.3 Objective This objective remains the same as in the document:

"To develop or reinforce educational management mechanisms that allow advances along the lines of decentralization and the establishment of agreements to achieve educational systems more open to community participation oriented to achieving quality with equity in compliance with the commitments acquired in this plan of action."

Strategies

2.3.1 Formulation of systematic programs for the analysis, oversight and evaluation of educational decentralization processes.

2.3.2 Establishment of administrative mechanisms for the articulation of the processes of administration and management of educational services in accordance with territorial competencies.

2.3.3 Strengthening of educational management at the national, local and institutional level, and of the mechanisms for community participation in the process.

Suggested Activities

Proposals formulated by the countries would be expected.

2.4 Objective

"To strengthen vocational training programs with various options and alternatives, ranging from those with specific job training objectives to those that favor preparation based on the strengthening of general competency to improve productive performance. The establishment of national systems for job competency, certification and equivalencies is particularly important. It will be necessary to take into account the initiatives of the IDB, the World Bank and the OAS in this aspect."

Comment

This objective remains the same as proposed in the document, up to the expression "improve productive performance." The rest is suppressed and picked up as strategies.

Strategies

2.4.1 The establishment of national systems for job competency, certification and equivalencies.

2.4.2 Incorporation of the process of job competency standardization into decisions concerning the education and training of human resources.

Activities Suggested

Carrying out an evaluation of principal experiences with regard to the job competency certification.

2.5 Objective

"Establish educational strategies that allow Indian peoples to construct basic bilingual intercultural education models that educate for life and respond not only to their world view but

to the problems their communities face. A similar effort will have to be put forth to see that basic education responds with an awareness of gender to promote and develop the role of women in society."

Comment

This objective should be separated into two: one directed towards ethnic groups and the other toward educational attention to women.

Proposed redefinition:

2.5 Objective

Replace the expression "...Indian peoples..." with "...ethnic groups..." so that it reads:

"Establish educational strategies that allow ethnic groups to construct basic bilingual intercultural education models that educate for life and respond not only to their world view but to the problems their communities face."

Strategies

2.5.1 Development and strengthening of intercultural bilingual education modes.

2.5.2 Establishment of a special information system with regard to ethnic education.

2.5.3 Promotion of ethnic, linguistic research to advance the curricular process and the development of educational materials in accordance with the linguistic and cultural characteristics of each ethnic group.

Suggested Activities

- Systematize and publish intercultural bilingual education models in operation in countries with a larger indigenous population.
- Organize a hemisphere information network with regard to strategies and materials utilized in initial and basic education for indigenous boys and girls.
- Others that may be suggested.

Proposed redefinition:

2.6 Objective

Establish strategies for basic education to respond with gender awareness and encourage and develop the role of women in society.

Strategies

2.6.1 Revision of educational programs to guarantee gender perspective for the purpose of guaranteeing access and continuance of girls and women in educational services with equal opportunities.

Suggested Activities

- Systematize educational experiences and educational materials linked to educational attention to school age girls and educationally deprived women.
- Others that may be suggested.

2.7 Objective

This objective remains the same as proposed in the document:

"Develop programs for education in values during basic education, with special attention to the incorporation of democratic and human rights values that emphasize the overcoming of all forms of discrimination; the preservation of natural resources and the environment into account."

Strategies

2.7.1 Strengthening of national programs of basic education with regard to the formative process and transversal contents with regard to education for democracy and respect for the environment.

Suggested Activities

- Inventory of educational experiences with regard to basic education for democracy and sustainable development.
- Others that may be suggested.

IN RELATION TO GOAL 3 (Page 5)

"Promote the use of new technologies in the service of the universalization of basic education and to establish assistanceships and student exchanges."

Comment:

This goal is drafted as if it were an objective:

Proposed Redefinition:

Goal 3: Incorporate new technologies to basic education

3.1 Objective

Renew teaching formats utilized in basic education utilizing computerization, the mass media and computers as a working tool.

Strategies

3.1.1 Strengthening of distance education

3.1.2 Utilization of networks such as the internet in the development of educational programs.

Suggested Activities

- Inventory of existing and available satellite systems.
- Establishment of an electronic network between the Ministries of Education of the hemisphere to exchange significant and innovative experiences.
- Identification of television programs available for use in the near term.
- Development of distance training programs for teachers, principals and educational administrators, utilizing television, internet and other electronic media.
- Systematization of experiences, not only in teacher in-service training, but in distance basic, primary and secondary education directed to the educationally deprived population as well,

with special attention not only to the objectives and electronic means utilized but to the educational model and its results.

- Others that may be suggested.

COMMENTS SUBMITTED BY THE UNITED STATES

Education is the doorway to more democratic, tolerant societies and to greater prosperity for all. It takes in a wide array of disciplines and touches on every human endeavor. In the Summit nations' efforts to build a fairer and more prosperous hemisphere, they have chosen to give education pride of place as the first initiative in the Santiago Plan of Action. Governments' instructions in the Lima document confirm education's prominence and give clear guidance on which education issues the SIRC should deal with as it drafts the Santiago Plan of Action. It was also agreed in Punta del Este and in Lima that Santiago Summit action items would be focussed, achievable in 2-3 years, and presidential in scope and quality.

A great deal of work has gone into improving the draft of the proposal for an education initiative since the August 11-12 meeting in Santiago, but not all of the criteria from Lima and Punta del Este have been met.

The statements both in the preamble and in the chapeau paragraph contain many worthwhile ideas. If part of these paragraphs were distilled into a succinct chapeau paragraph for the initiative, the rest could perhaps be considered for part of the political declaration.

With 28 or so action items, the proposal is now less lengthy than the original version that was distributed at the August 11-12, 1997 meeting in Santiago. However, it is still too long. The Heads of State and Government should lend their political will and prestige only to a limited number of significant action items that have a potential for great impact on the hemisphere, efforts truly worth the Presidents' attention. Further synthesizing and condensing may achieve part of the task, but many of the action items should probably be left to the education ministerial as part of the implementation process that will follow the Santiago Summit.

Both in its preparatory conferences and at the ministerial itself, the participants may find that many of the items from this proposal will help guide them in developing implementation strategies.

Also among the new proposal's action items, there are many that further the Miami Summit education actions. Indeed the first goal of the new proposal paraphrases very closely the Miami action item about 100 percent primary school completion and 75 percent secondary enrollment by 2010. If this language stays, criticism that Santiago is repeating Miami may appear justified to some.

It might be better to place the entire section of the new proposal's first goal in the Responsible Coordinator's report on the implementation of Initiative Number 16 from the Miami Plan of Action. The Summit nations remain committed to carrying out the Miami obligations; but they do not need to be repeated in the Santiago Action Plan.

Another part of the proposal that seems misplaced is the fifth objective of the second goal, which deals with the needs of indigenous communities. The Lima document specifically calls for this to be handled under the Poverty Initiative, and Canada is the interested country.

Similarly the following objective, number six, of the second goal deals with education for democracy, which the Lima document assigns to the part of the Democracy and Human Rights Initiative for which Brazil is the Responsible Coordinator.

The worker training objective under the second goal raises serious legal problems for the United States. It calls for standardization and mutual recognition of skilled trades and professions. The United States Government cannot commit itself to this objective because the federal government does not have the authority to certify skilled trades and professions. This power lies with the states and private, professional organizations under the U.S. system.

The Lima document calls for the development of action items that will support the March 1997 Responsible Coordinator's Plan of Action, which emphasizes access, equity and quality. The latest proposal suggests several interesting possibilities in

the area of improving the quality of education. For example, the second goal's first objective and its action items on standards, assessments and indicators echo concerns shared by many countries. Equally important for improving the quality of education is the preparation of teachers, and the second objective of the second goal addresses this issue.

The proposals suggestions on access, which are many, should be condensed or synthesized. The Heads of State and Government could endorse an action item on issues of access and equity, or these issues could be addressed in the chapeau paragraph.

The most recent proposal should have a more focussed, fuller development of the Lima instructions on exchanges, distance education, and incorporating new technologies into the classroom. Certainly, however, some of the suggestions in the proposal's language on distance education could, at other meetings following the Santiago Summit, be worked into implementation strategies.

The most recent proposal's section on strategies of horizontal, bilateral and multilateral cooperation, crosses back and forth from actions that appropriately belong to the SIRG in fulfilling its monitoring function to actions that could reasonably be tasked to the international financial institutions and organizations. This section should be rewritten -- if there is consensus that it needs to be included at all -- leaving implementation and tasking of implementation to national governments, monitored by the SIRG. The international financial institutions and organizations should, where appropriate for their programs and resources, be charged with executing specific implementation tasks assigned to them and in turn monitored by the SIRG.

The United States looks forward to working with the Responsible Coordinator, the Summit Chair, and other members of the SIRG to further develop this all important initiative.

II SUMMIT OF THE AMERICAS

MICRO-ENTERPRISES AND SMALL AND MEDIUM-SIZED BUSINESSES

PROPOSAL OF THE I.D.B.
RESPONSIBLE COORDINATOR

X MEETING OF THE SUMMIT IMPLEMENTATION REVIEW GROUP
WASHINGTON D.C. OCTOBER 1- 2, 1997

PROMOTION OF MICRO, SMALL AND MEDIUM ENTERPRISES

Micro, small and medium enterprises account for a large percentage of employment of the poor, especially women, and contribute significantly to the economies of our countries. Strengthening support for micro, small and medium enterprises is key to attaining sustainable and equitable development. Support for the sector should be guided by the following principles: (i) the sector contributes directly to poverty reduction by creating jobs, and indirectly by bolstering economic dynamism and competitiveness, which facilitates greater economic growth; (ii) the various characteristics of micro, small and medium enterprises require specific policies and forms of support; (iii) the separation of the roles of the state and the private sector, where the main role of the state is to create and maintain a political, regulatory, legal, and institutional framework favorable to the development of the sector, while the private sector has the responsibility of providing support services to micro, small and medium enterprises, and cooperating with the public sector to create a favorable environment.

In the context of these guiding principles, the governments will ensure the implementation of the following action plan:

1. Improve access to financial services

Accelerate the reform of policies that lead to the creation of competitive and solid financial markets to promote the entry of formal-sector financial institutions, and other private institutions that offer financial services to micro and small enterprises.

Support enhancement of the capacity of the institutions that provide financial services to micro, small and medium enterprises by disseminating best practices in the areas of administration, staff training, transfer of information, new technology, among others.

Ensure that the largest possible number of poor microenterprises in the hemisphere, particularly women microentrepreneurs, have access to financial services by the year 2000.

2. Development of an appropriate regulatory framework

Simplify and expedite the procedures for the registration, enrolment, and formalization, where appropriate, of micro, small and medium enterprises by implementing simple and transparent policies.

Identify and seek to overcome the regulatory and institutional barriers and obstacles in the areas of labor, administrative, and tax law to promote the reforms needed for the development of the sector.

3. Improve access to business development services

Take actions so that micro, small and medium enterprises can develop managerial and technological capabilities that enable them to boost their productivity and to be more competitive in domestic and international markets.

Promote the entrepreneurial, managerial, and administrative capability of microenterprises and small and medium enterprises, as well as, market access, using information systems, technical assistance and training.

Facilitate access to training for the workers employed by microenterprises and small and medium enterprises, in accordance with the needs of the labor market, by promoting on the job training and or other themes of training.

4. Promote cooperation among enterprises

Encourage agreements with larger enterprises as a mechanism for microenterprises and small and medium enterprises to gain access to technology, financing, and domestic and international markets.

5. Promote inter-institutional coordination

Promote effective mechanisms for coordination among national and local public institutions that support microenterprises and small and medium enterprises, and facilitate their linkages with the private sector.

Recommend to the regional agencies and the official bilateral and multilateral development institutions, especially the Interamerican Development Bank and the World Bank, that they strengthening programs aimed at supporting microenterprise and small and medium enterprise.

II SUMMIT OF THE AMERICAS

PROPERTY REGISTRATION

PROPOSAL OF THE UNITED STATES
RESPONSIBLE COORDINATOR

X MEETING OF THE SUMMIT IMPLEMENTATION REVIEW GROUP
WASHINGTON D.C. OCTOBER 1- 2, 1997

II SUMMIT OF THE AMERICAS

PLAN OF ACTION

CHAPTER IV

ERADICATION OF POVERTY AND DISCRIMINATION

Initiative approved at Agenda Outline

"Actions for the implementation or modernization for effective systems of property registration for those countries that require it."

United States's Government proposed action item as Responsible Coordinator.

The Governments will:

- Increase the availability and reduce the cost of land titles by:
 - decentralizing and increasing the transparency of land registries and adopting a unified approach to parcel-based property registration.
 - foster the use of Global Positioning System (GPS) technology for surveying and property mapping.
 - eliminating unnecessary and overlapping administrative procedures of fees registration.
- Implement measures to protect the property interests of and access to natural resources for indigenous population.

II SUMMIT OF THE AMERICAS

HEALTH

PROPOSAL OF THE P.A.H.O.
RESPONSIBLE COORDINATOR

X MEETING OF THE SUMMIT IMPLEMENTATION REVIEW GROUP
WASHINGTON D.C. OCTOBER 1- 2. 1997

II SUMMIT OF THE AMERICAS

PLAN OF ACTION

Chapter IV.- Eradication of Poverty and Discrimination

Language Approved in Lima: "Actions in the area of Health based on the proposal of the Pan American Health Organization, namely: Health Technologies Linking the Americas".

Draft language agreed in the Consultation Meeting on Health prepared by the Panamerican Health Organization, Santiago, 28 and 29 august, 1997.

"To address the consequences of poverty on health and the resulting inequities, as well as to ensure that the investments made to increase economic growth to bear fruit, Governments will:

Foster wide application of low cost, sustainable health technologies in order that all segments of the population share fully in the benefits of democratic stability, economic, growth and hemispheric collaboration.

These effective health technologies include the further development of vaccines and increased availability of drugs, information and communication technologies, as well as simple sanitation interventions.

Governments will:

- Seek, through public and private efforts or partnerships between the two, to increase the availability and to ensure the quality of vaccines and drugs, especially for the most needy, by supporting regional initiatives that will address research, development, production and utilization of vaccines, and by promoting efforts to safeguard the quality, safety and efficacy of pharmaceutical products.

- 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 decisions taking advantage of the progress being made in areas such as: telecommunications, 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 developing and applying effective low cost technologies".

II SUMMIT OF THE AMERICAS

HEALTH

COMMENTS

EL SALVADOR
NICARAGUA

X MEETING OF THE SUMMIT IMPLEMENTATION REVIEW GROUP
WASHINGTON D.C. OCTOBER 1- 2 1997

II SUMMIT OF THE AMERICAS

PLAN OF ACTION

CHAPTER IV : ERADICATION OR POVERTY AND DISCRIMINATION

HEALTH

Comments submitted by El Salvador:

"To address the consequences of poverty on health and the resulting inequities, as well as to ensure that the investments made to increase economic growth *and social development* will bear fruit, Governments will:

Foster wide application of *basic* low cost, sustainable health technologies in order that all segments of the population share fully in the benefits of democratic stability, economic growth and hemispheric collaboration.

These effective health technologies include the further development in the area of *immunization, research and* (vaccines) increasead availability of drugs, information and communication technologies,as well as *greater* (simple) environmental interventions.

Governments will:

- Seek, through public and private efforts, or parterships between the two, to increase the availability and to ensure the quality of vaccines and drugs, especially for the most needy, by supporting regional initiatives that will address research, development, production and utilization of vaccines, and by promoting efforts to safeguard the quality, safety and efficacy of pharmaceutical products.

- 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 decisions taking advantage of the progress being made in areas such as: telecommunications, 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 developing and applying effective low cost technologies.
- *The procurement of these technologies must be in accordance with the priorities and possibilities of each country and with the undertaking of Governments to take steps to obtain the technical and financial external support to make them effective.*

Comments submitted by Nicaragua:

Nicaragua suggests to add the following to the proposal submitted by the OPS:

"Governments undertake to increase, as far as practicable to each nation, the budget allocated to health, seeking not only an increase in resources but greater efficiency".

II SUMMIT OF THE AMERICAS

WOMEN

PROPOSAL OF NICARAGUA
RESPONSIBLE COORDINATOR

X MEETING OF THE SUMMIT IMPLEMENTATION REVIEW GROUP
WASHINGTON D.C. OCTOBER 1- 2, 1997

II SUMMIT OF THE AMERICAS

PLAN OF ACTION

CHAPTER IV

ERRADICARION OF POVERTY AND DISCRIMINATION

Initiative approved at Agenda Outline :

" Actions in accordance with the agreements adopted at the Conference on Women held in Managua, including a specific program related to education".

Proposal of Nicaragua as Responsible Coordinator :

I EDUCATION : To incorporate explicitly the principle of the equal opportunity between women and men in the limits of all the educational levels and of the socialization processes.

II PRESERVATION AND STENGTHENING OF THE DEMOCRACY AND THE HUMAN RIGHTS : To maintain the proposal approved in the Summit of the Americas (Miami) of the point 2 referred " to promote policies to ensure that women enjoy full and equal legal rights within their families and societies, and to ensure the removal of constraints to women's full participation as voters, candidates and elected and appointed officials".

III ECONOMIC INTEGRATION AND FREE TRADE : It was not suggested a proposal in this item of the Agenda.

IV ERADICATING POVERTY AND DISCRIMINATION : To impel actions in the framework of the macroeconomic policies that reduce the unemployment, the poverty and the violence that prejudice particularly to the women, taking in consideration the sustainable development and the sociocultural characteristics of each country.

* To consolidate and to reinforce the national mechanisms of the woman and their regional and subregionals network, in order to promoting the implementation of the commitments contracted in the World Summit for the Social Development (Copenhagen), as well as in the Action Platform of the IV World Conference of the United Nations on the Woman (Beijing), and of the Summit of the Americas.

* That the Inter-American Women Commission, IWC/OAS, support the follow-up efforts of the topic of the woman of the Summit of the Americas through approved Indicators System and adopted by the countries of the Americas in Montelimar, Nicaragua.

II SUMMIT OF THE AMERICAS

BASIC RIGHTS OF WORKERS

PROPOSAL OF THE UNITED STATES
RESPONSIBLE COORDINATOR

X MEETING OF THE SUMMIT IMPLEMENTATION REVIEW GROUP
WASHINGTON D.C. OCTOBER 1- 2, 1997

II SUMMIT OF THE AMERICAS

PLAN OF ACTION

CHAPTER IV

ERADICATION OF POVERTY AND DISCRIMINATION

Initiative approved at Agenda Outline

" Actions at the national level leading to the goal of ensuring quality jobs, and of safeguarding the basic rights and interests of workers and to this end, freely promote respect for relevant ILO Conventions".

United States's Government proposed action item as responsible Coordinator

The Government will:

Review labor codes 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 exploitative forms of child labor, and non-discrimination in employment and occupation, consistent with international standards, with the assistance of the ILO.

Strengthen labor ministries to ensure that the administrative and judicial capacities exist to adequately implement core labor standards and to enable ministries to promote labor-management relations systems of collective bargaining and dispute resolution that reinforce democratic values and promote economic competitiveness, with the assistance of the ILO and IDB; ministers of labor will meet in 1999, and subsequently as appropriate, to report on national labor code reviews and assess progress toward enhancing administrative and judicial capacities.

II SUMMIT OF THE AMERICAS

BASIC RIGHTS OF WORKERS

COMMENTS

EL SALVADOR

X MEETING OF THE SUMMIT IMPLEMENTATION REVIEW GROUP
WASHINGTON D.C. OCTOBER 1- 2 1997

II SUMMIT OF THE AMERICAS

PLAN OF ACTION

CHAPTER IV : ERADICATION OF POVERTY AND DISCRIMINATION

BASIC RIGHTS OF WORKERS

Action proposed by the United States of America in its capacity as Responsible Coordinator :

- "To strengthen Labor Ministries to ensure that the administrative and judicial capacities exists to adequately implement core labor standards and to enable ministries to promote labor-management relations systems of collective bargaining and dispute resolution that reinforce democratic values and promote economic competitiveness, with the assistance of the ILO and the IDB; Ministers of Labor will meet in 1999, and subsequently as appropriate, to report on national labor code reviews and assess progress toward enhancing administrative and judicial capacities".

Alternative draft wording proposed by El Salvador:

- "To strengthen Labor Ministries to ensure that an administrative and judicial capacity exists to adequately implement fundamental labor rules that enable the Ministries to promote the systems of collective contracting and dispute resolution in worker-entrepreneurial relations, that reinforce democratic values and promote economic competitiveness, with the assistance of the ILO and the IDB; the Ministers of Labor will meet in 1999 and, subsequently, will draft a review of their National Labor Code and assess progress towards increasing their administrative and judicial capacity".

Additionally, the Government of El Salvador considers that an "amendment of the labor codes does not lead to creating quality jobs" and that the term used by the United States in their proposal for action, "core labor standards" does not have an

universal meaning, position that would have already been clarified at the Central-American-United States Presidential Meeting held in May, 1997, at San José, Costa Rica.

Comments of the United States, Responsible Coordinator on the comments of El Salvador:

The United States felt it was necessary to clarify that should the initiative of examining the respective national labor codes be eliminated from the action plan, and should the progress made in this field be subsequently analyzed at an eventual meeting of Ministers of Labor in 1999, this would completely change the initiative approved at Lima by the Ministers of Foreign Affairs in terms of "ensuring quality jobs, and of safeguarding the basic rights of workers and to this end, promote respect for relevant ILO conventions".

The Responsible Coordinator added that he did not share the Salvadorian comments about an alleged incorrect use of the phrase "core labor standards", since in his opinion this is the only way in which it will be possible to safeguard respect for the basic rights of workers. Finally, the Government of the United States of America reiterated its conviction that the proposed action initiatives are compatible with the idea of progressing through joint efforts, in accordance with the ILO, in the objective of having better work positions.

II SUMMIT OF THE AMERICAS

INDIGENOUS POPULATIONS

PROPOSAL OF CANADA
RESPONSIBLE COORDINATOR

X MEETING OF THE SUMMIT IMPLEMENTATION REVIEW GROUP
WASHINGTON D.C. OCTOBER 1- 2, 1997

SANTIAGO SUMMIT OF THE AMERICAS

IV. ERADICATION OF POVERTY AND DISCRIMINATION

Actions aimed at promoting the development of indigenous populations through adequate access to education, health care and occupational training

1. Canadian Proposal

The Miami Summit Declaration of Principles, endorsed by our leaders in December 1994, stressed a hemispheric commitment to prosperity, democratic values and institutions, and security in our Hemisphere. *Our leaders* remain committed to these ideals today. We are determined to consolidate and advance bond of cooperation, and to transform our aspirations into realities.

We share a commitment to support the efforts of indigenous communities and organizations to increase their effective participation in the political, economic and social life of their countries, and to realize their development goals.

To achieve our objectives, there is a need to develop partnerships with indigenous communities and organizations, focussing on inter-indigenous communities' links, all levels of government, regional organizations, private enterprise, and non-governmental organizations.

Action Items:

The Governments will implement at local, national or regional levels, as appropriate: the following activities:

- Work together to establish special funding access and insurance to support trade and economic development among indigenous communities/**populations**.
- Coordinate a regional round-table workshop at which the hemisphere's indigenous communities/**populations** will meet with a view to fostering links

between our indigenous cultures by the promotion and exploration of economic cooperation. Other round-tables will be considered in the areas of education, health and women and children with an aim to promote greater understanding and cooperation.

- Strive to encourage indigenous participation in agreements reached at this Summit under the Education theme, specifically, those that foster teacher and student exchanges, internships, linkages and other cooperative activities among indigenous educational institutions and distance learning methods.
- Include representatives from indigenous communities/**populations** in trade missions and trade fairs.

II SUMMIT OF THE AMERICAS

INDIGENOUS POPULATIONS

PROPOSALS OF

GUATEMALA

UNITED STATES

INTER-AMERICAN DEVELOPMENT BANK

INTER-AMERICAN INDIAN INSTITUTE

X MEETING OF THE SUMMIT IMPLEMENTATION REVIEW GROUP
WASHINGTON D.C. OCTOBER 1- 2 1997

INDIGENOUS POPULATIONS

1.- Proposal of Guatemala

Objective:

1. To increase income levels and life conditions of indigenous peoples within the Americas through development programs fostering self-management.
2. To improve education and training in indigenous peoples, in order to foster self-management, production activities and civilians' participation.
3. To strengthen indigenous peoples' identity and culture, as an element of American nations' identity and culture.
4. To further indigenous peoples' Participation to strengthen democratic processes.

Proposed action items

1. Governments, development agencies and non-governmental agencies shall assist each other and foster, through financial and technical assistance programs, production projects in agriculture and livestock. small-scale enterprises and trade, executed and managed by indigenous peoples and organizations, whose aim is to raise employment and income levels.
2. To extend primary education and secondary vocational schools, mainly in regions high in indigenous population. To this effect, governments and the international community shall enlarge their support in order for indigenous and non- indigenous communities to be afforded technical training opportunities and contribute to the development of their countries. In this regard, vocational efforts carried out concurrently with educational processes shall respond to the needs of the region and production strategies.

3. States shall promote bilingual, intercultural education in primary and secondary schools, mainly within indigenous communities, in order to strengthen students' identity and foster a peaceful coexistence among social groups composing communities and States.
4. Governments shall strengthen rights proper to indigenous peoples, civil and political rights, and their participation in the several areas of national life.

2.- Proposal of the United States of America

The governments will:

“Develop within one year national plans to improve participation of indigenous population in society, including provisions for primary education in indigenous languages, as a bridge to the national language”.

3.- Proposal of the Inter-American Development Bank

The governments will:

“Consider, in a systematic manner, the participation of the indigenous population in the development plans and programs at a national level, taking into account the relationship between socio-economic development and cultural identity, as well as the need to consult the beneficiaries. For those purposes, the governments will foster research initiatives on the relationship between indigenous peoples, poverty and development.

Support the process of adopting the American Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous People, currently being prepared by the Organization of American States. (U.S.A. has expressed difficulties with approving it).

Contribute to the consolidation of the Fund for the Development of the Indigenous Peoples of Latin America and the Caribbean, by means of contributions to the equity of the recently established agency to be (which is) administered by the Inter-American Development Bank”.

4.- Proposal of the “Inter-American Indian Institute”.

The Institute proposes to include some initiatives of the “Inter-American Indigenous Cooperation Program” (said program is being considered by the “Consejo Interamericano para el Desarrollo Integral” -CIDI-), such as:

- a. Draft Wording on “Scholarships to Strengthen the Americas Indigenous Leadership”, which would be financed by the countries and international agencies. Candidates would be proposed by indigenous organizations and peoples and the Evaluation and Monitoring Committee -established in said project- would be comprised of the countries, indigenous organizations and international agencies. The Inter-American Indian Institute would be responsible for supervising the program.
- b. Inclusion in the agenda of an initiative intended to “Strengthen Indigenous Rights”, supporting the project to constitute the “Permanent Forum of Indigenous Peoples of the Americas” and the “Forum of Indigenous Women of the Americas”.
- c. Creation of the “Manuel Gamio Information and Documentation Center of the Indigenous People of the Americas”. Initiative intended to consolidate the pool of more than 30,000 publications of the Institute, which would become the connecting axis of an information network for consultation among indigenous people.

II SUMMIT OF THE AMERICAS

HUNGER AND MALNUTRITION

PROPOSAL OF ARGENTINA
RESPONSIBLE COORDINATOR

X MEETING OF THE SUMMIT IMPLEMENTATION REVIEW GROUP
WASHINGTON D.C. OCTOBER 1- 2, 1997

ARGENTINE PROPOSAL ON THE SUBJECT OF HUNGER AND MALNUTRITION

Hunger and malnutrition have many diverse causes. Interrelated factors affect the availability, access and utilization of food. Possibly poverty has the most impact. Precarious health, sexual discrimination and population growth also affect them, particularly when not accompanied by an increase in employment sources; the degradation of the environment, international trade barriers, inadequate transference and adaptation of modern technology, inappropriate internal policies and situations of war and civil unrest are among other factors.

Hunger and malnutrition must be eliminated from our hemisphere as quickly as possible and to do so we must attack the causes that generate them. Nevertheless, unrealistic or overly ambitious proposals are a source of frustration. To avoid them, we should concentrate on those that allow the attainment of tangible goals in the foreseeable future. With this perspective, nutritional deficiencies of the most vulnerable groups should be given the highest priority and should be met with short term plans designed to obtain immediate results. Similarly, plans should be prepared allowing for structural solutions in the long run.

Therefore, the governments:

Will give the highest priority to reducing infant malnutrition, concentrating their efforts on health and nutrition programs for children, particularly for those under three (3) years of age in light of the fact that those are the most vulnerable ages and placing emphasis on adequate nutrition with vitamin supplements, combined with the better use of vaccinations and immunizing agents, and monitoring during children's growth.

Similarly, they will give high priority to food security for pregnant women and nursing mothers, the elderly and those incapable of working.

WORKING SCHEDULE PLAN OF ACTION FOR THE SUMMIT OF THE AMERICAS

I. EDUCATION		
Education - In accordance with the proposals of the Responsible Coordinators in the Plan of Action they have prepared on the subject. - Student and teacher exchange programs, distance education programs and incorporation of new technologies, among others. - Training and skills improvement programs for workers with the aim of confronting under favorable circumstances changes resulting from the application and development of new technologies. Special attention should be given to programs for adult training.	Responsible Coordinator	Mexico
	Co-coordinators	Argentina and Chile
	Interested countries	Brazil, Canada, Colombia, Costa Rica, Haiti, Honduras, Jamaica, Peru, United States
II. PRESERVING AND STRENGTHENING DEMOCRACY AND HUMAN RIGHTS		
- Actions based on the work that the Responsible Coordinators of this theme are carrying out. - Education for democracy and full respect for human rights.	Responsible Coordinator	Brazil
	Co-coordinators	Canada, Peru and O.A.S.
	Interested countries	Argentina, Caribbean Countries, Chile, Ecuador, Panama, Paraguay
Civil Society	Responsible Coordinators	Jamaica and Uruguay
	Interested countries	Ecuador, Paraguay

Migrant Workers	Interested countries	El Salvador, Haití, Mexico, United States
Municipal and Regional Administrations	Interested country	United States
Corruption, Narco-trafficking and Terrorism	Responsible Coordinators	Argentina (Terrorism) United States (Narco-trafficking) Venezuela (Corruption)
	Co-coordinators	Bolivia, Colombia, Honduras, Peru and O.E.A.
	Interested country	Dominican Republic
Confidence and Security building measures between states	Responsible Coordinator	Chile
	Co-coordinators	Argentina and O.A.S.
	Interested countries	Mexico, United States
Strengthening Judicial Systems	Interested countries	Argentina, Caribbean Countries, Ecuador, Guatemala, Honduras, United States
Modernization of the State in the Administration of Labor Matters	Interested countries	Brazil, United States
III. ECONOMIC INTEGRATION AND FREE TRADE		
Free Trade Area of the Americas (FTAA) <i>To be determined after the meeting of Minister of Commerce (San Jose, Costa Rica, february 1998)</i>	Responsible Coordinator	Costa Rica
Capital Markets <i>To be determined after the meeting of Ministers of Finance (Santiago, Chile, december 1997)</i>	Responsible Coordinator	United States
	Co-coordinator	Barbados
	Interested country	Chile

Versión (01.10.97)

Science and Technology	Responsible Coordinator	Colombia
	Co-coordinators	Brazil and Uruguay
	Interested countries	Caribbean Countries, Ecuador, El Salvador
Regional Energy Cooperation	Responsible Coordinators	United States and Venezuela
	Interested countries	Colombia, Mexico
Transport	Responsible Coordinators	Chile and I.D.B.
	Co-Coordinator	Argentina
	Interested countries	Caribbean Countries, Mexico, United States
Telecommunications	Responsible Coordinator	Chile
	Interested country	Ecuador
IV. ERADICATION OF POVERTY AND DISCRIMINATION		
Micro-enterprises and Small and Medium-sized businesses	Responsible Coordinator	I.D.B.
	Co-coordinators	Argentina and Chile
	Interested countries	Bolivia, Caribbean Countries, Ecuador, Haiti, Peru, United States
Property Registration	Interested country	United States
Health	Responsible Coordinator	P.A.H.O.
	Co-coordinators	Argentina and Chile
	Interested countries	Bolivia, Brazil, El Salvador, Guatemala, United States

Versión (01.10.97)

Women	Responsible Coordinator	Nicaragua
	Co-coordinators	Argentina and Chile
	Interested countries	Caribbean Countries, Ecuador, Peru, United States
Quality jobs, and of safeguarding the basic rights of workers, freely promote respect for relevant ILO Conventions	Interested countries	Brazil, Colombia, El Salvador, Guatemala, United States
Indigenous Populations	Interested countries	Canada, Peru
Hunger and Malnutrition	Coordinador Responsable	Argentina,
	Interested countries	Ecuador, Honduras

(*) The Caribbean Countries will decide which one of them will participate in each sectorial meeting.

PERMANENT COUNCIL OF THE
ORGANIZATION OF AMERICAN STATES

Working Group on OAS Cooperation for the
the Summit Conference on Sustainable Development

OEA/Ser.G
GT/CCDS-51/96 rev. 2
26 November 1996
Original: Spanish

DRAFT DECLARATION OF SANTA CRUZ DE LA SIERRA

(Revised by the Style Committee
on November 26, 1996)

DRAFT DECLARATION OF SANTA CRUZ DE LA SIERRA

(Revised by the Style Committee
on November 26, 1996)

1. We, the elected Heads of State and Government of the Americas, gathered in Santa Cruz de la Sierra as decided at the Summit of the Americas held in Miami in 1994, reaffirm our determination to move forward toward sustainable development and to implement the decisions and commitments set forth in the Rio Declaration and Agenda 21, which were adopted at the United Nations Conference on Environment and Development, held in Rio de Janeiro in 1992.

We also reaffirm the commitments undertaken in the Declaration of Principles and the Plan of Action of the Summit of the Americas.

We undertake to promote the agreements reached at the Global Conference on the Sustainable Development of Small Island Developing States, held in Barbados in 1994, and recognize the importance of the principles enunciated at recent United Nations conferences concerning sustainable development.

We support the efforts launched at the hemispheric, regional, and subregional levels, such as the Central American Alliance for Sustainable Development, the North American Agreement on Environmental Cooperation, the Treaty for Amazonian Cooperation, and the Permanent South Pacific Commission.

2. We reaffirm that human beings are entitled to a healthy and productive life in harmony with nature and, as such, are the focus of sustainable development concerns. Development strategies need to include sustainability as an essential requirement for the balanced, interdependent, and integral attainment of economic, social, and environmental goals.
3. One essential feature of the Americas is their natural and cultural diversity. Our countries share a unique and rich political tradition grounded in democratic values and significant potential for economic growth and technological development in a context of open, market-based economies. These characteristics are of fundamental importance for the promotion of economic development and social welfare and for the preservation of a healthy environment.

We will adopt policies and strategies that will encourage changes in production and consumption patterns in order to attain sustainable development and a better quality of life, as well as to preserve our natural environment and contribute to the alleviation of poverty.

We reaffirm our commitment to the fundamental principle of the Charter of the Organization of American States, restated at the Summit of the Americas, that representative democracy is essential for peace, justice, and development. Sustainable development requires that we strengthen and promote our democratic institutions and values.

4. Recognizing that globalization, efforts toward integration, and the complexity of environmental issues pose challenges and offer opportunities to the countries in the Hemisphere, we pledge to work together.

5. We recognize that the needs and responsibilities facing the countries of the Hemisphere today are diverse. Sustainable development does not assume that all the countries are at the same level of development, have the same capabilities, or can necessarily use the same model to attain it. In view of the different contributions to global environmental degradation, states have common but differentiated responsibilities in the global quest for sustainable development. We should make efforts to ensure that the benefits of sustainable development reach all countries in the Hemisphere, in particular those that are less developed, and all segments of our populations.

We will give special attention to the small island states, whose environmental vulnerability, especially with regard to natural disasters, is greater owing to their geographic situation, their size, and the scale of their economies, among other factors.

6. The alleviation of poverty is an integral part of sustainable development. The benefits of prosperity will only be attained through policies that address the interrelationship between human beings and nature. In developing policies and programs for sustainable development, special attention should be given to the needs of indigenous people, minority communities, women, youth, and children and to facilitating their full participation in the development process. The living conditions of persons with disabilities and the elderly also merit special attention.
7. We will establish or strengthen our programs, policies, and institutional frameworks in support of sustainable development objectives. National efforts should be complemented by ongoing international cooperation in furtherance of the commitments made at the Rio

conference related to financial resources, and the transfer of technology on fair and favorable terms, including preferential terms, as mutually agreed.

8. We will support and encourage, as a basic requisite for sustainable development, broad participation by civil society in the decision-making process, including policies and programs and their design, implementation, and evaluation. To this end, we will promote the enhancement of institutional mechanisms for public participation.
9. This Summit Conference on Sustainable Development is the cornerstone of a partnership for cooperation among the states of the Americas in their common pursuit of a higher quality of life for their peoples, founded on integrated and complementary economic, social, and environmental objectives.

Taking the current experience of our countries and region as a point of departure, we hereby frame a plan of action that will commit the states to timely action and ensure the availability of the resources needed for that purpose.

10. In keeping with the principles stated above, we emphasize the following points regarding application of the Plan of Action for the Sustainable Development of the Americas:

a. Equitable economic growth

Implement effective and ongoing measures to ensure that the international economic and financial system supports the growth of local economies and their sustainable development with a view to establishing greater social justice for all of our peoples.

Reinforce the mutually supportive relationship between trade and the environment by acting to conserve the environment, while safeguarding an open, equitable, and nondiscriminatory multilateral trade system, taking into account the efforts currently being deployed in this field by the Committee on Trade and Environment of the World Trade Organization. We recognize the great need of our countries to improve access to markets while maintaining effective and appropriate environmental policies. In this regard, we will avoid hidden trade restrictions, in accordance with the General Agreement on Tariffs and Trade/World Trade Organization (GATT/WTO) and other international obligations.

Full participation by the private sector—especially small, medium-sized, and micro-enterprises, as well as cooperatives and other forms of productive organization—in a sustainable development strategy essential to take advantage of its resources and dynamism. This strategy should balance comprehensive policies to address environmental and development problems.

b. Social dimensions

There is an urgent need to intensify efforts to reduce the poverty and the marginalization which broadly affect our societies, and especially women and children. We will promote, through the relevant measures and programs, including those established in the Plan of Action, adequate levels of nutrition, a greater degree of food security, equitable and effective access to basic health care and drinking water and to employment and housing, and we will seek to ensure pollution control and a clean environment for all people, taking into account, in particular, the most vulnerable groups.

We will also develop strategies that value human dignity while respecting and fostering the cultural diversity of our societies, gender equity, and educational programs promoting peace, democracy, and respect for nature, with special attention to children and young people.

In this context, the principles and priorities established in the Pan American Charter: Health and Environment in Sustainable Human Development will be put into practice as appropriate.

c. A healthy environment

Planning and decision-making for sustainable development require understanding and integrating environmental considerations, as well as social and economic factors. We will assess the environmental impact of our policies, strategies, programs, and projects nationally and in the framework of international agreements to ensure that adverse environmental effects are identified, prevented, minimized, or mitigated, as appropriate.

d. Public participation

We will promote increased opportunities for the expression of ideas and the exchange of information and traditional knowledge on sustainable development between groups, organizations, businesses, and individuals, including indigenous people, as well as for their effective participation in the formulation, adoption, and execution of decisions that affect their lives.

e. The development and transfer of technology

The development, adoption, adaptation, and application of environmentally sound, effective technology play an important role in ensuring sustainable development.

To this end, efforts to promote the transfer of, and access to, appropriate technology should continue in the Hemisphere. We recognize the important role played by market-based mechanisms and will promote opportunities for technology transfer through training and cooperative work programs and through improved access to sources of information. In addition, we will strengthen national scientific and technological capacities, complemented by international cooperation.

f. Financing

Implementation of the initiatives set forth in the Plan of Action requires the mobilization of financial resources in keeping with the commitments made at the Rio Summit. These should be complemented with innovative financing mechanisms.

In this context, we highlight the importance of international organizations and financial institutions in strongly supporting the efforts of the Hemisphere.

g. Strengthening of the legal framework

Relations between countries of the Hemisphere, within the framework of this partnership for sustainable development, will be grounded in the rules and principles of international law. We will consider the progress in international environmental law and promote the reform and modernization of national laws, as appropriate, to reflect sustainable development concepts. We will also develop national mechanisms for effective enforcement of applicable international and national laws and provisions.

We will seek to secure ratification of, or accession to, international instruments on sustainable development and will fulfill all commitments made therein.

PERMANENT COUNCIL OF THE
ORGANIZATION OF AMERICAN STATES

Working Group on OAS Cooperation for the
the Summit Conference on Sustainable Development

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**DRAFT PLAN OF ACTION FOR THE SUSTAINABLE
DEVELOPMENT OF THE AMERICAS**

(Revised by the Style Committee
on November 29, 1996)

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I. INTRODUCTION

We, the elected Heads of States and Governments of the Americas, convinced of the urgent need to advance toward sustainable development by strengthening social awareness, with a broad vision that promotes public participation, integration, hemispheric cooperation, equity, and social justice, with special emphasis on women, children, and vulnerable groups, commit ourselves to implement the first Plan of Action for the Sustainable Development of the Americas, based on the principles of the Declaration of Santa Cruz de la Sierra, for the purpose of overcoming the most pressing problems faced by our people and assuring an adequate and decent standard of living for present and future generations.

II. INITIATIVES FOR ACTION

II.1 Health and Education

Recognizing that the primary challenges to the attainment of sustainable development in this area include:

- Development of a public awareness of economic, social, and environmental concerns, in order to open pathways for the transition of our societies to sustainable development;
- Equitable access to health services and improvement of their quality in accordance with the principles and priorities laid down in the Pan American Charter: Health and Environment in Sustainable Human Development, taking into account diseases related to environmental deterioration;
- Reduction of negative environmental effects on health, particularly those relating to mortality and morbidity among the most vulnerable groups, such as women and children;
- Increased access to education and improvement of its quality, with special attention to vulnerable groups such as women, girls, and children, in order to assure the training that is necessary for sustainable development;
- Strengthening of appropriate regional cooperation in the promotion of formal and non-formal sustainable development education and of communication to enhance their impact; and
- Establishment and/or strengthening of disease outbreak response and disaster preparedness, as well as disaster management institutions and their policies and response capabilities,

The Governments will carry out the following initiatives:

Initiative 1. Strengthen programs to increase access to safe drinking water, control and improve air quality, and upgrade health conditions with a view to reducing mortality and morbidity among children and mothers, and establish environmental quality standards with the participation of civil society.

Initiative 2. Strengthen national programs, and those of the Pan American Health Organization (PAHO), for the control of emerging and recrudescant infectious-contagious diseases and for immunization against diseases of public health importance, for example, those diseases related to environmental deterioration.

Initiative 3. Promote mechanisms of hemispheric cooperation for the exchange of information and experiences on national policies and measures to reduce the effects of environmental problems on child health.

Initiative 4. Improve the coverage and quality of the health services available to the population, for example, services related to diseases arising from environmental pollution, with emphasis on primary care for the most vulnerable groups, giving priority to preventive and promotional aspects and to access to family planning information and services, with the participation of the various sectors concerned.

Initiative 5. Encourage changes in educational and communication policies, guidelines, and curricula to include instruction in sustainable development tailored to the different needs and realities

of the Hemisphere, taking into account, where appropriate, multicultural and multilingual realities, and ensuring that they contribute to developing a social awareness of sustainable development. To this end, it is important to foster and create networks and mechanisms related to the exchange of experiences, teaching resources, and innovations in education and communication on this subject.

Initiative 6. Promote the inclusion of disease outbreak response and disaster planning, preparedness, and mitigation in national development plans; seek to establish, as appropriate, regional emergency response teams and regularly test contingency plans; and promote the establishment of appropriate building construction codes that include regulatory and enforcement mechanisms through the sharing of technical information and expertise.

II.2 Sustainable Agriculture and Forests

Recognizing that the primary challenges to the attainment of sustainable development in this area include:

- Adoption of policies aimed at promoting sustainable agriculture, conservation, and sustainable management of natural resources;
- Development of a portfolio of agricultural production systems that seeks a lasting balance between their economic, social, and environmental components and enables farmers to enhance the value and productivity of their lands;

- Exchange of information and experiences through formal and non-formal educational programs that emphasize the critical role of agriculture in sustainable development;
- Development of baseline data on, and encouragement of access to, whole systems integrating research on economic, social, and environmental facets of sustainable agriculture;
- Involvement of agricultural producers and rural communities in priority setting and program evaluation in research, education, and training and in policy development relevant to the sustainable development of agriculture;
- Continuation, with renewed political commitment, of the international dialogue on forest issues initiated by the Intergovernmental Panel on Forests under the auspices of the United Nations Commission on Sustainable Development;
- Establishment and implementation of national forest plans and programs, as appropriate to each country, as important tools for sustainable management of forests developed through participatory processes that include all interested parties and take into account the multiple environmental and socioeconomic benefits provided by forests;
- Establishment of better forest assessment and management systems and of systems to facilitate monitoring of the sustainable management of forests so as to conserve biodiversity and maintain forest health, vitality, and productivity;

- Promotion of intersectoral policies and land use plans, as appropriate to each country, that encourage sustainable forest management and review of existing incentives, including agricultural incentives, that may adversely affect forests;
- Better definition, as appropriate to the legal system of each country and as necessary, of land tenure and property rights as a means to promote sustainable forest management;
- Promotion of appropriate mechanisms for soil conservation;
- Promotion of national forest management policies that respect and support the culture and needs of indigenous and local communities;
- Establishment and strengthening of national systems of parks and protected areas;
- Support for the generation of basic information on environmental criteria and indicators at all levels to evaluate progress toward sustainable management of biodiversity and the improvement of environmental statistics, in accordance with the processes which take place within the framework of the United Nations Convention on Biological Diversity; and
- Conservation of biological diversity, the sustainable use of its components, and the fair and equitable sharing of the benefits arising out of the utilization of genetic resources, in accordance with the provisions of the United Nations Convention on Biological Diversity,

The Governments will carry out the following initiatives:

Initiative 7. Encourage the development and implementation of national and local strategies and, if appropriate, land use plans aimed at promoting sustainable agriculture.

Initiative 8. Promote agricultural export programs, including those that benefit small producers, and wider access to markets for agricultural products, in accordance with the principles of the World Trade Organization, and seek to determine the effect of economic policies on sustainable agriculture and rural development.

Initiative 9. Seek to formulate and implement programs to promote the development and adoption of integrated pest management and integrated nutrient management, as well as measures aimed at education in the use of agrochemicals posing risks to human health and the environment and in the effective regulation of their use and of trade therein, and encourage those that are currently being negotiated, in particular on prior informed consent procedures for certain hazardous chemicals and pesticides in international trade.

Initiative 10. Seek to establish, as appropriate, education, information, training, and research programs and promote the exchange of best practices, to foster innovations in agricultural technology, including models for integrated farming systems that emphasize productivity, profitability, efficiency, and environmental protection. These programs should address the needs of small-scale farmers, poverty eradication, improved nutritional standards, and food security.

Initiative 11. Seek to establish, as appropriate, research programs which examine whole systems including ecosystem, whole farm, and watershed analysis approaches and develop economic and yield data for sustainable agricultural practices.

Initiative 12. Promote the conservation and restoration of soils through the application of technologies and economic policies to reverse soil degradation processes and to remedy the problems of significant soil erosion including in mountainous areas and, when applicable, problems that result from misuse of natural resources. Promote also hemispheric cooperation for implementation, as appropriate, at the national and regional levels, of the 1994 United Nations Convention to Combat Desertification, with special attention to the appendix related to our region.

Initiative 13. Seek to develop, as appropriate, the capacities of local communities and of rural organizations such as farmer-initiated cooperatives, inter alia through information and training, in order to foster conservation and sustainable agriculture through programs in areas such as integrated pest management, soil conservation, water quality, crop diversification, and waste management.

Initiative 14. Promote national efforts and regional cooperation to improve the conservation and sustainable use of genetic resources for food and agriculture.

Initiative 15. Promote and support traditional agricultural practices which have a beneficial impact on agrobiodiversity.

Initiative 16. As appropriate to the legal systems of each country, seek to address social issues related to land tenure and land use conflicts in countries where they exist and promote sustainable agriculture under the various forms of land tenure taking into account the interests of all stakeholders.

Initiative 17. Continue to participate actively in the international dialogue on forest issues initiated by the Intergovernmental Panel on Forests under the auspices of the United Nations Commission on Sustainable Development. In this respect, it is necessary to give full attention to all the program elements included in the terms of reference approved by the Panel.

Initiative 18. Seek to establish, implement, and monitor, as appropriate, national plans and programs for the conservation and sustainable management of forests.

Initiative 19. Develop appropriate mechanisms to promote opportunities for public participation in the sustainable management of forests, including on the part of indigenous and local communities, whose culture and needs should be respected and supported.

Initiative 20. Cooperate in the development of policies and comprehensive strategies for achieving sustainable forest management, bilaterally and through programs such as the International Model Forest Network, as well as consider ways and means to address the critical areas related to the transfer and development of environmentally sound technology, on favorable terms as mutually agreed.

Initiative 21. Support criteria and indicators at the regional, subregional, and national levels as mechanisms for assessing progress toward sustainable forest management. Continue to participate,

as appropriate, in the ongoing initiatives relating to the development of criteria and indicators for sustainable forest management, such as the Tarapoto and Montreal processes.

Initiative 22. Clarify, in accordance with the legal system of each country and as necessary, land tenure and property rights, including with respect to indigenous and other local community areas, and identify additional steps that may be needed to improve sustainable forest management under the various forms of land tenure, taking into account the interest of all stakeholders.

Initiative 23. As appropriate, seek the ratification of the United Nations Convention on Biological Diversity, the Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species of Wild Flora and Fauna, and the United Nations Convention to Combat Desertification, and seek the adoption of legislative, administrative, and other policy measures to implement the provisions or promote the objectives of these conventions.

Initiative 24. Develop, as appropriate, national policies and regulations on access to and protection of genetic resources, including endemic gene pools, and promote research on the identification and economic valuation of biological diversity.

Initiative 25. Promote, as appropriate and in accordance with existing legislation and agreements, and with appropriate input from local stakeholders, the identification of cross-border protected areas and national parks which the respective neighboring countries consider to be critical sites for biodiversity conservation. Further, promote cooperation among those countries with a view to improving the sustainable management of those areas.

Initiative 26. Promote research and training programs on conservation and sustainable use of biological diversity.

Initiative 27. Promote the exchange of innovative experience on partnerships for the management of protected areas.

Initiative 28. Consider, in accordance with the terms of the United Nations Convention on Biological Diversity, ways and means for the effective protection and use of traditional knowledge, innovations, and practices of indigenous people and other local communities relevant to the conservation and sustainable use of biological diversity, as well as for fair and equitable sharing of benefits arising from such knowledge, innovations, and practices.

Initiative 29. Pursuant to the objectives of the United Nations Convention on Biological Diversity, promote discussions on biological diversity at the inter-American level to propose substantive strategies with a view to overcoming the challenges related to the conservation, sustainable use, and fair and equitable sharing of the benefits arising out of the use of biological diversity in the Hemisphere.

Initiative 30. Promote continued financial and technical cooperation at the multilateral, bilateral, and national levels and the development of financial instruments and funding mechanisms that support the aforementioned conventions. Promote at the national, multilateral, or international level as appropriate, inter alia, increased domestic public and private sector investments, risk capital funds, cost recovery mechanisms, and national environmental funds.

Initiative 31. Seek to establish an Inter-American Biodiversity Information Network, primarily through the Internet, that will promote compatible means of collection, communication, and exchange of information relevant to decision-making and education on biodiversity conservation, and that builds upon such initiatives as the Clearing-House Mechanism provided for in the United Nations Convention on Biological Diversity, the Man and Biosphere Network (MABNET Americas), and the Biodiversity Conservation Information System (BCIS), an initiative of nine programs of the World Conservation Union (IUCN) and partner organizations.

II.3 Sustainable Cities and Communities

Recognizing that the primary challenges to the attainment of sustainable development in this area include:

- Incorporation of the poorest and most disadvantaged sectors of the population into the productive process by, *inter alia*, creating jobs through public and private investment and expanding and enhancing access to credit and to environmentally sound technologies;
- Growth in job creation in small and micro-enterprises by simplifying paperwork, bureaucracy, and operations that affect them and by promoting the economic competitiveness and environmental efficiency of these production units in urban as well as rural areas;

- Narrowing of the housing unit gap and expansion of basic infrastructure services through a comprehensive approach to the problem of rapid urban growth, including the use of clean, safe technologies;
- Promotion of the quality of life in cities and communities, taking into account their spatial, economic, social, and environmental circumstances; and
- Assurance of the most efficient and least polluting industrial and transportation practices so as to reduce adverse environmental impact and promote sustainable development in cities and communities,

The Governments will carry out the following initiatives:

Initiative 32. Develop training programs, among others, to increase the efficiency and productivity of labor in order to raise the quality of life, particularly of marginal communities, with due regard for environmental safety in the workplace.

Initiative 33. Develop appropriate policies on migration, promote savings and investment opportunities to create jobs, and develop sustainable means of livelihood, in particular for the poorest and most vulnerable sectors.

Initiative 34. Foster job creation in small business and micro-enterprises, favoring their promotion and competitiveness through establishment of a legal and administrative framework, exchange of

information and experience, and access to appropriate financial systems, markets, and clean and environmentally sound technologies.

Initiative 35. Request the Inter-American Development Bank (IDB) to work with subregional financial institutions on the establishment of a support system for micro-credit institutions in order to promote technological innovation, improve the environment, and provide governments with technical assistance for strengthening financial services geared toward small business and micro-enterprise.

Initiative 36. Redouble efforts to meet the housing needs of the poorest and most vulnerable sectors, bearing in mind the need to provide adequate essential services and to improve the environment; and, to that end, request international and subregional financial institutions to lend the greatest possible degree of support to efforts to promote the construction of low-income housing and related infrastructure services.

Initiative 37. Foster the exchange of information and experiences to promote the use of environmentally sound technologies, including appropriate standards for building low-cost housing.

Initiative 38. Strengthen programs relating to urban settlements through partnerships between the public and private sectors for urban planning and development, taking account of environmental questions and the situation of landless and homeless persons.

Initiative 39. Promote international technical and financial cooperation, including horizontal cooperation, to carry out urban development and environmental sanitation programs.

Initiative 40. Develop legal, financial, and institutional frameworks which support local government involvement and facilitate private-sector participation in the financing and delivery of urban services and improved environmental management.

Initiative 41. Develop strategies that encourage policies and programs for prevention of and protection against pollution, cleaning up of the environment, and waste treatment, strengthening sustainable urban development. These policies may include public-private sector associations, market-based programs, and other volunteer programs.

Initiative 42. Develop a hemispheric framework for the exchange of information on and experiences in successful pollution prevention and waste treatment efforts as an appropriate means of managing the environment so as to support national policies in these areas.

Initiative 43. Promote the exchange of information and experiences among the mayors of the Hemisphere on the most appropriate practices for urban environmental stewardship, promotion of non-polluting consumer practices, sustainable transportation, environmental impact, and sewage treatment.

Initiative 44. Develop policies and programs to see that the poor and most vulnerable are affected as little as possible by environmental degradation and are able to share equitably in the benefits of environmental protection and, to this end, request the international and subregional financial institutions to support as strongly as possible the acquisition of environmentally sound technologies for their productive activities.

Initiative 45. Foster the inclusion of sustainable development in urban development plans, including mechanisms for evaluating the environmental impact.

Initiative 46. Promote cooperation in order to continue the development and implementation of national plans for the gradual elimination of lead in gasoline and the improvement of public transportation and other means of transport to make them environmentally sound.

II.4. Water Resources and Coastal Areas

Recognizing that the primary challenges to the attainment of sustainable development in this area include:

- Assurance and improvement of the conservation, sustainable management and utilization of water resources, including the development of integrated programs and institutional capacity;
- Prevention of the contamination of water resources and assurance that drinking water supplies are safe and adequate;
- Promotion of cooperation among countries at bilateral, subregional, regional, and hemispheric levels on water resources issues;
- Promotion of user participation in the decision-making process on water resources management;

- Conservation and utilization, in a sustainable manner, of inland, coastal, and marine water resources, including wetlands, in the region;
- Promotion of the integrated management and sustainable development of the marine environment and coastal areas; and
- Prevention and control of environmental degradation caused by pollution and the unsustainable use of inland, coastal, and marine water resources that threaten human health and the economic viability and environmental integrity of these resources,

Taking into consideration the social, economic, and environmental value of inland, coastal, and marine water resources, the Governments will carry out the following initiatives:

Initiative 47. Seek to establish, strengthen, and implement, where appropriate, specific programs, laws, and policies to protect public health by ensuring that drinking water is free from microorganisms, heavy metals, and chemical contaminants harmful to human health.

Initiative 48. Implement, in accordance with national laws and practice, integrated water resources management actions using watersheds and river basins as planning units whenever possible. These actions should include surface water and groundwater assessments and the preparation of strategic plans for water resource management, as well as the use of water utility revenues under local control, where appropriate, to fund watershed protection and the work of river basin authorities.

Initiative 49. Develop, strengthen, implement, and coordinate at the national or local level, as appropriate, water resources policies, laws, and regulations to ensure the protection and conservation of water resources.

Initiative 50. Promote hemispheric cooperation at all levels, including through the use of existing transboundary agreements and initiatives, in the conservation, management, and sustainable use of water resources and biological diversity. This would include the exchange of information and experiences on issues related to inland watersheds, river basins, and sub-basins.

Initiative 51. Improve access to appropriate and environmentally sound technologies, including through public-private cooperation and market mechanisms, and promote the transfer of information on policies and management strategies to accommodate the growing water resource demands resulting from rural, urban, agricultural, and industrial activities.

Initiative 52. Cooperate, in accordance with national legislation and relevant international instruments, in the development and improvement of pollution prevention and source reduction programs for agriculture, aquaculture, and industrial and urban activities, and integrate these efforts into national strategies. These should include actions to reduce risks to human health and the environment posed by pollution from chemicals and toxic substances that persist in the environment.

Initiative 53. Promote public participation in the planning and decision-making process related to water resources. Public participation could be enhanced through education and awareness programs in schools and local communities. Where appropriate, establish public-private partnerships to

promote programs that encourage compliance with laws and the adoption of mitigation measures to address water resources issues.

Initiative 54. Develop and strengthen at the national and regional levels, as appropriate, research and monitoring capabilities pertaining to the conservation of inland, coastal, and marine water resources, especially in relation to environmental health parameters, including sanitary water quality criteria and the health status of coral reefs, mangroves, and sea grass beds. In this regard; consideration should be given to the work being done in the region, which should be continued. Data collected will be incorporated into a study that will document the current state of health of the coastal and marine environment; establish benchmark indicators for assessing the effectiveness of national, regional, and international instruments and initiatives; and identify and categorize land and marine-based sources of pollution.

Initiative 55. Develop and implement environmental education and awareness programs to promote sustainable use of coastal and marine resources.

Initiative 56. Promote the development or strengthening, as appropriate, of institutional capabilities at the national level or, where specific agreements exist, at the subregional level, especially in land use planning, coastal zone management, coastal engineering, environmental impact assessment, environmental protection and natural resource management laws, hydrography, fisheries and marine affairs management. This should be supported by promoting the establishment of a marine environment center for the Caribbean and the design and development of model legislation which could serve as the basis for national legislation that would provide an integrated and sustainable approach to the management of coastal and marine resources. Such model legislation should be

consistent with relevant international treaties to which states are party and enhance the effectiveness of government policies and programs.

Initiative 57. Cooperate in the development, strengthening and implementation of pollution prevention programs and regional disaster mitigation plans, including contingency and response arrangements to combat oil spills and other forms of pollution which have an impact on water resources. This should include mechanisms to reduce current levels of marine pollution and, where necessary, the development and implementation of sanitary water quality criteria and effluent standards and guidelines.

Initiative 58. Develop programs at the national and regional levels, as appropriate, to implement the Global Program of Action for the Protection of the Marine Environment from Land-Based Activities, as well as seek to implement the relevant recommendations of the International Coral Reef Initiative (ICRI) as developed at the 1995 Tropical Americas Workshop.

II.5 Energy and Minerals

Recognizing that the primary challenges to the attainment of sustainable development in this area include:

- Promotion in the Hemisphere of the most economically and environmentally efficient means of production, transformation, transportation, and use of energy, through policies and programs that facilitate bilateral, subregional and regional trade, in energy-related goods and services;

- Attention to global and local environmental concerns by making existing and future energy production and consumption cleaner and more efficient and by increasing the development and use of renewable energy and clean conventional fuels;
- Increase in the distribution of energy services to under-served areas, especially rural and indigenous communities; and
- Creation of an environmentally responsible and socially sensitive minerals and metals industry, recognizing the key role of mining in the development of the Americas; and

Noting:

- The Hemispheric Energy Ministers Meeting, which took place in Santa Cruz de la Sierra in 1996, where the key role of energy in advancing sustainable development in the Hemisphere was identified; and
- The First Annual Conference of Mines Ministers of the Americas, held in Santiago in 1996, which called for the economic, social, and environmental development of mining in the Americas,

The Governments will carry out the following initiatives:

Initiative 59. Recognize and support the work undertaken to implement the Summit of the Americas energy agenda, coordinated by the Hemispheric Energy Steering Committee, which promotes

sustainable energy development and use by: increasing investment in the energy sector; promoting cleaner energy technologies in electrical power markets; advancing regulatory cooperation and training; increasing the economic and environmental sustainability of the petroleum sector; creating new opportunities for natural gas; promoting energy efficiency; developing rural electrification strategies; and sharing information on policies, programs, and projects to address climate change.

Initiative 60. Create positive regulatory and institutional settings to reduce barriers to energy efficiency investments and the development and use of renewable energy and clean technology projects which are economically feasible and socially desirable.

Initiative 61. Substantially increase access to energy services by under-served areas, especially rural and indigenous communities. In this regard, encourage community participation and cooperation of international agencies in the implementation, where pertinent, as well as in the financing of appropriate and efficient energy services.

Initiative 62. Promote the introduction of cleaner and appropriate energy production and consumption technologies and options, such as those involving alternative fuels, through public and private sector technology exchange initiatives.

Initiative 63. Encourage hemispheric, regional, and cross-border energy and mining cooperation by sponsoring consultations among the public and private sectors and civil society on specific issues relating to policies, trade measures, laws, tariffs, regulations, research, and institutional structures.

Initiative 64. Incorporate environmental policy instruments that mitigate and remediate the negative effects of local emissions, effluents, solid waste, and land use derived from the processes of production, transformation, transportation, and use of energy and of minerals. Such instruments include market mechanisms, incentives, voluntary programs, public-private partnerships, and regulatory initiatives.

Initiative 65. Ensure that the relevant issues contained in this Plan of Action are considered and acted upon at the Second Annual Conference of Mines Ministers of the Americas, to be held in Arequipa, Peru, in September 1997, and at subsequent meetings of this group.

III. INSTITUTIONAL, FINANCING, TECHNOLOGY, AND COOPERATION ASPECTS

III.1 Institutional Arrangements

The primary responsibility for implementing the Plan of Action for the Sustainable Development of the Americas falls to governments, individually and collectively, with the participation of all sectors of our societies. To realize both meaningful follow-up and continued adherence to the cross-cutting dimensions of sustainable development, the Governments will:

1. Entrust to the Organization of American States (OAS) the role of coordinating follow-up on the various decisions of the Summit of the Americas on Sustainable Development. To this end, the OAS will convene the necessary meetings at the appropriate level. In particular, the OAS, through

the Inter-American Committee on Sustainable Development (CIDS), will review progress on this Plan of Action as part of its agenda. The Secretary General of the OAS will prepare a report on such progress, to be made available prior to the 1998 Summit of the Americas, to which end he should:

- Gather the relevant final documents from all ministerial and other high-level and technical meetings which take place in the context of this Plan of Action; and
- Collect any national reports prepared voluntarily under this Plan of Action as well as other reports on the fulfillment of commitments and agreements adopted in the relevant fora on sustainable development, when these reports include references to initiatives undertaken in the context of this Plan of Action.

2. Request that the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) and the United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP), among other organs, agencies, and organizations of the United Nations system, to develop adequate mechanisms to collaborate and coordinate with the OAS within their respective areas of action and mandates, to support national, regional, and hemispheric efforts toward sustainable development.

3. Request the organs, agencies, and entities of the inter-American system, such as the IDB, the Pan American Health Organization (PAHO), and the Inter-American Institute for Cooperation on Agriculture (IICA), as well as regional and subregional agencies, institutions, and programs in the Hemisphere, to develop adequate mechanisms to cooperate and coordinate with the OAS, within their areas of action and mandates, to support national, regional, and hemispheric efforts toward sustainable development.

4. Promote coordination and complementarity between the processes for follow-up and implementation of the Plan of Action of the Summit of the Americas and the Plan of Action on Sustainable Development. To achieve this objective the Inter-American Committee on Sustainable Development (CIDS) and the Summit Implementation Review Group (SIRG) should exchange the relevant information.

5. Cooperate in the establishment of a hemispheric network of officials and experts in environmental law, enforcement, and compliance in coordination with the OAS to facilitate the sharing of knowledge and experiences and to provide a focal point, as appropriate, for carrying out cooperative efforts to strengthen laws, regulations, and implementation, as well as training in these areas for those states seeking such assistance, taking into account the studies prepared by the Inter-American Juridical Committee.

III.2 Financing

6. Complement the efforts of the governments to implement the Plan of Action of Santa Cruz de la Sierra, by drawing on official development assistance, bilateral financial cooperation, and resources provided by the World Bank, the IDB, the Andean Development Corporation, and other multilateral, regional, and subregional financial institutions.

7. Based on the evaluation conducted within the framework of the special session of the United Nations General Assembly on progress in fulfilling the financing commitments undertaken at the United Nations Conference on Environment and Development, and according to the information provided by the member countries of the OAS on the financial resources provided in accordance with

paragraph 7 of the Declaration of Santa Cruz de la Sierra and other paragraphs of the Declaration referring to domestic and international financing measures for the purpose of implementing the Plan of Action, entrust the OAS with identifying response mechanisms, as well as ways and means of strengthening public and private financing for sustainable development in the Hemisphere. In performing this task, the OAS should have the assistance of UNDP, the World Bank, the IDB, and the Economic Commission for Latin America and the Caribbean (ECLAC), among other hemispheric cooperation organizations and international financial institutions as well as relevant regional and subregional organizations. Proposals to this effect should be channeled for consideration through the follow-up mechanism described in section III.1.

8. Support debt reduction and reconversion programs at governmental, multilateral, bilateral, and private sector levels, drawing on the experience of countries that have adopted such programs, as mechanisms for encouraging the financing of this Plan of Action.

9. Support the policies aimed at the creation and strengthening of national environmental funds, as a mechanism to foster and channel national and international support for the initiatives to finance sustainable development.

10. Develop financial instruments which support sustainable use and conservation of biodiversity, including venture capital funds and scholarship funds for training persons, in particular those representing small businesses and/or nongovernmental organizations, in best sustainable development practices, in order to promote public-private partnerships.

11. Optimize the use of programs of existing multilateral, nongovernmental, and bilateral assistance agencies that offer funding and technical assistance for the start-up of projects related to clean technologies, the efficient use of resources, and the maintenance of renewable natural resources in support of this Plan of Action.

III.3 Science and Technology Transfer

12. Based on the evaluation conducted within the framework of the special session of the United Nations General Assembly on progress in fulfilling the commitments undertaken at the United Nations Conference on Environment and Development with regard to technology transfer and, in accordance with paragraph 7 of the Declaration of Santa Cruz de la Sierra, entrust the OAS, for the purpose of implementing this Plan of Action, with evaluating compliance with the commitments established in paragraph 7 related to scientific and technological knowledge, identifying the needs of the countries and existing obstacles, and proposing ways of overcoming them, including the development of institutional capacity. The relevant proposals should be channeled for consideration through the follow-up mechanisms described in paragraph III.1.

13. Request UNDP to formulate a project supporting the establishment of a hemispheric network of sustainable development information systems (SDIS), as indicated in Agenda 21 and as one of the responsibilities assigned to the Sustainable Development Network Programme (SDNP). The network's objective will be to disseminate among the countries of the Hemisphere the information they require on economic, social, environmental, legal, institutional, scientific, and technological matters at the national, subregional, regional, and hemispheric levels.

14. Support the initiatives contained in the Plan of Action of the Hemispheric Meeting of Ministers of Science and Technology, held in Cartagena in 1996, especially those which lead to the development of scientific and technological capacity in the countries of the Hemisphere, to develop scientific and technological cooperation in support of the relatively less developed countries, and to strengthen multilateral initiatives taken in the region, such as by the IDB and the OAS and, in particular, through the Common Market of Scientific and Technological Knowledge (MERCOCYT) and others.

III.4 Public Participation

15. In order to support the specific initiatives on public participation contained in the Plan of Action, entrust the OAS with assigning priority to the formulation of an inter-American strategy for the promotion of public participation in decision-making for sustainable development, taking into account the recommendations of the Inter-American Seminar on Public Participation held in Montevideo in 1996.

16. The strategy should promote the exchange of experiences and information among government representatives and civil society groups with regard to the formulation, implementation, and improvement of sustainable development policies and programs, legal and institutional mechanisms, including access to and flow of information among the relevant actors, training programs, and consultation processes used at the national level to ensure civil society involvement. Establish

consultation processes at the regional level, such as regular fora for government-civil society dialogue at relevant high-level meetings convened by the OAS, and when necessary support the integration and strengthening of national sustainable development councils, drawing on the experience of Central America and other existing councils in the Hemisphere.