EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

SUMMIT REPORT 2001-2003

ADVANCING IN THE AMERICAS
Progress and Challenges

FIRST SUMMIT 1994 MIAMI
SECOND SUMMIT 1998 SANTIAGO
THIRD SUMMIT 2001 QUEBEC CITY
SPECIAL SUMMIT 2004 MONTERREY
Ten years ago, the Heads of State and Government of the Western Hemisphere launched an innovative and far-reaching multilateral initiative to build a platform for collective action. This initiative was constructed on a foundation of shared values and a strong commitment to working together to reach the goals of peace and prosperity for all of the peoples of the Americas. Since that time, Presidents and Prime Ministers have come together three times to reaffirm their common purpose, and develop a detailed hemispheric strategy to achieve their shared goals. The meetings in Miami, Santiago and Quebec City were unique in world history, as thirty-four democratically elected governments came together to improve the lives of their 800 million citizens of the Americas by working shoulder to shoulder.

Leaders are joined in these efforts by their ministries, legislatures, judiciary branches, civil societies and business communities. The scope of the strategy or agenda for the Americas as reflected in the Summit Plans of Action is comprehensive—from democracy to trade to environmental protection—requiring engagement from all parts of our societies. Our family of inter-American institutions, led by the Organization of American States (OAS), is a remarkable resource to tap into these efforts. The specialized agencies—such as the Pan American Health Organization (PAHO), the Inter-American Institute for Cooperation in Agriculture (IICA), and the UN Economic Commission for Latin America and the Caribbean (ECLAC)—are joined by development banks such as the World Bank, the Inter-American Development Bank (IDB), the Central American Bank for Economic Integration (CABEI), the Caribbean Development Bank (CDB) and the Andean Development Corporation (CAF) to engage technical expertise and financing in order to serve our nations.

At this mid-point between our Third and Fourth Summit of the Americas the initiative launched in 1994 is being tested. Leaders recognized the urgency of challenges facing the region and are mobilizing their collective energies within the Summit framework by calling for the Special Summit of the Americas on January 12-13, 2004. The Organization of American States is fully supporting this call to action through the work of our Summits of the Americas Secretariat, our political bodies, and each of our technical units. This report summarizing where we stand in meeting our Summit goals, prepared by the Summit of the Americas Secretariat, is presented in this context.

César Gaviria
Secretary General
Organization of American States
The leaders of the Americas have once again acknowledged that collective dialogue is a valuable mechanism for grappling with the challenges facing the Hemisphere. Political fragility, slow economic growth and unmet social demands are at the top of the agenda. These circumstances have caused leaders to propose a Special Summit of the Americas. This Special Summit will pave the way for the Fourth Summit of the Americas, to be held in Argentina in 2005. There are great hopes that the Special Summit and the Fourth Summit of the Americas will provide the necessary leadership to maintain—and perhaps even accelerate—progress toward achieving the ambitious goals of the Summit of the Americas process.

It is against this backdrop that we have prepared the current Report which is designed to provide Heads of State and Government attending the Special Summit of the Americas in Monterrey with the OAS Summits of the Americas Secretariat’s viewpoint on progress in implementing the mandates of the Quebec City Summit in 2001. The Executive Summary reviews each of the 18 mandates from a regional perspective, and includes separate sections on connectivity and on Summit architecture and follow-up. In addition, we identify a number of the challenges encountered in building the hemispheric community and in finding joint solutions to common problems. In view of the upcoming Special Summit of the Americas—to be held on January 12-13, 2004—it is essential not only to assess progress made to-date, but also to reflect on the raison d’être of the Summits and their impact on hemispheric development and governability, within the framework of globalization. It is also important to think about the challenges facing countries, and institutions, in their efforts to support this hemispheric process, and to translate mandates into reality. Finally, we must determine how the Inter-American system can best respond to the demands of the 34 democracies in the Hemisphere.

BACKGROUND TO THE SUMMITS PROCESS

The Summits of the Americas bring together the Heads of State and Government in the Hemisphere to discuss and act on political, economic and social issues concerning us all. The original concept of the Summits of the Americas was to establish a framework of shared values and joint commitments to achieve peace and prosperity in the Hemisphere. It was an attempt to celebrate and protect democracy, and wrapp the benefits offered by this new reality in the Americas, in terms of more just and transparent governments, and markets, that would serve the interests of all. The idea blossomed when the leaders of the Hemisphere—representing the 34 democratically-elected governments—attended the First Summit of the Americas in Miami in 1994, where they discussed and adopted a detailed plan of political, economic and social
ACHIEVEMENTS

The goals agreed upon by the community of the Americas within the framework of the Summits process are truly ambitious; in many ways, they are similar to the declarations made during the formation of the United Nations and the Organization of American States. The leaders of the Americas have tried to combine declarations of principle with concrete policies and actions that mirror these principles.

The Summits have already had a significant impact on the lives of the citizens in the Hemisphere, although this fact goes mostly unnoticed beyond the realm of the Ministries of Foreign Affairs and hemispheric institutions. One of the most noticeable achievements is the signing of the Inter-American Democratic Charter in 2001, and its subsequent implementation. Furthermore, we have seen the launching and continuation of the FTAA negotiations, despite the reversals suffered during the Doha Round in Cancun last September, under the aegis of the World Trade Organization (WTO). We have also seen notable progress in the fight against poverty through efforts to improve health, education, personal security and the protection of the most vulnerable groups in American societies. This Executive Summary will highlight a number of the most noteworthy successes.

CHALLENGES REACH BEYOND NATIONAL BORDERS

Globalization shows the multidimensional nature of the various aspects of our lives as citizens of this Hemisphere, and of the world. There is absolutely no doubt that communications and connectivity have facilitated transparency and accountability, and helped to publicize collective demands. Globalization has also helped to strengthen the political dialogue between our leaders and the many stakeholders in our society: civil society, academia, the private sector, and the media. Today there are more agents, more spokespersons, and more organizations pointing out the failings of our institutions, discovering their limitations, and demanding that they be changed. Globalization lifts veils and uncovers old problems that have existed in our societies for decades.

Nowadays, problems are no longer only individual or national, they are global and they affect us all—regardless of borders. Phenomena such as drug trafficking, terrorism, epidemics, security matters, migration, employment, trade, the defense of the rule of law, and the protection of human rights—to name but a few—demonstrate the need for a common approach. The global and regional debate has also shown us that in today’s world there is more room for shared values, for diplomacy, for the prevention of conflicts, for cooperation, for creating synergies and the will to preserve peace and prosperity.

Within the framework of the Summits process, the Heads of State and Government have joined forces to build a modern State in the global economy in order to satisfy the needs and aspirations of the 600 million citizens of the Americas. The Summits are a reflection of the importance of regional governability within the context of globalization, of the need to find collective responses that differ greatly from those of the past.

POLITICAL ARENA

We have seen impressive progress in the political arena. At the Third Summit of the Americas in Quebec City in 2001, countries proposed the adoption of the Inter-American Democratic Charter out of concern for the fragility of certain democracies. The Charter is undoubtedly the most innovative mechanism in the world for defending democracy. Adopted in Lima on September 11, 2001 — the very day that Washington D.C. and New York suffered flagrant terrorist attacks—the Charter is a clear example of just how far we have come in defending and promoting democracy in our Hemisphere—and of just how far we have yet to go. The Democratic Charter has been an essential instrument in our ongoing efforts to ensure the constitutional subordination of all State authorities to the duly constituted civil authority. For example, the Charter was used to help preserve democracy in Haiti and Venezuela by providing ways out of the political crises affecting those countries. More recently, action was taken in Bolivia in an attempt to ensure the stability of the constitutional system.

In response to the scourge of drug trafficking, countries agreed on the principles and guidelines of a joint policy, as outlined in the hemispheric strategy against drugs. In 1998, the Multilateral Evaluation Mechanism (MEM) was created within the framework of the Inter-American Commission on Drug Abuse Control (CICAD) of the OAS. The MEM facilitates the evaluation of individual and collective progress, the formulation of recommendations to improve the capacity to control trafficking and drug abuse, and the strengthening of multilateral cooperation.

Through the “Inter-American Convention Against Terrorism” a part of the Summits process—governments now guarantee broad-based and mutual legal
CHALLENGES

According to recent data provided by ECLAC, 44% of the inhabitants of Latin America and the Caribbean (220 million people) live in poverty, and 20% live in extreme poverty. And the World Bank noted in its recent report, entitled “Inequality in Latin America and the Caribbean,” that the richest 10% of the population receive 48% of the income, while the poorest 40% earn only 5.6%. Similarly, according to the International Labour Organization (ILO), 57 million people in Latin America and the Caribbean are unemployed or under-employed. There are currently 80 million informal workers in the Americas. The strengthening of democracy has created great expectations among the people, but they are questioning the benefits that have been produced and see poverty as a serious threat (Latinobarómetro, 1996-2003).

There are many underlying dangers and potential risks that threaten governability in the region. The challenge is to identify them and to define strategies and approaches for confronting them. It is against this backdrop that the Special Summit of the Americas is being convened. In order to continue confronting
Another fundamental challenge is the sheer number of Summit mandates, as well as the political commitment of each country to implement them, and to be held accountable for them. The Quebec City Plan of Action contains 455 initiatives. In view of the sometimes-limited political will of governments and the scarcity of governmental resources, an agenda of this magnitude is difficult to implement. It will be crucial to identify priority areas for immediate action, and to make best use of the limited existing resources in order to have a real impact on the welfare of the population. With this in mind, each new mandate should be reviewed in light of the actual feasibility of carrying it out.

We can succeed in identifying priority areas and improving implementation if we increasingly link the formulation and implementation of mandates to ministerial work in the various sectors. Government ministries must take on these mandates and establish reliable mechanisms for assessing progress based on clear, measurable indicators. Recommendations produced by ministerial processes must both inform and enhance government discussions and decisions at the highest political level. Finally, the specialized organizations have an important role to play in advising governments in their efforts.

We must continue to refine national progress review and reporting mechanisms. The mechanisms used in the past—whereby each country had to report on each of the 18 mandates—were overly complex: governments have experienced difficulty applying them and providing comparable results on a timely basis. We need to consider new, innovative options. For example, perhaps each review could be focused on specific themes and could include all the countries, similar to what is being done concerning the follow-up to the Millennium Development Goals. Another option would be to design a multilateral review mechanism similar to that used by CGIAR to evaluate progress on fighting drug trafficking. Under this new mechanism, governments are assisted by civil society organizations and academic institutions, which would carry out independent studies on progress specific to themes determined by governments within the framework of the Summit Implementation Review Group (SIRG).

Such a vision would enable us to make use of all available national, regional, and multilateral instruments to bolster the Summits of the Americas agenda. It would allow us to focus our energies on the benefits and imperfections of globalization, thereby ensuring hemispheric governance and welfare of the population. It is vital that we all contribute to this process: from governments to regional and international agencies, from civil society to the private sector. We must all share in the great responsibility of strengthening democracy and governability, and in reducing poverty and increasing opportunities in the Americas.
MAJOR ACHIEVEMENTS IN IMPLEMENTATION OF THE MANDATES OF THE THIRD SUMMIT OF THE AMERICAS:

Trade, Investment and Financial Stability
- Continuation of the Free Trade Area of the Americas (FTAA) negotiations with all original parties and maintenance of the January 2005 deadline for completion
- Significant increase in the transparency of the FTAA negotiations through web-based information including the publication of draft texts, outreach to civil society and individual country briefings
- Establishment of the FTAA Hemispheric Cooperation Program to assist countries, especially smaller economies, in the negotiation and implementation of the FTAA
- Growing cooperation in avoiding regional financial crises
- Change in some business culture to reflect corporate social responsibility

Infrastructure and Regulatory Environment
- Increased cooperation to establish common standards for telecommunications through the Inter-American Telecommunications Commission (CITEL)
- Improved planning for infrastructure development through the Western Hemisphere Transportation Initiative, the Plan Puebla Panama for southern Mexico and Central America and the Regional Infrastructure Integration Initiative in South America

Disaster Management
- Improved coordination in preparations for and recovery from natural disasters
- Significant investment in Central America in protecting vulnerable infrastructure

Environmental Foundation for Sustainable Development
- More effective linkages between regional and worldwide environmental initiatives
- Improvement in sustainable forestry development, including timber source certification programs
- Significant progress in multi-country management of water basin resources

Agricultural Management and Rural Development
- Effective mobilization of ministries of agriculture to implement Summit goals through ministerial meetings at the hemispheric level and the technical support of the Inter-American Institute for Cooperation on Agriculture
- Expansion of the vision of agricultural issues to include broad issues of rural development and linkages between production and trade competitiveness
- Significant incorporation of new farming technologies in many countries of the region

Labor and Employment
- Progress in instituting labor legislation and enforcement to reflect the International Labor Organizations provisions to protect workers
Cultural Diversity
- Higher recognition of the importance of culture in national identity and the protection of cultural patrimony
- Increased cooperation in promotion and protection of culture through the First Inter-American Meeting of Ministers and High-Authorities of Culture supported by the Inter-American Council for Integral Development

Children and Youth
- Improved legislation to protect children and youth
- New programs to assist child combatants to reincorporate into normal society
- Increase in programs targeted specifically to protect vulnerable children and youth

Follow-up to the Plan of Action
- Strengthening of the Summit Implementation Review Group, through its Steering Committee, Executive Council and regular meetings supported by the OAS Summits of the Americas Secretariat
- Establishment of the OAS Summits of the Americas Secretariat by the Secretary General of the OAS
- Improved mobilization of the Joint Summit Working Group, consisting of the inter-American agencies and development banks, to provide technical assistance and financing for Summit implementation
- Significant increase in the engagement of civil society in the Summit process, including through dialogue at meetings of Ministers of Foreign Affairs, the Summit Implementation Review Group and the OAS Committee on Inter-American Summits Management and Civil Society
- New engagement of the private sector as a partner in the Summit process
- Increased sense of ownership of the Summit process by different social actors, including civil society organizations, academics, private sector, youth, and the media

Effective use of the hemispheric meetings of Ministers of Labor to connect labor issues to Summit mandates and to the labor implications of trade negotiations
- Tripartite efforts form Ministers, employers, and workers in dealing with labor issues

Growth with Equity
- Increasing awareness and change in program designs of development banks working in the region to assist in the implementation of Summit mandates
- A strong commitment at the highest levels of government to address problems of inequality in economic development
- Active renegotiation of unsustainable external debts in some countries
- New programs for small business development and empowering new entrants in the market economy

Education
- New cooperative efforts to improve education in the region through exchange of experiences at meetings of Ministers of Education
- Comprehensive recognition for the need to significantly improve literacy rates, decrease the drop-out rate, and strengthen high-level training programs in science and technology
- Increase cooperation on establishing hemispheric measurement standards and improving Internet access and use
- Improved female attendance rate in school

Health
- Reduction in the cost of antiretrovirals for the treatment of HIV/AIDS
- Incorporation of new technologies in health care delivery
- Increased cooperation in reform of health systems through regional meetings of Ministers of Health supported by the Pan American Health Organization

Gender Equality
- Improved legislation recognizing gender equality and protecting women’s rights
- Larger percentages of women holding government positions
- Better cooperation between advocates of gender equality through high-level meetings supported by the Inter-American Commission on Women

Indigenous Peoples
- Increased recognition of the rights of indigenous populations, including improvements in legislation
- Increased networking and consolidation of advocacy groups to protect indigenous rights through negotiations on the American Declaration of the Rights of Indigenous Peoples
- Significant new support to promoting increased indigenous rights from the political bodies and General Secretariat of the OAS