

Symposium on Children of the AmericasParticipants as of 12/7/94

ARGENTINA	Ms. Zulema Menem
BAHAMAS	Mrs. Delores Ingraham
BARBADOS	Mrs. Beverley Arthur
BELIZE	Mrs. Kathleen Levy Esquivel
BOLIVIA	Mrs. Ximena Sánchez de Lozada
BRAZIL	Mrs. Lucia Flecha de Lima
CANADA	Mrs. Aline Chrétien
CHILE	Mrs. Marta Larraechea de Frei
COLOMBIA	Mrs. Jacquín Samper
COSTA RICA	Mrs. Josette Figueres
DOMINICAN REBUBLIC	Mrs. Luisa Alba de Morales
ECUADOR	Mrs. Josefina Villalobos de Durán Ballén
EL SALVADOR	Mrs. Elizabeth Calderón Sol
GUATEMELA	Mrs. María Eugenia De León
GUYANA	Mrs. Janet Jagan
HONDURAS	Mrs. Bessie Reina
MEXICO	Mrs. Nilda Patricia Zedillo
NICARAGUA	Ms. Cristiana Chamorro
PANAMA	Mrs. Dora Pérez Balladares
PARAGUAY	Mrs. María Teresa de Wasmosy
PERU	Ms. Keiko Sofia Fujimori Higuchi
ST. LUCIA	Mrs. Barbara Janice Compton
TRINIDAD and TOBAGO	Mrs. Hazel Manning
UNITED STATES	Mrs. Hillary Rodham Clinton
UNITED STATES	Mrs. Tipper Gore
URUGUAY	Mrs. María Julia Pou Lacalle

No Representatives attending of 12/7/94

ANTIGUA and BARBUDA
DOMINICA
GRENADA
HAITI
JAMAICA
ST. KITTS and ST. NEVIS
ST. VINCENT and the GRENADINES
SURINAME
VENEZUELA

SYMPOSIUM ON CHILDREN OF THE AMERICAS
Working Group Assignments as of 12/7/94

CHILDREN'S EDUCATION

Anastasia Room

Chair: Mrs. Zedillo of Mexico
Ms. Menem of Argentina
Mrs. Ingraham of The Bahamas
Mrs. Esquivel of Belize
Mrs. Sánchez de Lozada of Bolivia
Mrs. Figueres of Costa Rica
Ms. Chamorro of Nicaragua
Ms. Fujimori of Peru

CHILDREN'S HEALTH

Majorca Room

Chair: Mrs. Jagan of Guyana
Mrs. Flecha de Lima of Brazil
Mrs. Chrétien of Canada
Mrs. Morales of Dominican Republic
Mrs. Durán Ballén of Ecuador
Mrs. Calderón Sol of El Salvador
Mrs. De León of Guatemala
Mrs. Wasmosy of Paraguay

ADOLESCENT HEALTH AND EDUCATION

Marbella Room

Chair: Mrs. Frei of Chile
Mrs. Arthur of Barbados
Mrs. Samper of Colombia
Mrs. Reina of Honduras
Mrs. Pérez Balladares of Panama
Mrs. Compton of St. Lucia
Mrs. Manning of Trinidad and Tobago
Mrs. Lacalle of Uruguay

Mrs. Clinton will participate in each of the working groups.

THE WHITE HOUSE
WASHINGTON

Welcome to Miami! I am so delighted you will be joining me and the other First Ladies of the Hemisphere in addressing the Summit of the Americas agenda as it relates to the needs of children. Enclosed is information about the Summit and our Symposium. There will be a resource table at the Symposium site with additional information about the issues we will discuss.

I very much look forward to meeting with you and spending time together over the next few days discussing our hemisphere's most important resource--our children.

With warm regards and best wishes for a pleasant stay, I am

Sincerely yours,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Hillary Rodham Clinton". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style with a large initial "H".

Hillary Rodham Clinton

Symposium on the Children of the Americas
Hosted by Mrs. Clinton
Saturday, December 10, 1994

8:15 am-
8:45 Arrival, Biltmore Hotel, Country Club Entrance

9:00 am-
10:30 Plenary Session
 Biltmore Hotel, Country Club Ballroom

 Participants: First Ladies and Observers

11:00-
12:00 Workshops

 Youth Health and Education Issues
 Children's Health Issues
 Children's Education Issues

 Anastasia, Majorca and Marbella Rooms
 Biltmore Hotel

 Participants: First Ladies

11:15-
1:00 pm Lunch Hosted by Mrs. Gore for Plenary Observers
 Alhambra Room
 Biltmore Hotel

12:30-
2:00 pm Lunch Hosted by Mrs. Clinton
 Danielson Gallery
 Biltmore Hotel

SYMPOSIUM ON CHILDREN OF THE AMERICAS

Hosted by First Lady Hillary Rodham Clinton

Saturday, December 10, 1994

Miami, Florida

PLENARY SESSION

- Welcoming remarks by Mrs. Hillary Rodham Clinton of the United States
- Screening of a UNICEF video presentation
- Remarks by Dr. George Alleyne, Director-designate, Pan American Health Organization
- Remarks by Mrs. Hazel Manning of Trinidad and Tobago
- Remarks by Mrs. Ximena Iturralde Sanchez de Lozada of Bolivia
- Remarks by Mrs. Josette Altmann de Figueres of Costa Rica
- Closing Remarks by Mrs. Hillary Rodham Clinton of the United States
- Open Discussion
- Brief Intermission

WORKING GROUP SESSION

- The First Ladies will break into three working groups:
 1. Children's Health Issues, chaired by Mrs. Janet Jagan of Guyana

2. Children's Education Issues, chaired by Mrs. Nilda Patricia Velasco de Zedillo of Mexico
3. Challenges in Health and Education Facing Today's Adolescents, chaired by Mrs. Marta Larraechea de Frei of Chile

WORKING LUNCHEON

- Reports from the Working Group Chairs:
 - Mrs. Janet Jagan of Guyana on Children's Health Issues
 - Mrs. Nilda Patricia Velasco de Zedillo of Mexico on Children's Education
 - Mrs. Marta Larraechea de Frei of Chile on Challenges in Health and Education Facing Today's Adolescents
- Remarks by Mrs. Maria Teresa de Wasmosy of Paraguay on the next convening of the Wives of Heads of State and Governments of the Americas
- Closing remarks by Mrs. Hillary Rodham Clinton

SUMMIT OF THE AMERICAS

Symposium on Children of the Americas

Introduction

- The Hemisphere's leaders and their spouses are coming together not only as the heads of their governments and people, but also as parents and members of families who recognize that one driving force behind the Summit is to ensure children's well-being now and in the future.
- Virtually every element of the Summit Plan of Action will have a direct or indirect impact on the economic, social, or physical well-being of the children of the hemisphere.
- The implementation of the Summit Plan of Action will bring about a better standard of living for the children of the hemisphere, through increased trade and jobs, improved access to health and education, and the protection of their rights.

The Summit Initiatives: Impact on Children

I. Preserving and Strengthening the Community of Democracies of the Americas

Strengthening Democracy

- * Helps prevent political violence, which has a profound effect on the well-being of our children.

Promoting and Protecting Human Rights

- * Includes guarantees for the rights of children and calls for ratifying the United Nations Convention of the Rights of the Child

Invigorating Society/Community Participation

- * Encourages the growth of civic-minded non-governmental organizations, including those which support children's issues, and notes the need to improve participation of young people.
- * Helps ensure that groups such as disabled, indigenous, and female children receive fair and equitable treatment.

Combating the Problem of Illegal Drugs and Related Crimes

- * In order to safeguard children's health and their futures, we must educate our children on the dangers of drug abuse and prevent them from using narcotics.
- * We must continue our efforts to protect children from this threat and prevent them from becoming involved in drug-related criminal activities.

II. Promoting Prosperity Through Economic Integration and Free Trade

Free Trade in the Americas/Capital Markets Development and Liberalization

- * Creates more jobs, allowing families to enjoy a higher standard of living.
- * Lessens need to depend on children to help augment the family's income, thus reducing child labor.
- * Provides more commodity variety at more competitive prices, helping to decrease malnutrition.

Hemispheric Infrastructure

- * Increases access of all sectors of society to better transportation, electricity, and clean water.

III. Eradicating Poverty and Discrimination in Our Hemisphere

Universal Access to Education

- * All children, regardless of economic or social situation, will receive the basic tools necessary to become full, participatory members of society, especially girls, minorities, and indigenous groups.
- * Requiring children to attend primary school will help eradicate child labor.
- * Ensures that all children have the foundation necessary to compete in a modern economy and/or to go on to higher levels of education; secondary school will train students for more complex jobs, allowing them to be more competitive in the modern world economy.

Equitable Access to Basic Health Services

- * Reducing child, infant, and maternal mortality rates will clearly benefit children, who are particularly vulnerable to illness and unhealthy living conditions.
- * The success of immunization programs in eradicating the childhood disease of polio demonstrate the importance of universal access to such prevention programs.

Strengthening the Role of Women in Society

- * Since many of the households in the hemisphere are headed by women, increasing their opportunities to participate in all spheres of political, social, and economic life will improve the well-being of the members of those households.

IV. Guaranteeing Sustainable Development and Conserving Our Natural Environment for Future Generations

Partnership for Sustainable Energy Use/Partnership for Pollution Prevention

- * Developing cleaner sources of energy will improve the health of our children.
- * We need to ensure that our children are left with options for renewable sources of energy.

Partnership for Biodiversity

- * Ensures that we do not destroy the living resources or environment of our planet, but rather preserve them for the sake of future generations.

Children: the Foundation for the Americas of the 21st Century

- The broad range of Summit objectives are aimed not only at helping children now, but also at giving children the tools they need to provide for themselves and their children in the future.
- Future generations will be called upon to continue the work initiated at the Miami Summit--we must prepare today's children to be the leaders of tomorrow's integrated and democratic Western Hemisphere.

SYMPOSIUM ON CHILDREN OF THE AMERICAS

Themes for Working Group Session On

Children's Education Issues

Summit Goals: A primary completion rate of 100 percent and a secondary enrollment rate of at least 75 percent by the year 2010.

(See Summit Plan of Action Initiative 16, "Universal Access to Education," for the full text.)

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

Although almost every country in the hemisphere has adult literacy rates of over 80 percent, there are still too many people who do not have a basic level of reading and writing skills. Eradicating illiteracy is best approached by ensuring that children are enrolled in and complete at least primary school. A number of factors impact on both enrollment and completion rates, including pre-school environment, the quality of the school's curriculum and the training received by the educators.

The nurturing and nutrition children receive early in their lives dramatically impact on their ability to thrive when they reach school age, and can improve future performance and reduce costly repetition and drop-out rates. Approximately 8.9 million children in this hemisphere participate in early childhood programs.

Primary school enrollment of children age 6-11 increased over the last 20 years in all countries in the region, especially in population centers. However, enrollment levels remain relatively low in certain regions and sub-groupings (girls, indigenous, urban minority and rural populations).

The World Bank estimates that every year \$2.5 billion are spent on grade repetition for 20 million children in Latin America. Countries are addressing drop-out and repetition rates by setting national goals in educational efficiency as well as relevance of what is taught.

The Summit initiative on education calls for governments to work with the private sector and multilateral institutions to guarantee universal access to quality primary education; support strategies to overcome nutritional deficiencies of primary school children in order to enhance their learning ability; and create a

hemispheric partnership to reform educational policies and focus resources more efficiently.

SYMPOSIUM ON CHILDREN OF THE AMERICAS

Themes for Working Group Session On

Children's Health Issues

Summit Goals: To reduce child mortality by one-third and maternal mortality by one-half by the year 2000.

(See Summit Plan of Action Initiative 17, "Equitable Access to Basic Health Services," for the full text.)

The average infant mortality rate for the 34 countries attending the Summit is 33 deaths per 1,000 births. Major achievements in reducing that rate thus far have been in high-impact but simple technologies such as vaccinations and controlling diarrhea through oral rehydration. The challenge now is to move to more difficult and complex interventions such as managing pneumonia, improving nutritional status, and reducing neonatal mortality, while sustaining the gains already achieved. The region-wide effort to eradicate polio, which succeeded in interrupting transmission throughout the hemisphere, was a model of cooperation, partnership and participation. This model can be adapted to eliminating measles, or at least reducing incidences and deaths to the levels called for in the Narino Accord.

Maternal death rates remain a significant problem in the Americas, with national rates ranging from a low of 5 to a high of about 600 per 100,000 live births. To reduce maternal mortality, we need to improve and expand access to prenatal and postnatal care and to provide safer delivery care. Community-based approaches such as training and deployment of midwives and family planning have reduced maternal mortality in some countries.

In addition, inequities in access to health care contribute to the concentration of children's health problems in certain populations (e.g. rural areas, indigenous peoples). These inequities can be addressed through systemic reforms of health care delivery systems which can include essential community-based services for the poor, the disabled, and indigenous groups; stronger public health infrastructure; alternative means of financing, managing, and providing services; quality assurance; and greater use of non-governmental actors and organizations.

The Summit Plan of Action calls for a number of actions involving the hemispheric governments, the Inter-American Development Bank, the World Bank, and the Pan-American Health Organization, and representatives of the private sector in focusing on and establishing a framework for health reform mechanisms. These actions include: developing or updating country action plans or programs for

reform; strengthening international fora for sharing technical expertise, information and experience on health reform efforts; and convening a special meeting of hemispheric governments with interested donors and international technical agencies to establish a framework for health reform mechanisms.

SYMPOSIUM ON CHILDREN OF THE AMERICAS

Themes for Working Group Session On

Youth Health and Education Issues

Summit Goals: Address the needs of adolescents through prevention programs for narcotics use and abuse, the transmission of HIV/AIDS, and unintended pregnancies, and through enhanced vocational or college-preparatory programs.

(See Summit Plan of Action Initiative 6, "Combating the Problem of Illegal Drugs and Related Crimes;" Initiative 16, "Universal Access to Education;" and Initiative 17, "Equitable Access to Basic Health Services," for full texts.)

Youth in the hemisphere, who make up roughly a quarter of the population, must obtain the education and training needed to be productive adults and avoid often fatal health risks.

At current birth rates, half of the hemisphere's female population will have a child between the ages of 15 and 19. In addition to the maternal mortality issues covered under the symposium's health theme, these young women are exposed to sexually-transmitted diseases--including AIDS/HIV, and often leave school to have or raise their babies. The Summit initiative on health includes a proposal to have a basic package of health services which includes maternal and reproductive health care, planning information and services, and HIV/AIDS prevention.

Both female and male adolescents leave school early, for a number of reasons, resulting in a workforce unprepared for an increasingly high-technology world market. Educational programs aimed at keeping teenagers in school and curricula designed to prepare students for adulthood are needed. The Summit education initiative calls for promoting worker professional training, increasing access to and strengthening the quality of high education, and creating a hemispheric partnership to reform educational policies.

The problem of narcotics consumption, production, and trafficking is a huge drain on our youth. In addition to the health problems and deaths caused by drug use, narcotics-related violence also affects a large number of young people. In addition, young adults without the education or training to support themselves are too often drawn to the narcotics-related crimes of selling or trafficking narcotics. The proposed initiative on narcotics includes a broad agenda to reduce both the demand and supply of narcotics throughout the hemisphere.

SUMMIT OF THE AMERICAS

Strengthening the Role of Women in Society

Summit Goals: Strengthen policies and programs that improve and broaden the participation of women in all spheres of political, social, and economic life and improve their access to the basic resources needed for the full exercise of their fundamental rights.

(See Summit Plan of Action Initiative 18, "Strengthening the Role of Women in Society," for the full text.)

The Fourth Conference of Wives of Heads of State and of Governments of the Americas issued in October 1994 the Declaration of St. Lucia, which called for supporting actions which further the full exercise of women's human rights, expressed appreciation for efforts to reduce domestic violence; encouraged steps to educate women in preparation for decision-making in all spheres; and requested that the women's issues be addressed at a wide range of fora.

The proposed Summit Plan of Action calls for the nations of the hemisphere to commit to taking many of those steps, such as recognizing and giving full respect for all rights of women, promoting the participation of women in decision-making; enhancing women's productivity and economic self-reliance through education and skill development; reducing violence against women; and encouraging regional and international financial and technical organizations to intensify their programs in favor of women.

In addition, women remain the primary care-givers for children throughout the hemisphere. Therefore, the importance of the development and strengthening of the role of women in society should be recognized also in terms of the impact of women's development on their children and its positive contribution to society.

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Summit of the Americas Declaration of Principles

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

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

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

To Preserve and Strengthen the Community of Democracies of the Americas

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

We reaffirm our commitment to preserve and strengthen our democratic systems for the benefit of all people of the Hemisphere. We will work through the appropriate bodies of the OAS to strengthen democratic institutions and promote and defend constitutional

democratic rule, in accordance with the OAS Charter. We endorse OAS efforts to enhance peace and the democratic, social, and economic stability of the region.

We recognize that our people earnestly seek greater responsiveness and efficiency from our respective governments. Democracy is strengthened by the modernization of the state, including reforms that streamline operations, reduce and simplify government rules and procedures, and make democratic institutions more transparent and accountable. Deeming it essential that justice should be accessible in an efficient and expeditious way to all sectors of society, we affirm that an independent judiciary is a critical element of an effective legal system and lasting democracy. Our ultimate goal is to better meet the needs of the population, especially the needs of women and the most vulnerable groups, including indigenous people, the disabled, children, the aged, and minorities.

Effective democracy requires a comprehensive attack on corruption as a factor of social disintegration and distortion of the economic system that undermines the legitimacy of political institutions.

Recognizing the pernicious effects of organized crime and illegal narcotics on our economies, ethical values, public health, and the social fabric, we will join the battle against the consumption, production, trafficking and distribution of illegal drugs, as well as against money laundering and the illicit trafficking in arms and chemical precursors. We will also cooperate to create viable alternative development strategies in those countries in which illicit crops are grown. Cooperation should be extended to international and national programs aimed at curbing the production, use and trafficking of illicit drugs and the rehabilitation of addicts.

We condemn terrorism in all its forms, and we will, using all legal means, combat terrorist acts anywhere in the Americas with unity and vigor.

Recognizing the important contribution of individuals and associations in effective democratic government and in the enhancement of cooperation among the people of the Hemisphere, we will facilitate fuller participation of our people in political, economic and social activity, in accordance with national legislation.

To Promote Prosperity Through Economic Integration and Free Trade

Our continued economic progress depends on sound economic policies, sustainable development, and dynamic private sectors. A key to prosperity is trade without barriers, without subsidies, without unfair practices, and with an increasing stream of productive investments. Eliminating impediments to market access for goods and services among our countries will foster our economic growth. A growing world economy will also enhance our domestic prosperity. Free trade and increased economic integration are key

factors for raising standards of living, improving the working conditions of people in the Americas and better protecting the environment.

We, therefore, resolve to begin immediately to construct "The Free Trade Area of the Americas" (FTAA) in which barriers to trade and investment will be progressively eliminated. We further resolve to conclude the negotiation of the "Free Trade Area of the Americas" no later than 2005, and agree that concrete progress toward the attainment of this objective will be made by the end of this Century. We recognize the progress that already has been realized through the unilateral undertakings of each of our nations and the subregional trade arrangements in our Hemisphere. We will build on existing subregional and bilateral arrangements in order to broaden and deepen hemispheric economic integration and to bring the agreements together.

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

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

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

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

To Eradicate Poverty And Discrimination In Our Hemisphere

It is politically intolerable and morally unacceptable that some segments of our populations are marginalized and do not share fully in the benefits of growth. With an aim of attaining greater social justice for all our people, we pledge to work individually and collectively to improve access to quality education and primary health care and to eradicate extreme poverty and illiteracy. The fruits of democratic stability and economic

growth must be accessible to all, without discrimination by race, gender, national origin or religious affiliation.

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

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

Strengthening the role of women in all aspects of political, social and economic life in our countries is essential to reduce poverty and social inequalities and to enhance democracy and sustainable development.

To Guarantee Sustainable Development and Conserve Our Natural Environment for Future Generations

Social progress and economic prosperity can be sustained only if our people live in a healthy environment and our ecosystems and natural resources are managed carefully and responsibly. To advance and implement the commitments made at the 1992 United Nations Conference on Environment and Development, held in Rio de Janeiro, and the 1994 Global Conference on the Sustainable Development of Small Island Developing States, held in Barbados, we will create cooperative partnerships to strengthen our capacity to prevent and control pollution, to protect ecosystems and use our biological resources on a sustainable basis, and to encourage clean, efficient and sustainable energy production and use. To benefit future generations through environmental conservation, including the rational use of our ecosystems, natural resources and biological heritage, we will continue to pursue technological, financial and other forms of cooperation.

We will advance our social well-being and economic prosperity in ways that are fully cognizant of our impact on the environment. We agree to support the Central American Alliance for Sustainable Development, which seeks to strengthen those democracies by promoting regional economic and social prosperity and sound environmental management. In this context, we support the convening of other regional meetings on sustainable development.

* * * * *

Our Declaration constitutes a comprehensive and mutually reinforcing set of commitments for concrete results. In accord with the appended Plan of Action, and recognizing our different national capabilities and our different legal

systems, we pledge to implement them without delay.

We call upon the OAS and the Inter-American Development Bank to assist countries in implementing our pledges, drawing significantly upon the Pan-American Health Organization and the United Nations Economic Commission for Latin America and the Caribbean as well as sub-regional organizations for integration.

To give continuity to efforts fostering national political involvement, we will convene specific ministerial and senior officials' meetings to address, among others, topics such as trade and commerce, capital markets, labor, energy, education, transportation, telecommunications, counter-narcotics and other anti-crime initiatives, sustainable development, health, and science and technology.

To assure public engagement and commitment, we invite the cooperation and participation of the private sector, labor, political parties, academic institutions and other non-governmental actors and organizations in both our national and regional efforts, thus strengthening the partnership between governments and society.

* * * * *

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

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Summit of the Americas Plan of Action

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

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

1. Strengthening Democracy

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

Governments will:

- Give expeditious consideration to ratifying the Cartagena de Indias, Washington and Managua Protocols to the OAS Charter, if they have not already done so.
- Strengthen the dialogue among social groups and foster grass roots participation in problem solving at the local level.
- Support efforts by the OAS to promote democracy by:
 - ◊ Encouraging exchanges of election-related technologies and assisting national electoral organizations, at the request of the interested state.

Strengthening the Unit for the Promotion of Democracy so that it can provide assistance at the request of the interested state on such matters as legislative and judicial processes, government reforms (including administration of justice, technical modernization of national legislative bodies, simplification of government regulations and promotion of participation by community organizations in local democracy), and other institutional changes.

- ◇ Encouraging opportunities for exchange of experiences among member states' democratic institutions, particularly legislature-to-legislature and judiciary-to-judiciary.
- ◇ Fostering understanding, dialogue and political reconciliation, at the request of the affected state and bearing in mind that national reconciliation comes from within.
- ◇ Requesting the OAS to promote and follow up on these commitments.

2. Promoting and Protecting Human Rights

Great progress has been made in the Hemisphere in the development of human rights concepts and norms, but serious gaps in implementation remain. While courts ultimately have the responsibility for enforcing legal rights and obligations, reforms in other institutions are needed to contribute to the further development of a climate of respect for human rights. There must also be universal access to justice and effective means to enforce basic rights. A democracy is judged by the rights enjoyed by its least influential members.

Governments will:

- Give serious consideration to adherence to international human rights instruments to which they are not already party.
- Cooperate fully with all United Nations and Inter-American human rights bodies.
- Develop programs for the promotion and observance of human rights, including educational programs to inform people of their legal rights and their responsibility to respect the rights of others.
- 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.
- Review and strengthen laws for the protection of the rights of minority groups and indigenous people and communities to ensure freedom from discrimination, to guarantee full and equal protection under the law, and to facilitate active civic

participation. Support a process to review and enhance the protection of indigenous rights in OAS member states and to develop promptly an effective United Nations declaration on indigenous rights.

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

3. Invigorating Society/Community Participation

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

Governments will:

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

4. Promoting Cultural Values

Cultural development is a fundamental and integral component of development in the Americas and has an inherent capability to enrich our societies and to generate greater understanding among our countries.

In order to promote cultural values, governments will:

- Encourage more dynamic relations among public and private institutions and organizations, including universities, museums, and centers of art and literature, as well as among individual cultural actors. Such exchanges emphasize our cultural diversity, recognize the value of our local cultures and contribute to improving hemispheric understanding.
- Request that the OAS and IDB reinforce their plans and programs to facilitate these cultural exchanges and the flow of cultural and historical information within and among our nations.

5. Combating Corruption

The problem of corruption is now an issue of serious interest not only in this Hemisphere, but in all regions of the world. Corruption in both the public and private sectors weakens democracy and undermines the legitimacy of governments and institutions. The modernization of the state, including deregulation, privatization and the simplification of government procedures, reduces the opportunities for corruption. All aspects of public administration in a democracy must be transparent and open to public scrutiny.

Governments will:

- Promote open discussion of the most significant problems facing government and develop priorities for reforms needed to make government operations transparent and accountable.
- Ensure proper oversight of government functions by strengthening internal mechanisms, including investigative and enforcement capacity with respect to acts of corruption, and facilitating public access to information necessary for meaningful outside review.
- Establish conflict of interest standards for public employees and effective measures against illicit enrichment, including stiff penalties for those who utilize their public position to benefit private interests.
- Call on the governments of the world to adopt and enforce measures against bribery in all financial or commercial transactions with the Hemisphere; toward this end, invite the OAS to establish liaison with the OECD Working Group on Bribery in International Business Transactions.
- Develop mechanisms of cooperation in the judicial and banking areas to make possible rapid and effective response in the international investigation of corruption cases.
- Give priority to strengthening government regulations and procurement, tax collection, the administration of justice and the electoral and legislative processes, utilizing the support of the IDB and other international financial institutions where appropriate.
- Develop within the OAS, with due regard to applicable treaties and national legislation, a hemispheric approach to acts of corruption in both the public and private sectors that would include extradition and prosecution of individuals so charged, through negotiation of a new hemispheric agreement or new arrangements within existing frameworks for international cooperation.

6. Combating the Problem of Illegal Drugs and Related Crimes

The problems of illegal drug and related criminal activities pose grave threats to the societies, free market economies, and democratic institutions of the Hemisphere. Drug use imposes enormous social costs; drug money and income are net drains on economic growth; and drug lords and criminal organizations endanger the security of our people through corruption, intimidation, and violence. While drug trafficking continues to be a significant source of illegal funds, the money laundering industry increasingly deals with the proceeds of all types of criminal activity. An integrated and balanced approach that

includes respect for national sovereignty is essential to confront all aspects of these problems. For these reasons, a broad coordinated hemispheric strategy to reduce drug use and production and includes new enforcement methods that can disrupt drug trafficking and money laundering networks and prosecute those engaged in such activities, is required. In this context, governments note the work of the 1992 San Antonio Summit, endorse the efforts of the Inter-American Commission on Drug Abuse Control, and agree to work together to formulate a counter-narcotics strategy for the 21st Century.

Governments will:

- Ratify the 1988 United Nations Convention Against the Illicit Traffic of Narcotics and Psychotropic Substances and make it a criminal offense to launder the proceeds of all serious crimes.
- Enact legislation to permit the freezing and forfeiture of the proceeds of money laundering and consider sharing of forfeited assets among governments.
- As agreed by ministers and representatives of Caribbean and Latin American governments in the Kingston Declaration, November 5-6, 1992, implement the recommendations of the Caribbean Financial Action Task Force on Money Laundering and work to adopt the Model Regulations of the Inter-American Commission on Drug Abuse Control (CICAD).
- Encourage financial institutions to report large and suspicious transactions to appropriate authorities and develop effective procedures that would allow the collection of relevant information from financial institutions.
- Work individually and collectively to identify the region's narcotics trafficking and money laundering networks, prosecute their leaders, and seize assets derived from these criminal activities.
- Adopt programs to prevent and reduce the demand for and consumption of illicit drugs.
- Adopt effective and environmentally-sound national strategies to prevent or reduce substantially the cultivation and processing of crops used for the illegal drug trade, paying particular attention to national and international support for development programs which create viable economic alternatives to drug production.
- Pay particular attention to the control of precursor chemicals and support comprehensive drug interdiction strategies.
- Strengthen efforts to control firearms, ammunition, and explosives to avoid their diversion to drug traffickers and criminal organizations.

- Hold a working-level conference, to be followed by a ministerial conference, to study and agree on a coordinated Hemispheric response, including consideration of an inter-American convention, to combat money laundering.
- Convene a Hemispheric-wide conference of donors, including multilateral development banks and UN agencies, to seek resources for alternative development programs aimed at curbing the production, trafficking, and use of illicit drugs, and the rehabilitation of addicts.
- Support the discussion the OAS has initiated with the European Union on measures to control precursor chemicals.
- Support the convening of a global counter-narcotics conference.

7. Eliminating the Threat of National and International Terrorism

National and international terrorism constitute a systematic and deliberate violation of the rights of individuals and an assault on democracy itself. Recent attacks that some of our countries have suffered have demonstrated the serious threat that terrorism poses to security in the Americas. Actions by governments to combat and eliminate this threat are essential elements in guaranteeing law and order and maintaining confidence in government, both nationally and internationally. Within this context, those who sponsor terrorist acts or assist in their planning or execution through the abuse of diplomatic privileges and immunities or other means will be held responsible by the international community.

Governments will:

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

8. Building Mutual Confidence

The expansion and consolidation of democracy in the Americas provide an opportunity to build upon the peaceful traditions and the cooperative relationships that have prevailed

among the countries of the Western Hemisphere. Our aim is to strengthen the mutual confidence that contributes to the economic and social integration of our peoples.

Governments will:

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

II. PROMOTING PROSPERITY THROUGH ECONOMIC INTEGRATION AND FREE TRADE

9. Free Trade in the Americas

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

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

3) We will strive to maximize market openness through high levels of discipline as we build upon existing agreements in the hemisphere. We also will strive for balanced and comprehensive agreements, including among others: tariffs and non-tariff barriers affecting trade in goods and services; agriculture; subsidies; investment; intellectual property rights; government procurement; technical barriers to trade; safeguards; rules of origin; antidumping and countervailing duties; sanitary and phytosanitary standards and procedures; dispute resolution; and competition policy.

4) We recognize that decisions on trade agreements remain a sovereign right of each nation. In addition, recognizing the importance of effective enforcement of international commitments, each nation will take the necessary action, in accordance with its own legislation and procedures, to implement the agreements in the areas covered by this Plan of Action.

5) As we work to achieve "The Free Trade Area of the Americas," opportunities such as technical assistance will be provided to facilitate the integration of the smaller economies and increase their level of development.

Immediate Action Agenda

We direct our ministers responsible for trade to take the following concrete initial steps to achieve "The Free Trade Area of the Americas."

6) With the objective of ensuring full and complete discussion among the parties to the various trade agreements in the hemisphere, we direct that meetings be held under existing trade and investment fora. Members of these fora will determine areas of commonality and divergence in the particular agreements under review and should consider the means of improving disciplines among them and bringing them together. We further direct that members of these fora inform ministers of the status of their discussions and make recommendations for achieving "The Free Trade Area of the Americas."

7) Transparency in, and a clear understanding of, the subregional and bilateral agreements achieved to date among the nations in the hemisphere are critical for advancing trade and investment integration in the Americas. We will direct the OAS Special Committee on Trade, with the support of the IDB, ECLAC, and other specialized regional and subregional organizations, to assist in the systematization of data in the region and to continue its work on studying economic integration arrangements in the hemisphere, including brief comparative descriptions of the obligations in each of the hemisphere's existing trade agreements. We will further direct the Special Committee on Trade to prepare a report of its work by June 1995 for the meeting of ministers.

8) We direct our ministers responsible for trade to: (a) review the progress of work undertaken in the fora noted in paragraphs 6 and 7; (b) provide guidance with respect to further work; and (c) consider areas for immediate attention--such as customs facilitation and product testing and certification with a view to mutual recognition agreements--which could be taken up in the appropriate fora.

9) Therefore, today we launch the "Free Trade Area of the Americas" by initiating the following process. We will direct the OAS to assist the host country in arranging the ministerial meetings.

<u>January 1995</u>	o	Initiation of work programs and establishment of schedules in the fora in paragraph 6 and in the Special Committee on Trade.
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<u>June 1995</u>	o	Meeting of Ministers responsible for trade.
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- preliminary report on status of work in the fora described in paragraph 6.
- preliminary Special Committee on Trade Report.
- areas for immediate consideration.

March 1996 o Meeting of Ministers responsible for trade.

- final report to Ministers by the Special Committee on Trade.
- final reports to Ministers from the fora described in paragraph 6.
- timetable for further work.

10. Capital Markets Development and Liberalization

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

Governments will:

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

The Committee on Hemispheric Financial Issues should also review problems of debt in the Hemisphere, taking account of ongoing work and drawing, as appropriate, on a broad range of expertise.

11. Hemispheric Infrastructure

Development in this Hemisphere depends on urgent infrastructure measures, including the priority allocation of financial resources, in accordance with national legislation and with the participation of both the public and private sectors. Strengthening the flow of private productive capital to economically and environmentally sound projects has become increasingly vital to countries throughout the Hemisphere as the growth of official sources of capital has failed to keep pace with the area's needs.

Governments will:

- Charge multilateral development banks to work with governments and, as appropriate, private concerns, to develop mechanisms to deal with lending and investment issues.
- Draw on other regional and sub-regional experiences within the Hemisphere to support infrastructure development.
- Governments that so wish will develop suitable mechanisms, including multilateral and bilateral commitments on regulatory and legal rules and practices, to encourage private investment, both domestic and foreign, in national and transboundary infrastructure projects.

12. Energy Cooperation*

The nations of the hemisphere have begun a new era of economic growth. This new era is based on greater economic cooperation, freer trade, and open markets. Sustainable economic development requires hemispheric cooperation in the field of energy.

Governments will:

- Convene a follow-up Hemispheric officials' meeting in the first semester of 1995 to encourage cooperation to study ways to develop the energy industry within the Hemisphere, consistent with the least cost national energy strategies and the activities described in the "Partnership for Sustainable Energy use" in the following areas:
 - ◊ Consider ways to use the energy sector to promote sustainable economic growth.

- ◇ Cooperation to study ways to optimize and facilitate the financing mechanisms of international financial institutions to support the development of projects in the energy sector, especially including those pertaining to the enhancement of efficiency in the use of energy and to non-conventional renewable energy.
- ◇ Cooperation to promote capital investment and to foster the use of innovative financial mechanisms to increase investment in the energy sector and the enhancement of efficiency in the use of energy and non-conventional renewable energy, in accordance with each country's legislation and developmental needs.
- ◇ Promoting the use of efficient and non-polluting energy technologies, both conventional and renewable, leading to a higher degree of knowledge and technical expertise in this area.
- ◇ Consider the enhancement of ongoing efforts to establish electric and other energy facilities in accordance with domestic regulatory frameworks and, where appropriate, under sub-regional agreements.

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

13. Telecommunications and Information Infrastructure

(Consultations are continuing on this item.)

14. Cooperation in Science and Technology

There is a need to re-assess the on-going interaction among the region's science and technology (S&T) infrastructure and cooperative mechanisms; to provide impetus for improved cooperation; reduce barriers to collaboration; augment the demand for technology; and disseminate information about technological opportunities using new advances in information technology; and generally improve communications among the key S&T organizations, researchers in the region, and growing technology-based small and medium-sized enterprises.

The commitment of the countries of the Americas to non-proliferation has gained new momentum with the acceptance of the international safeguard regime by some of our countries. The outstanding progress achieved in this field is to be commended and should contribute to enhanced opportunities for cooperation in the area of advanced goods and technologies.

Governments will:

- Convene a meeting of Ministers responsible for science and technology in the hemisphere within the next year to assess progress and to promote the Bolivar Programme and the OAS Common Market of Scientific and Technological Knowledge (MERCOCYT) program, to provide the necessary support to improve scientific partnerships and technological ventures in the region, and to explore the possibility of establishing a council on science and technology.
- Use existing multilateral mechanisms in the region to address a wide number of common S&T interests, including enhanced professional technical training, development and implementation of national policies and regional programs, dissemination and standardization of science and technology (including metrology and other technical norms), environmental technology development, and more effective partnerships to promote learning and competitiveness.
- Stimulate greater S&T interaction in the hemisphere and support efforts already undertaken in other fora, including the Inter-American Institute for Global Change Research, and the International Research Institute for Climate Prediction. Governments will serve to advance and communicate new initiatives such as the Global Learning and Observations to Benefit the Environment (GLOBE) program.
- Confirm their interest in participating in new initiatives driven by a demand from private sector and non-government interests in technological opportunities.
- Confirm their national commitments to share S&T information with others in the Hemisphere, in accord with their respective laws, and to expand cooperation in scientific and environmental research.

15. Tourism

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

Governments will:

- Undertake initiatives to stimulate tourism in the Hemisphere.

III. ERADICATING POVERTY AND DISCRIMINATION IN OUR HEMISPHERE

Large segments of society in our Hemisphere, particularly women, minorities, the disabled, indigenous groups, refugees and displaced persons, have not been equipped to participate fully in economic life. Nearly one-half of the Hemisphere's population still lives in poverty. Expanded participation of the poor in the region's economies, access to productive resources, appropriate support for social safety nets and increased human

capital investments are important mechanisms to help eradicate poverty. In pursuit of these objectives, we reaffirm our support for the strategies contained within the "Commitment on a Partnership for Development and Struggle to Overcome Extreme Poverty" adopted by the OAS General Assembly.

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

16. Universal Access to Education

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

Governments will:

- Guarantee universal access to quality primary education, working with public and private sectors and non-governmental actors, and with the support of multinational institutions. In particular, governments will seek to attain by the year 2010 a primary completion rate of 100 per cent and a secondary enrollment rate of at least 75 per cent, and to prepare programs to eradicate illiteracy, prevent truancy and improve human resources training.
- Promote, with the support of international financial institutions and the private sector, worker professional training as well as adult education, incorporating efforts to make such education more relevant to the needs of the market and employers.
- Improve human resources training, and technical, professional and teacher training, which are vital for the enhancement of quality and equity of education within the Hemisphere.
- Increase access to and strengthen the quality of higher education and promote cooperation among such institutions in producing the scientific and technological knowledge that is necessary for sustainable development.
- Support strategies to overcome nutritional deficiencies of primary school children in order to enhance their learning ability.
- Support decentralization including assurance of adequate financing and broad participation by parents, educators, community leaders and government officials in education decision-making.

- Review existing regional and hemispheric training programs and make them more responsive to current needs.
- Create a hemispheric partnership, working through existing organizations, to provide a consultative forum for governments, non-governmental actors, the business community, donors, and international organizations to reform educational policies and focus resources more efficiently.
- Urge the March 1995 World Summit for Social Development and the September 1995 Fourth World Conference on Women to address the issue of universal access to education.

17. Equitable Access to Basic Health Services

Despite impressive gains in the Hemisphere, limitations on health services access and quality have resulted in persistently high child and maternal mortality, particularly among the rural poor and indigenous groups.

Governments will:

- Endorse the maternal and child health objectives of the 1990 World Summit for Children, the 1994 Narino Accord and the 1994 International Conference on Population and Development, and reaffirm their commitment to reduce child mortality by one-third and maternal mortality by one-half from 1990 levels by the year 2000.
- Endorse a basic package of clinical, preventive and public health services consistent with World Health Organization, Pan American Health Organization (PAHO) and World Bank recommendations and with the Program of Action agreed to at the 1994 International Conference on Population and Development. The package will address child, maternal and reproductive health interventions, including prenatal, delivery and postnatal care, family planning information and services, and HIV/AIDS prevention, as well as immunizations and programs combating the other major causes of infant mortality. The plans and programs will be developed according to a mechanism to be decided upon by each country.
- Develop or update country action plans or programs for reforms to achieve child, maternal and reproductive health goals and ensure universal, non-discriminatory access to basic services, including health education and preventive health care programs. The plans and programs will be developed according to a mechanism to be decided upon by each country. Reforms would encompass essential community-based services for the poor, the disabled, and indigenous groups; stronger public health infrastructure; alternative means of financing, managing and providing

services; quality assurance, and greater use of non-governmental actors and organizations.

- Strengthen the existing Inter-American Network on Health Economics and Financing, which serves as an international forum for sharing technical expertise, information and experience, to focus on health reform efforts. The network gathers government officials, representatives of the private sector, non-governmental institutions and actors, donors and scholars for policy discussions, analysis, training and other activities to advance reform; strengthens national capabilities in this critical area; and fosters Hemisphere-wide cooperation.
- Convene a special meeting of hemispheric governments with interested donors and international technical agencies to be hosted by the IDB, the World Bank and PAHO to establish the framework for health reform mechanisms, to define PAHO's role in monitoring the regional implementation of country plans and programs, and to plan strengthening of the network, including the cosponsors' contributions to it.
- Take the opportunity of the annual PAHO Directing Council Meeting of Western Hemisphere Ministers of Health, with participation of the IDB and donors, to develop a program to combat endemic and communicable diseases as well as a program to prevent the spread of HIV/AIDS, and to identify sources of funding.
- Urge the March 1995 World Summit for Social Development and the September 1995 Fourth World Conference on Women to address the issue of access to health services.

18. Strengthening the Role of Women in Society

The strengthening of the role of women in society is of fundamental importance not only for their own complete fulfillment within a framework of equality and fairness, but to achieve true sustainable development. It is essential to strengthen policies and programs that improve and broaden the participation of women in all spheres of political, social, and economic life and that improve their access to the basic resources needed for the full exercise of their fundamental rights. Attending to the needs of women means, to a great extent, contributing to the reduction of poverty and social inequalities.

Governments will:

- Recognize and give full respect for all rights of women as an essential condition for their development as individuals and for the creation of a more just, united and peaceful society. For that purpose, policies to ensure that women enjoy full legal and civil rights protection will be promoted.

- Include a gender focus in development planning and cooperation projects and promote the fulfillment of women's potential, enhancing their productivity through education, training, skill development and employment.
- Promote the participation of women in the decision-making process in all spheres of political, social and economic life.
- Undertake appropriate measures to address and reduce violence against women.
- Adopt appropriate measures to improve women's ability to earn income beyond traditional occupations, achieve economic self-reliance and ensure women's equal access to the labor market at all employment levels, the social security systems, the credit system, and the acquisition of goods and land.
- Cooperate fully with the recently-appointed Special Rapporteur on Violence Against Women, its Causes and Consequences, of the United Nations Commission on Human Rights.
- Support and actively work to secure the success of the United Nations World Conference on Women that will take place in Beijing in September 1995.
- Encourage, as appropriate, ratification and compliance with the International Convention on the Elimination of all Forms of Discrimination Against Women and the Inter-American Convention on the Prevention, Punishment and Eradication of Violence Against Women.
- Further strengthen the Inter-American Commission on Women.
- Call upon regional and international financial and technical organizations to intensify their programs in favor of women. Encourage the adoption of follow-up procedures on the national and international measures included in this plan of action.

19. Encouraging Microenterprises and Small Businesses

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

Governments will:

- Further pursue or initiate programs of deregulation and administrative simplification.

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

20. White Helmets--Emergency and Development Corps

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

The countries of the Americas could pioneer this initiative through the creation of national corps of volunteers that could respond to calls from other countries in the region. These national corps could eventually be put at the disposal of the United Nations.

Governments will on a voluntary basis:

- Establish, organize and finance a corps of volunteers to work at the national level and, at the same time, be at the disposal of other countries of the Hemisphere and, eventually, the United Nations system, on a stand-by basis, for prevention, relief,

rehabilitation, technical, social and development cooperation, with the aim to reduce the effects of natural disasters, social and developmental needs and emergencies.

- Through the creation of a national corps of volunteers, be responsible for the following:
 - ◊ Selection and training of its national volunteer corps;
 - ◊ Financing of its national corps of volunteers, encouraging the involvement of the private sector;
 - ◊ Preparedness to send specialized volunteers, on short notice and at the request of the United Nations, to cope with situations generated by or to prevent the effects of natural disasters and humanitarian emergencies.
- Contribute to the formation of this corps and invite private enterprise, foundations and regional financial institutions to do so.
- Contribute to the development of an international roster of volunteers to be maintained in a master plan in the United Nations to be drawn upon to complement the activities of existing UN mechanisms. The IDB, OAS, and PAHO should be invited to participate and assist in developing this corps.

IV. GUARANTEEING SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT AND CONSERVING OUR NATURAL ENVIRONMENT FOR FUTURE GENERATIONS

21. Partnership For Sustainable Energy Use*

Consistent with Agenda 21 and the Framework Convention on Climate Change, sustainable energy development and use promote economic development and address environmental concerns. Governments and the private sector should promote increased access to reliable, clean, and least cost energy services through activities and projects that meet economic, social, and environmental requirements within the context of national sustainable development goals and national legal frameworks.

Governments will:

- Pursue, in accordance with national legislation, least cost national energy strategies that consider all options, including energy efficiency, non-conventional renewable energy (i.e., solar, wind, geothermal, small hydro, and biomass), and conventional energy resources.
- Emphasize market-oriented pricing which discourages wasteful energy use.

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

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

22. Partnership For Biodiversity

Our Hemisphere contains over half the world's biodiversity. To sustain the Hemisphere's social and economic development, we must intensify efforts to understand, assess, and sustainably use this living resource base. We must act now to increase the technical and management capacity and public awareness for national and international efforts in this area. Agenda 21, the Convention on Biological Diversity, and other related international instruments recognize these needs and call for the conservation and sustainable use of biodiversity resources.

Governments will:

- Seek to ensure that strategies for the conservation and sustainable use of biodiversity are integrated into relevant economic development activities including forestry, agriculture, and coastal zone management, taking into account the social dimension and impact of these activities.
- Develop and implement the policies, techniques, and programs to assess, conserve, and sustainably use terrestrial, marine, and coastal biodiversity resources.
- Seek to ratify the Convention on Biological Diversity and pursue opportunities for collaboration under it, and, as appropriate, other international and regional environmental instruments.
- Support democratic governmental mechanisms to engage public participation, particularly including members of indigenous communities and other affected groups, in the development of policy involving conservation and sustainable use of natural environments. The forms of this participation should be defined by each individual country.
- Develop national plans and programs to establish and strengthen the management of parks and reserves, seeking links to economic, social, and ecological benefits for local people.
- Build capacity for the conservation and sustainable use of biodiversity, through programs on management of parks and protected areas, forests and wetlands management, the Small Islands Developing States Action Plan, the Coral Reef Initiative, CITES support projects, and the Caribbean Regional Marine Pollution Action Plan, among others.
- Launch a “Decade of Discovery” to promote hemispheric technical and scientific cooperation and to facilitate the exchange of information relevant to the conservation and sustainable use of biological diversity.
- Increase support of training and education initiatives addressing sustainable use of biodiversity resources and foster activities by universities, non-governmental actors and organizations and the private sector to assist in the training of managers and to empower local communities.
- Call on multilateral financial institutions, including the IDB and the Global Environment Facility, to support eligible regional and national projects.

- Discuss progress on implementation of national and international activities described above at the 1996 Summit Conference on Sustainable Development in Bolivia, and at subsequent annual sustainable development ministerials.

23. Partnership For Pollution Prevention

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

Governments will:

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

networks to identify priority projects. These projects will initially focus on (1) the health and environmental problems associated with the misuse of pesticides, and (2) the impacts of lead contamination from gasoline and other sources. Subsequent activities could address waste, air, water quality, marine pollution from ships and other sources, and problems associated with urbanization.

- Promote the participation of organizations, such as the IDB, MIF, the World Bank, PAHO, the OAS, and non-governmental actors and organizations, as appropriate, to finance, develop and implement priority projects.
- Develop environmental policies and laws with the goal of ensuring that economic integration of the region occurs in an environmentally sustainable manner.
- Establish mechanisms for cooperation among government agencies, including in the legal and enforcement areas, to facilitate environmental information exchange, technology cooperation and capacity-building.
- Develop compatible environmental laws and regulations, at high levels of environmental protection, and promote the implementation of international environmental agreements.
- Discuss progress on implementation of international and national activities described above at the 1996 Summit Conference on Sustainable Development in Bolivia and at subsequent annual sustainable development ministerials.

Appendix

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

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

I. Principal Initiatives In Which International Organizations And Institutions Will Be Involved

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

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

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

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

- Partnership for Pollution Prevention

B) We call on the Inter-American Development Bank to support the activities specified in this Plan of Action. The policies agreed in the recently completed augmentation of its capital and replenishment of the Fund for Special Operations already move in the directions identified and should receive special emphasis. The IDB has a particularly important role in connection with the following:

- Universal Access to Education
- Equitable Access to Basic Health Services
- Encouraging Microenterprises and Small Businesses
- Partnership for Sustainable Energy Use
- Partnership for Biodiversity
- Partnership for Pollution Prevention

In addition, the Action Plan envisages roles for the IDB and its affiliates in the following areas:

- Promoting and Protecting Human Rights
- Invigorating Society/Community Participation
- Promoting Cultural Values in the Americas
- Combating Corruption
- Combating the Problem of Illegal Drugs and Related Crimes
- Free Trade in the Americas
- Capital Markets Development and Liberalization
- Hemispheric Infrastructure
- Cooperation in Science and Technology
- White Helmets--Emergency and Development Corps

C) Other international organizations, notably ECLAC and PAHO in the hemisphere, as well as the World Bank and all agencies of the UN system active in the hemisphere, are called upon to assist in the implementation of the action items where appropriate.

II. Meetings Of Ministers And Other Senior Officials

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

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

III. Initiatives In Which Public And Private Sector Partnerships Play An Important Role

- Strengthening Democracy
- Promoting and Protecting Human Rights

- Invigorating Society/Community Participation
- Promoting Cultural Values
- Combating Corruption
- Hemispheric Infrastructure
- Cooperation in Science and Technology
- Universal Access to Education
- Equitable Access to Basic Health Services
- Encouraging Microenterprises and Small Businesses
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Text of the Video prepared for
The Summit of the Americas

THE PROMISE

The Western Hemisphere is rich in its diversity, and young people are its greatest treasure. Half the population is less than 25 years old.

The Hemisphere's leaders are gathered today in Miami to forge agreements intended to make the entire region more prosperous and more democratic.

Democracy and prosperity require healthy, educated children.

So today the Hemisphere's leaders will commit their countries to action that will guarantee quality education for every child, and basic health services that will save the lives of millions of children and mothers.

This commitment reinforces a promise made at the 1990 World Summit for Children, a promise enshrined in the Convention on the Rights of the Child, a promise repeated in the 1994 Nariño Accord, when a set of goals to be reached by the middle of the decade were agreed upon.

One of those goals has already been achieved: the elimination of Polio from this hemisphere.

With sustained effort, several other goals will be reached by the end of 1995.

Most countries now regularly immunize eighty per cent or more of their children.

And measles, one of the worst child killers, is on the run. The elimination of measles from this hemisphere is now a real possibility, thanks to earlier promises that have been kept.

The Andean countries are also close to the goal of iodizing salt -- thus eliminating the greatest preventable cause of mental retardation.

Deaths from diarrhoea are plummeting. In Mexico, for example, they have been reduced by half in just four years.

Hospitals all over the hemisphere are encouraging mothers to breast feed.

Today's promises are genuine because the hemisphere is now reaching the goals it agreed upon.

Much has been done, but democracy and prosperity require more.

Too many children in the Americas go to sleep hungry, grow up in poverty, lack adequate nutrition, live on the street, homeless, and are victims of violence. Too many still die or are disabled from entirely preventable diseases. Too many still lack access to life-saving health services.

Although the Americas have high rates of school enrollment, they still lead the world in school dropouts.

Countries need to invest more in basic education, make schools more challenging, more appealing and more affordable, eliminate child labor and train young people for employment in a modern economy.

The 130 million young people of the Western Hemisphere are its future; but they are confronted with problems: the erosion of family life, child abuse and exploitation, teen pregnancy -- children having children --, sexually transmitted diseases, illegal and legal drugs, including alcohol and tobacco, and guns and violence -- now the second leading cause of death among children aged 10 to 14 in the United States.

Children throughout the hemisphere face remarkably similar problems; and every country has something to teach about how to deal with them.

Most countries of the Caribbean, just as those of the 'Southern Cone,' are showing the way to basic education for all, with equal access for girls. The Andean countries can teach a great deal about bilingual education. From Canada to Chile there are rich experience to share in child care and early education.

.Using the simple remedy of oral rehydration therapy, Peru and Nicaragua have shown how communities can prevent cholera from killing children.

Colombia has developed the 'kangaroo mother method', an effective, low cost way of caring for low birth weight babies.

By training seven thousand community health workers, the State of Ceará in Brazil has reduced infant mortality and malnutrition by one third in just four years.

Other countries have much to learn from Uruguay and El Salvador about child rights legislation; from the Caribbean about teen-age pregnancy; from the United States and Haiti about dealing with the AIDS epidemic; from Ecuador and Costa Rica about how young people can design programs to protect their rights.

As closer links are forged, learning and sharing -- Government to Government and people to people -- must intensify.

This Summit of the Americas shares a collective commitment which requires shared solutions.

But it also requires a personal commitment by everyone who cares for this hemisphere's children to ensure that the promise to children given today in Miami is fulfilled.

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