



FOCAL

Canadian Foundation for the Americas
Fondation canadienne pour les Amériques
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The Canadian Foundation for the Americas invites you to:

The Summit of the Americas in Focus

In preparation for the upcoming IV Summit of the Americas (Argentina, November 2005) FOCAL is initiating a series of monthly gatherings to provide a space for Canadian civil society organizations and government officials to engage on a range of topics covered by the Summits, and to provide input on the implementation of Summit commitments and priorities for the upcoming Summit.

During these regular meetings we will address issues that are timely and relevant to the Americas - and Canada's role in the region. To do this, we want to draw on the interests and expertise of the CSO community in Canada. The topics and agenda will be generated by the interests of participants.

Potential themes for discussion may include: Creating employment (official theme of the 2005 Summit), migration/remittances, Canadian ratification of the I-A Convention on Human Rights, next steps for the Inter-American Democratic Charter, the Indigenous People's Summit, corruption, security/peacebuilding and SMEs/property rights. The format of the sessions will include one or two speakers who will lead off discussion, followed by a briefing from a government official and questions, comments and discussion. Suggestions on potential themes/speakers are welcome.

The first meeting will set the stage for future sessions by discussing the potential of the Summit as a forum within the inter-American system, and the prospects of meaningful civil society contribution to this process. An assessment of the content and direction of Summit planning to date will also be considered. Please find attached the preliminary official Summit document provided by the Government of Argentina, as well as Canadian government reflections on this document.

This Month's discussions will include lead off comments by:

Ramón Daubón, Former Director of the Civil Society Task Force at the Esquel Foundation, Washington D.C. and current Vice President for Programs at the Inter-American Foundation.

Followed by:

Renata Wielgosz, Director, Inter-American Affairs Division at Foreign Affairs Canada, who will provide a briefing on the status of planning for the 2005 Summit.

Following the presentations we will open the floor to questions and discussion.

This *Summit in Focus* gathering will take place on

January 18, 2005
2:00 p.m. – 3:30 p.m. at
1 Nicholas St, Suite 720
Ottawa, Ontario

Please RSVP to Laurie Cole at lcole@focal.ca with your name and organization.