




Welcome to Our New Bulletin!!

 <p>FOCAL Canadian Foundation for the Americas Fondation canadienne pour les Amériques</p>	 <p>PARTICIPA EDUCACION Y DESARROLLO</p>	 <p>Esquel Group Foundation</p>
<p>News Bulletin Citizen Participation in the Summits: From Santiago to Quebec Initiatives and activities conducted by ESQUEL Foundation, FOCAL and PARTICIPA in promoting citizen participation toward the Canada Summit.</p> <p>January 2000</p>		

**This news bulletin seeks to provide up-to-date information on the initiatives, projects and activities undertaken by the Esquel Foundation, FOCAL and PARTICIPA in an effort to disseminate the Summit process and provide more organized, better-articulated citizen participation in the upcoming Summit in Canada.
This Bulletin is published monthly.**

ESQUEL-FOCAL & PARTICIPA ALLIANCE

These three organizations have established an alliance within the context of the Canada Summit in an effort to:

- (i) Bolster the flow of information about the Summit process among governmental and non-governmental sectors in nations around the hemisphere.

- (ii) Promote constructive dialogue and collaboration between governmental and non-governmental sectors in each country to facilitate the implementation of Summit Agreements, and
- (iii) Foster the exchange of information between civil society and governmental agencies responsible for the Summit at the hemispheric level to promote effective civil society participation in the process leading to the Canada Summit.

Three Strategies: In December 1998, PARTICIPA coordinated a meeting to set a framework for a proposal

entitled "Citizen Summit Participation: From Chile to Canada" based on the experience and learning of participants at that encounter. Representatives of FOCAL of Canada, the Kettering and ESQUEL foundations of the United States, the Office of Summit Follow-Up and Solidarity in the Americas Foundation of the OAS, as well as the Dominican Republic to the OAS (co-coordinator for the mandate of civil society at the SIRG), the Democracy and Human Rights Office for USAID's Office of Latin American and the Caribbean, the Chilean Foreign Ministry and the Canadian International Development Agency were in attendance.

A mission statement arose from that meeting: "To promote more active, constructive participation of civil society organizations in Summit Canada in an effort to contribute to the process of forging a democratic civic

culture in the Americas." Three strategies have been devised to attain this goal:

- **Progress in the implementation of the mandate of strengthening civil society:** Organization of a follow-up process for and evaluation of the implementation of the mandate on "Strengthening Civil Society" established in the Santiago Plan of Action.
- **Dissemination of the Summit Process:** through the creation of a Web site, linked to other web pages such as the OAS, in an effort to facilitate opportunities for dialogue between and among civil society organizations and their governments with regard to the Summit process.
- **Summit Canada Consultation Process:** national meetings and a hemispheric encounter to

allow citizens (representatives of government and civil society organizations) to formulate recommendations to governments on the topics slated for discussion at the next Summit of the Americas.

(For further information, request a copy of the meeting's Final Report).

Results and challenges to date:

1. Progress in the implementation of the mandate on strengthening civil society. This strategy is being implemented between September 1999 and February 2000 with the support of the Ford Foundation and the Canadian International Development Agency. The effort is spearheaded by a local organization in each nation:

Argentina: Conciencia & Poder Ciudadano.

Peru: DESCO.

Colombia: Centro de Estudios Internacionales de the Universidad de los Andes.

Paraguay: CIRD.

Uruguay: Asociación Encuentro.

Chile: PARTICIPA.

2. Dissemination of the Summit Process. PARTICIPA has secured the support of USAID to design and implement a web site for the period January-December 2000. PARTICIPA, ESQUEL and the OAS Office of Summit Follow-Up are working jointly on this project. At present, we are focusing on design, topics and related links, and defining content.

3. National Consultation Process for Summit Canada.

PARTICIPA has drafted a working proposal to secure funding for a consultation process. The idea is to organize such consultations in 18 nations as well as a final hemisphere-wide encounter to coordinate proposals and forward them to the official Summit negotiations. At present, the Ford Foundation has agreed to support the consultation process in Argentina, Colombia, Chile & Peru. Proposals have been submitted to USAID/Bolivia, USAID/Peru and the Canadian Cooperation Agency in Bolivia. PARTICIPA have asked the Inter-American Development Bank to fund the process in 10 countries. A proposal has been submitted to the Canadian International Cooperation Agency in Chile to support the hemispheric meeting.

Furthermore, on January 31st PARTICIPA will hold a training seminar in Guatemala on "National Consultation Processes for Summit Canada." The workshop targets 30 member organizations of the Inter-American Network for Democracy. The objective is to motivate, commit and train these institutions in organizing the process in their home countries. Each organization will receive the funding PARTICIPA can make available, to be supplemented by local resources.

(For further information on progress to date in these strategy areas, write to Andrea Sanhueza asanhueza@participa.cl or María Eugenia Brockmann mebrockmann@participa.cl)

Related Activities:

Representatives of the Alliance participated in an October 12th meeting convened by the Ambassadors of the Dominican Republic, Flavio Espinal; Canada, Peter Boehm and by Jaime Aparicio of the OAS Office of Summit Follow-Up in Washington, DC. The gathering was called to discuss a proposal to host a meeting in the Dominican Republic with representatives of government and civil society organizations to: (a) promote constructive dialogue at the hemispheric level between these players and representatives of international financial institutions and cooperation agencies on the role the civil society can play in confronting the region's political, economic, social and cultural challenges; (b) discuss the conditions that can facilitate greater civil society participation in regional institutional dynamics, such as the Summits; (c) help create a climate of trust and mutual respect between governments and civil society organizations; (d) Assist in the exchange of experiences that evidence the progress attained in Government-Civil Society relations. Some 20 people from NGOs, Government and international institutions attended. The participants supported the proposal and offered suggestions for improvement.

All three organizations participated in the Special Committee on Inter-American Summit Management held December 12, in Washington DC. The meeting provided insight into progress on the

mandates in: Fostering Confidence and Security between States; Strengthening Municipal and Regional Administration; Science and Technology; Fostering Micro, Small and Mid-Size Businesses; Regional Energy Cooperation; and Women. It was an exchange of information, opinions and proposals among representatives of OAS member states and civil society organizations and experts interested in the Summit of the Americas process.

On November 22, 1999 Robert Anderson, Claude Beausejour and Lise Filialtraut of the Canadian Cooperation Agency met in Santiago with Mónica Jiménez and Andrea Sanhueza from PARTICIPA and Juan Pablo Crisóstomo from Chile's Foreign Ministry to share interests and discuss ways of promoting citizen participation with a view toward the Canada Summit.

A meeting is scheduled for January 11 between a group of Dominican NGOs and ESQUEL to plan the participation of these organizations in the Summit of the Americas process. In addition, they will be discussing the participation of a representative of this group (through citizen participation) in the meeting of the Inter-American Network for Democracy to be held the first week of February in Guatemala, including the special seminar to be given by PARTICIPA on January 31st.

US AID to fund Civil Society Task Force during 2000

The Esquel Group Foundation (EGF) received a grant from the US Agency for International Development to continue carrying out its "Civil Society Task Force" during the year 2000. The monthly forum, which has been meeting since 1994, has become a clearinghouse and a space for discussion on topics related to the advancement of civil society participation in the Americas, particularly in the context of the Hemispheric Summit Process. The "Task Force" includes representatives from a diverse group of non-governmental organizations from the United States and other countries of the region, government agencies, foundations, multilateral institutions, private entities and academic centers. If you wish to participate in this forum please contact EGF by writing to info@esquel.org.

Guidelines for the Participation of Civil Society approved at the OAS

The Permanent Council of the Organization of American States (OAS) approved the Guidelines for the Participation of Civil Society in the Activities of the OAS (Resolution CP/RES 759) during its December 1999 session. These guidelines resulted from the mandate to the OAS from the Second Summit of the Americas held in Santiago, Chile in December 1998. In the Santiago Declaration, the Heads of State called upon the OAS to become a forum of exchange on participation and to support the efforts of governments to achieve broader civil society

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We trust that you will find this information useful in keeping you up to date about developments in our strategies. Please feel free to contact PARTICIPA or and/or ESQUEL with any questions or comments.

If you know someone you believe would be interested in receiving this bulletin, please forward his or her coordinates to us.

If you have news you would like to see included in this bulletin, just let us know.

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