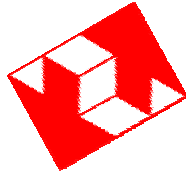


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**Americas Trade and Sustainable Development Forum at the Miami FTAA Trade Ministerial
November 17-19, 2003
Workshop on Trade, Democracy and Human Rights**

Executive Summary

The Americas Trade and Sustainable Development Forum (ATSDF) represented an historic opportunity for civil society to be engaged in the Free Trade Area of the Americas (FTAA) process. Meeting inside the security perimeter of a Ministerial meeting for the first time, over three hundred representatives from civil society organizations (CSOs) participated in workshops over the course of a three-day forum. At the conclusion of the workshops, delegates presented final recommendations and engaged in a substantive dialogue with the majority of the thirty-four trade ministers.

Partners of the Americas and the Inter-American Democracy Network (IADN) coordinated a workshop entitled Trade, Democracy and Human Rights. This workshop convened three panels focusing on Trade and National Sovereignty, Trade and Poverty, and Trade and Democratic Governance. The Trade and Poverty panel concluded that trade can only benefit marginalized sectors if parallel domestic actions occur such as, increasing greater access to the negotiation and implementation process of free trade agreements (FTAs); increasing the domestic capacity of national governments so that the “losers” are able to reap a greater share of the benefits of trade; and giving all sectors, including marginalized populations a voice at the national level. The Trade and Democratic Governance panel agreed that civil liberties, political and press freedom, and transparency should be key policies in order to make the negotiation and implementation of a FTA a fair, efficient and constructive process. The Trade and National Sovereignty panel concurred that trade agreements should not allow foreign governments to override domestic environmental and health standards via foreign market access provisions.

Panel conclusions formed the basis for further deliberations which focused on synthesizing opinions in order to propose a set of final recommendations. Participants recognized that trade liberalization neither ensures short nor long-term overall benefits to the population or an efficient and fair distribution of potential gains. Additionally, with strong incentives, a FTA may compel national governments to develop public policies that prioritize inclusion, participation, and economic gains for all people. In the international sphere, it was determined that existing programs for capacity building and technical assistance should be strengthened for countries that either lack the institutions or experiences necessary to implement trade agreements and/or the infrastructure to reap the potential benefits of entering into a trade agreement. These recommendations were both presented and discussed with trade ministers from the FTAA member countries.

Workshop Methodology

The Trade, Democracy and Human Rights Workshop focused on education, discussion, deliberation and recommendations. The first day began with an open plenary involving all nine workshops that comprised the ATSDF. ATSDF organizers then divided into their respective workshops for the remainder of the day. Participants could attend the panels for any of the simultaneously running workshops. The Trade, Democracy and Human Rights Workshop held three one-and-a-half to two hour moderated panels.¹ Each panel began with participant presentations and followed with a moderated discussion incorporating both participants and others in attendance. In total, thirteen organizations from throughout the hemisphere participated in the panels coordinated by the IADN and Partners of the Americas. Other attendees participating in the discussion section belonged to a multitude of additional organizations. The panels, presenters and moderators were the following:

- The Trade and National Sovereignty panel featured presentations by Médecins Sans Frontières/Doctors Without Borders, the Center for Policy Analysis on Trade and Health (CPATH) and the Florida Association of Volunteer Action in the Caribbean and the Americas (FAVACA). The Canadian Foundation for the Americas (FOCAL) served as the moderator for this panel.
- The Trade and Poverty panel included presentations by the Center for Global Development, Iniciativa CID, Washington Office on Latin America (WOLA), Asociación SER and the Venezuela Women's Bank. The Universidad Nacional Autónoma de México moderated the panel.
- The Trade and Democratic Governance panel included presentations by Freedom House and Transparency International-USA. The Esquel Foundation moderated this panel.

The Public Participation and Access Workshop and the Corruption and Transparency Workshop merged with the Trade, Democracy and Human Rights Workshop for a second day of joint sessions. Collaboration provided an opportunity for cross-fertilization between participants from each workshop, thus capitalizing on the diverse experience of participants and the crosscutting themes of each tent. The day commenced with a plenary in which summaries of the previous day's panels were presented; attendees then had the opportunity to voice any concerns about inaccuracies in the synopses. All points were addressed. The group then divided into two smaller working groups: one focused on the creation of a permanent citizen participation dialogue and the other analyzed the potential effects that a FTAA may have on historically excluded and marginalized groups. The latter area fell under the auspices of the Trade, Democracy and Human Rights Workshop. After much deliberation, each working group composed a set of suggestions which were then discussed when the joint group reconvened.² A final plenary, encompassing the entire ATSDF, brought together all nine workshops for a dialogue focusing on the findings of the individual workshops. Delegates from each workshop were then selected to represent the group at a meeting with the trade ministers.

The civil society meeting with the trade ministers was held on the third day of the forum and included fifteen representatives from the participating civil society organizations. The vast majority of the thirty-four invited trade ministers attended the meeting moderated by Andres Oppenheimer from *The Miami Herald*. Civil Society representatives began the meeting with summaries of their

¹ Full summaries from each panel can be found in the following section entitled *Panel Summaries*.

² The final recommendations are reviewed in detail in the *Final Recommendations* section.

findings and the ministers then had an opportunity to respond and ask follow-up questions. The trade ministers from the following countries showed their interest in engaging with civil society as evidenced by their verbal participation in this meeting: the United States, Brazil, Chile, El Salvador, Argentina, Mexico, Uruguay, Paraguay, and Bolivia.³ Documents articulating some of the points raised by the civil society representatives also were circulated.

Panel Summaries

Trade and Poverty

The panelists and participants articulated a variety of themes, both on the macro and micro level, in discussing how trade has the potential to alleviate poverty. In general, trade can only benefit marginalized sectors under certain circumstances. Greater access must be granted to the negotiation and implementation process of FTAs; national governments must work towards greater domestic capacity building so that the “losers” are able to reap a greater share of the benefits of trade; and all sectors must have a voice at the national table. This panel yielded the following question: How can the marginalized, historically excluded populations gain from FTAs?

The main points from this panel include the following:

- Developing countries should be able to protect institution and development strategies that developed countries no longer require.
- Trade rules and regulations should be asymmetric, reflecting the different development stage of each country, so that countries can respond to individual economic conditions.
- Negotiators must take note that trade should be a means, not an end, especially when considering the alleviation of poverty.
- Poverty is directly and positively linked with populations excluded from trade processes. How can these people reap the benefits from the formal economy?
- Growth does reduce poverty; but current evidence has not explicitly proven that trade, economic growth and decreased income inequality are positively correlated. Trade can improve or worsen inequality slightly.
- There should be equal or more attention paid to complimentary policies such as education and social insurance at the national level in order to bridge the gap between the winners and losers from trade agreements.

Trade and Democratic Governance

The panel agreed that civil liberties, political and press freedom, and transparency should be key policies in order to make the negotiation and implementation of a FTA a fair, efficient and constructive process. Comprehensive civil liberties are also tied to economic opportunity.

The main points from this panel included the following:

- For an effective FTAA, countries of the Americas address must the human rights and socio-economic factors which have affected development in the past two decades.
- Press Freedom is critical to democracy.

³ The complete Ministerial Declaration can be found in Annex 1.

- Economic growth has been shown to bring political freedom.
- Parties should submit to transparent dispute settlement process.
- Transparent and fair civil liberties are necessary to fight corruption, a prerequisite for greater economic opportunity.

Trade and National Sovereignty

The panel concluded that trade agreements should not negate public health and access to medicines in favor of appeasing industry. Concern was voiced that previous FTAs, specifically NAFTA, allow foreign governments to override domestic environmental and health standards by permitting industries to take advantage of foreign market access provisions.

The main points from this panel included the following:

- Access to public health and medicines is a right for all and should take precedent over all other commercial interests.
- FTAs have been shown to override/supersede domestic legal regulations as evidenced by the case of MTBE in California.
- Regulations that a FTA may introduce in regard to the provision of basic services affecting public health, such as water, may actually harm governments' capacity to provide such services.
- The FTAA must not negate WTO agreements reached during the Doha Round or any previous Round.

Final Recommendations for the Trade, Democracy and Human Rights Workshop

Trade has the *potential* to confer economic benefits and provide a stimulus for growth. Liberalizing trade, alone, does not ensure that these possible gains will be long-term or distributed efficiently among the general population. Among other factors, democratic, good governance is a prerequisite for attaining long-term benefits and an equitable, efficient distribution of gains. The general population, especially marginalized or historically excluded groups must be included in all political processes so that they can profit from both information about and access to economic opportunities. Since comparative advantage is maximized by the mobilization of all factors of production, exclusion is not only a social cost but also an economic one. While recognizing that a free trade agreement (FTA) is primarily an economic instrument, it is hoped that with strong enough incentives a FTA can be used to compel national governments to develop public policies that prioritize inclusion, participation, and economic gains for all people.

This recommendation revolves around the following principles:

- A system of democratic governance where government officials represent and are accountable to their constituents.
- A policy of equality of access so that all can participate in both political and economic processes. Equal access should help economic opportunities become more readily apparent.
- A set of socially responsible public policies to implement recommendations.

These principals should be addressed through concrete policies of inclusion at two levels:

International level

A general inclusion clause should be included in all trade agreements. Existing programs for capacity building and technical assistance, such as the Hemispheric Cooperation Program, should be strengthened for countries that either lack the institutions or experiences necessary to implement trade agreements and/or the infrastructure to reap the potential benefits of entering into a trade agreement.

National level

Extensive and comprehensive government consultations should be conducted with all sectors of the population. Governments should ease the burden on potential “losers” of a FTAA through policies which improve outreach to rural, poor and indigenous; strengthen job training and placement programs; develop tax incentives for investment in new industries and economic development zones; and provide additional resources for public investment in education, health and infrastructure.

Annex 1

Free Trade Area of the Americas Eighth Ministerial Meeting Declaration

November 20, 2003

(Source: <http://www.ftaa-alca.org>)

Introduction

1. We, the Ministers Responsible for Trade in the Hemisphere, representing the 34 countries participating in the negotiations of the Free Trade Area of the Americas (FTAA) held our Eighth Ministerial Meeting in Miami, United States of America, on November 20-21, 2003, in order to provide guidance for the final phase of the FTAA negotiations.
2. We recognize the significant contribution that economic integration, including the FTAA, will make to the attainment of the objectives established in the Summit of the Americas process: strengthening democracy, creating prosperity and realizing human potential. We reiterate that the negotiation of the FTAA will continue to take into account the broad social and economic agenda contained in the Miami, Santiago and Quebec City Declarations and Plans of Action with a view to contributing to raising living standards, increasing employment, improving the working conditions of all people in the Americas, strengthening social dialogue and social protection, improving the levels of health and education and better protecting the environment. We reaffirm the need to respect and value cultural diversity as set forth in the 2001 Summit of the Americas Declaration and Plan of Action.
3. We reiterate that the FTAA can co-exist with bilateral and sub-regional agreements, to the extent that the rights and obligations under these agreements are not covered by or go beyond the rights and obligations of the FTAA. We also reaffirm that the FTAA will be consistent with the rules and disciplines of the World Trade Organization (WTO).
4. Commitments assumed by the countries of the FTAA must be consistent with the principles of the sovereignty of States and the respective constitutional texts.

The Vision of the FTAA

5. We, the Ministers, reaffirm our commitment to the successful conclusion of the FTAA negotiations by January 2005*, with the ultimate goal of achieving an area of free trade and regional integration. The Ministers reaffirm their commitment to a comprehensive and balanced FTAA that will most effectively foster economic growth, the reduction of poverty, development, and integration through trade liberalization. Ministers also recognize the need for flexibility to take into account the needs and sensitivities of all FTAA partners.
6. We are mindful that negotiations must aim at a balanced agreement that addresses the issue of differences in the levels of development and size of economies of the hemisphere, through various provisions and mechanisms.

7. Taking into account and acknowledging existing mandates, Ministers recognize that countries may assume different levels of commitments. We will seek to develop a common and balanced set of rights and obligations applicable to all countries. In addition, negotiations should allow for countries that so choose, within the FTAA, to agree to additional obligations and benefits. One possible course of action would be for these countries to conduct plurilateral negotiations within the FTAA to define the obligations in the respective individual areas.

8. We fully expect that this endeavor will result in an appropriate balance of rights and obligations where countries reap the benefits of their respective commitments.

General Instructions

9. The Agreement will include measures in each negotiating discipline, and horizontal measures, as appropriate, that take into account the differences in the levels of development and the size of the economies, and are capable of implementation. Special attention will be given to the needs, economic conditions (including transition costs and possible internal dislocations) and opportunities of smaller economies, to ensure their full participation in the FTAA process.

10. We instruct the Trade Negotiations Committee (TNC) to develop a common and balanced set of rights and obligations applicable to all countries. The negotiations on the common set of rights and obligations will include provisions in each of the following negotiating areas: market access; agriculture; services; investment; government procurement; intellectual property; competition policy; subsidies, antidumping, and countervailing duties; and dispute settlement. On a plurilateral basis, interested parties may choose to develop additional liberalization and disciplines. The TNC shall establish procedures for these negotiations that shall, among other things, provide that: countries negotiating additional obligations and benefits within the FTAA shall notify the Co-Chairs of their intention to do so before the outset of the negotiations; and any country not choosing to do so may attend as an observer of those additional negotiations. Observers, by notifying the Co-Chairs, may become participants in these negotiations at any time thereafter. The results of the negotiations must be WTO compliant. These instructions are to be delivered by the TNC to the Negotiating Groups and the Technical Committee on Institutional Issues (TCI), no later than the seventeenth meeting of the TNC to enable the negotiations to proceed simultaneously and to be completed according to the schedule.

Guidance on text issues

11. We instruct the TCI to present to the eighteenth TNC meeting its draft text as well as its recommendations on the institutions required to implement the FTAA Agreement, including proposals on the funding mechanisms, the administrative rules and the implications for human resources for the functioning of the institutional structure of the FTAA Agreement.

12. We direct the TCI with due regard to the provisions contained in this Declaration to provide to the TNC, as soon as possible, a proposal on the process for finalizing the agreement. This proposal shall contain, *inter alia*, specific steps, including legal review, translation, verification and authentication, necessary to finalize the text of the agreement, as well as the process and timetable for the completion of those steps.

Guidance on market access negotiations

13. We instruct that the negotiations on market access be conducted at a pace that will lead to the conclusion of those negotiations by September 30, 2004.

Differences in levels of development and size of economies

14. We acknowledge the differences in the levels of development and size of economies in the hemisphere and the importance of all the countries participating in the FTAA to attain economic growth, improved quality of life for their people, and balanced and sustained social and economic development for all its participants. We therefore reaffirm our commitment to take into account in designing the FTAA, the differences in levels of development and size of economies in the hemisphere to create opportunities for their full participation and increase their level of development. We will establish mechanisms that complement and enhance the measures that address differences in the level of development and size of economies, in particular smaller economies, in order to facilitate the implementation of the Agreement and to maximize the benefits that can be derived from the FTAA. Such measures shall include but not be limited to technical assistance and transitional measures including longer adjustment periods.

15. We take note of the TNC Report on the results of the progress achieved in relation to the treatment of differences in the levels of development and the size of economies in each of the Negotiating Groups, and we instruct these entities to continue their work on this issue. We have made this report available to the public on the official FTAA website. We note with concern that while text negotiations have progressed, proposals aimed at giving expression to treatment of the differences in levels of development and size of economies are bracketed across all the negotiating disciplines. We therefore reiterate our instruction to the TNC and to all the negotiating groups, in particular those undertaking market access negotiations, to translate this principle into specific measures so that they are reflected in the results of the negotiations. We instruct the Consultative Group on Smaller Economies (CGSE) to keep this report up to date, with the support of the Tripartite Committee, and to submit it to us at our next meeting.

16. With a view to providing appropriate follow-up of the activities underway within the CGSE and in order to achieve the full participation of all countries in the FTAA, we instruct the CGSE to make recommendations to the TNC, at its next meeting and in coordination with the TCI, on the characteristics of a Permanent Committee on the application of the treatment of differences in the level of development and size of economies so that it forms part of the institutional framework of the FTAA.

Hemispheric Cooperation Program

17. We recognize that trade can play a major role in the promotion of economic development and the reduction of poverty. Therefore, we underscore that the commitment of countries to integrate trade into their national development plans, such as Poverty Reduction Strategies, is central to ensuring the role of trade in development and securing increased trade-related assistance in the region.

18. We recognize that smaller and less developed economies will require financial support to assist in the process of adjustment resulting from hemispheric integration. We therefore instruct the CGSE, based on its current work on the subject and with the support of the Tripartite Committee, to present recommendations to the TNC at its eighteenth meeting on financing methods and facilities to address the adjustment needs resulting from the differences in the levels of development and size of the economies of the hemisphere.

19. We welcome the efforts of the CGSE, with the assistance of the Tripartite Committee, to implement the Hemispheric Cooperation Program (HCP). Important steps took place at the Washington, D.C. meeting on October 14 and 15, hosted by the Inter-American Development Bank (IDB), with relevant donor institutions and in the preparation of trade capacity building strategies (TCB) by governments, which were the focus of discussion at the donors' roundtable. These strategies are critical to identifying effective programs and appropriate funding sources. These steps constitute a beginning to the process of enhancing the capacity of the countries that are seeking assistance to complete negotiation of the FTAA Agreement, prepare to implement its terms, and to enhance their capacity to trade, and successfully adapt to integration.

20. Based on the discussions and the TNC Report on progress in the implementation of the HCP and the initial meeting with donors, we encourage the countries with the help of the Tripartite Committee to finalize the TCB strategies as appropriate and to organize sub-regional meetings with donors to continue discussions on the TCB strategies. The first sub-regional meetings with donors should be held within four to six months.

21. We reiterate our agreement at Quito that the HCP will respond to the immediate assistance needs for the purpose of strengthening the participation of countries in the negotiations. We note with concern the slow progress in addressing these immediate needs and call on the donor community to urgently provide predictable and multifaceted financial and non-financial support, in particular non-reimbursable financing, for meeting the objectives and capacity-building priorities set out in the national and sub-regional capacity building strategies and action plans under the HCP. In this connection, we welcome the contributions, including non-reimbursable financing, already made.

22. We also instruct the TNC with the support of the CGSE to further develop the HCP by identifying the modalities and procedures for the management and implementation of the HCP once the FTAA negotiations are completed. We instruct the CGSE to report to the TNC throughout the year on progress under the HCP. We have made the TNC Report on the Implementation of the HCP available to the public on the official FTAA website.

Transparency and the Participation of Civil Society

23. In accordance with our commitment to transparency assumed at the Santiago and Quebec City Summits, we have made the third draft of the chapters of the FTAA Agreement available to the public on the official FTAA website in the four official languages today.

24. We also welcome receipt of the report on Best Practices and Illustrative Examples of Consultations with Civil Society at the National/Regional Level that was prepared by the

Committee of Government Representatives on the Participation of Civil Society (SOC) and that highlights best practices for disseminating information to civil society and to increase their participation in the FTAA process. We note the breadth and diversity of the measures and activities that have been undertaken by our various national governments in order to enhance communication with our respective civil societies. In addition, we note that this document is available to the public on the official FTAA Website. Furthermore, we instruct the SOC to make recommendations to the TNC on the means to broaden the mechanisms for disseminating information on the discussions, drawing upon the experiences of countries for distributing information to their civil societies.

25. In regard to this enhanced participation of different sectors of civil society in the hemispheric initiative and increased and sustained two-way communication with civil society, we take particular note of the decision to hold meetings with civil society, in conjunction with the regular meetings of the SOC, focusing on issues that are topics of discussion in these negotiations. In the past year, two such meetings have been held, one in Sao Paulo, Brazil on agriculture and the other in Santiago, Chile on services. We note that these meetings included a broad representation of FTAA government officials and civil society including business, labor, agricultural producers, NGOs, academics, rural and indigenous groups. Reports of the meetings from the SOC, including the statements of civil society, were made available to the public on the official FTAA website. We are pleased that at least two such meetings are planned in 2004, one in the Dominican Republic on the topic of intellectual property rights and one in the United States on the topic of market access, including small business issues.

26. We appreciate the views that various sectors of civil society have provided us in the last year and a half and especially in parallel to the Mexico and San Salvador Vice Ministerial meetings. We appreciate the recommendations made by the Eighth Americas Business Forum and the First Americas Trade and Sustainable Development Forum, organized with a broad representation of civil society, and with whom we met here in Miami, Florida. We encourage the holding of similar events organized parallel to all Ministerial and Vice Ministerial meetings and recommend that they include broad representation from civil society. We also take note of the regional seminar on the FTAA held by the Andean Community in Lima, Peru. The views expressed at these events constitute a valuable contribution to the negotiations, and we urge civil society to continue to make contributions in a constructive manner.

27. We welcome the Fourth Report of the SOC, which describes the activities of the SOC as well as the range of contributions received during this phase. We have made this report available to the public on the official FTAA website. We further instruct the SOC to continue to forward contributions to FTAA entities as well as to submit a new report for our next meeting outlining its activities and the range of views it has received from individuals and organizations in the hemisphere, as well as the manner in which these have been considered in the FTAA negotiations.

28. We express our interest in creating a civil society consultative committee within the institutional framework of the FTAA upon the Agreement's entry into force. Such a committee could contribute to transparency and the participation of civil society on an on-going basis as the FTAA is being implemented. We instruct the Committee on Government Representatives on the Participation of Civil Society, in coordination with the TCI, to continue to study the issue and make

recommendations to the TNC concerning it. We ask the TNC to review these recommendations and make a proposal concerning this matter for our future consideration.

Working Languages

29. We reiterate our current operating procedure, which is to conduct Ministerial level meetings with interpretation in English, Spanish, French, and Portuguese, and to release to the public the Ministerial Declaration and the texts of the Draft FTAA Agreement in these four languages. We agree that TNC meetings will be conducted with interpretation in English, Spanish, French, and Portuguese, and reiterate the existing procedure that meetings of the other Committees and the Negotiating Groups will be conducted with interpretation in the working languages of English and Spanish and that documents in these meetings and the TNC will be translated into the two working languages.

Appointment of entity chairs

30. We recognize the work completed by the Chairs and Vice Chairs of the different Negotiating Groups and other FTAA entities during this phase of the negotiations, whose support has been crucial to the advances made in the process. In accordance with the terms agreed at the San Jose Meeting, we approve the new roster of Chairs and Vice Chairs for the various FTAA entities who will serve during the next phase of negotiations, which is submitted as the Annex to this Declaration. In the case of the resignation or permanent absence of a Chair of an FTAA entity, the Vice Chair will act as Chair.

Schedule of Meetings

31. We instruct the TNC to convene at least 3 meetings before the next Ministerial Meeting; the meetings shall be held in the cities of Puebla and Panama City, and in Trinidad and Tobago, respectively.

Candidate cities for the FTAA Secretariat Site

32. We note that the following cities have asked to be considered for the permanent site of the FTAA Secretariat and have so notified the TNC Co-Chairs: Atlanta, USA; Cancun, Mexico; Chicago, USA; Colorado Springs, USA; Galveston, USA; Houston, USA; Miami, USA; Panama City, Panama; Port of Spain, Trinidad and Tobago; and Puebla, Mexico. This is the final list of candidate cities. In order to facilitate our decision-making on this matter, we request that these cities provide to the FTAA Secretariat the information described in document TNC/26. Elements for the Evaluation of the Candidate Sites for the FTAA Secretariat by March 1, 2004, for dissemination to all delegations.

33. We agree that the elements developed by the Sub-Committee on Budget and Administration (ADM) for evaluating candidate sites for the FTAA Secretariat are for information only to serve as a guide, and which may be used by countries in the selection process.

34. We agree that the decision on the site of the FTAA Secretariat will be taken at our ninth meeting.

Tripartite Committee

35. Once again, we express our appreciation for the support provided by the Tripartite Committee (the Inter-American Development Bank (IDB), the Organization of American States (OAS), and the United Nations Economic Commission for Latin America and the Caribbean (ECLAC)) to the FTAA negotiations and their technical, analytical, and financial contribution to the hemispheric integration process. We also thank the IDB, ECLAC, and the OAS for the support provided to the Hemispheric Cooperation Program, and to the issue meetings of civil society, and for redesigning and maintaining the official FTAA website. We encourage the Tripartite Committee to continue to support the negotiations and the HCP, and reiterate the need for their continued collaboration during this final stage of the negotiations.

FTAA Administrative Secretariat

36. We appreciate the invaluable and substantial support provided by the Administrative Secretariat to these negotiations. We also convey our appreciation to the Government of Mexico and the Tripartite Committee for the steps taken to cover the costs of the transfer of the Administrative Secretariat from Panama City to Mexico, and the costs of the operation of the Administrative Secretariat in the city of Puebla during the final stage of the negotiations. Finally, we thank the Government of Mexico for providing the facilities within which the negotiations are held and the Administrative Secretariat is functioning during this final phase.

Acknowledgments

37. We express our appreciation to the Ministers of Labor from Brazil, Canada and Mexico for providing their views on the work of the Inter-American Conference of Ministers of Labor, and for providing for our consideration the Report from the Working Group on Labor Dimensions of the Summit of the Americas Process established by the Inter-American Conference of Ministers of Labor (IACML) on the results of its examinations of, inter alia, questions of globalization related to employment and labor. We note that the IACML will deepen its enquiry into key aspects of the labor dimensions of economic integration, and request that the IACML Ministers keep us informed of the results through the FTAA Co-Chairs. We share their views, as expressed in the Salvador Declaration.

38. We thank the Governments of Mexico, El Salvador, Trinidad and Tobago, and the United States for organizing the meetings of the TNC during this period and the Government of the United States for the organization of this Eighth Ministerial Meeting. We also express thanks to the United States and Brazil for serving as the co-chairs of the FTAA during this final phase of the negotiations.

Future Meetings

39. We shall hold our next meeting in Brazil in 2004.