Canadian Revisions – August 19th
Fourth Summit of the Americas
Draft Declaration of Mar del Plata
November 4-5, 2005

1. We, the democratically elected Heads of State and Government of the Americas, gathered in the city of Mar del Plata on the occasion of our Fourth Summit, reaffirm our commitment to fight poverty, inequality, hunger, and social exclusion in order to raise the standard of living of our peoples and strengthen democratic governance in the Americas. We assign the right to work, as articulated in human rights instruments, a central place on the hemispheric agenda, and recognize the essential role of creating decent work to achieve these objectives.

2. Taking into account the ILO Declaration on Fundamental Principles and Rights at Work (1998), and the commitment we made to promoting, strengthening, and defending democracy in the OAS Charter and the Inter-American Democratic Charter, we will promote social well-being, an equitable distribution of the benefits of economic growth, an increase in hemispheric standards of living, the elimination of hunger and the attainment of food security, the creation of new employment opportunities for decent work, and the promotion of entrepreneurship.

3. We reaffirm our support for the mandates and commitments undertaken at the Summits of the Americas, the World Summit for Social Development (Copenhagen, 1995); the Millennium Summit (New York, 2000); the World Summit on Sustainable Development (Johannesburg, 2002); the International Conference on Financing for Development (Monterrey, 2002) and the High-level Plenary Session of the UN General Assembly to examine the Millennium Development Goals (New York, September 2005), as an essential condition for the sustainable development of our countries.

Growth with Employment

4. We are committed to intensify our efforts toward attaining the goals agreed to at the Millennium Summit, especially that of reducing by 50% the proportion of persons living in extreme poverty by 2015 given the fact that, despite the efforts made by the countries of Latin America and the Caribbean, more than 96 million people still live in extreme poverty.

5. We recognize that economic growth is a basic, indispensable and necessary, but not sufficient, condition to address the high rates of unemployment and the growth of the informal economy. In the recent past, some countries in the Hemisphere have experienced periods of economic growth that did not generate adequate growth in the employment rate. This situation aggravated the high concentration of income and increased the rate of poverty and extreme poverty in Latin America and the Caribbean.

6. Sustained economic growth with equity and social inclusion are indispensable conditions to confront extreme poverty and overcome inequality in the Hemisphere. To achieve this, it is necessary to improve the investment climate in our countries and promote corporate social responsibility, a culture of entrepreneurship and strengthen business activity, and encourage increased incomes and improve their distribution.

6 bis: Para on FTAA negotiations.

7bis1. [CHI/PAN: Likewise, it is essential to ensure good governance and the formulation and implementation of coherent, targeted social policies, sound macroeconomic policies, prudent
monetary and fiscal policies, and efficient and transparent labor policies, as well as respect for law and the institutional framework.]

7bis2. If democracies are to ensure their stability, we believe that their major challenge is to develop a greater capacity to generate good, productive jobs. To achieve that goal, the following considerations are essential: improvement of the health, education, and training of our people; the formulation of coherent, targeted policies, sound macroeconomic policies, prudent monetary and fiscal policies, and efficient and transparent labor policies; and respect for law and the institutional framework.

7. We recognize the need to reduce inequality and poverty and that these objectives cannot be solved solely by welfare-oriented social policies. To attain these objectives, we commit to developing prudent long-term policies and specific programs to provide our population with greater access to education, health care, the labor market, and credit.

8. We recognize that national efforts to generate decent jobs and quality employment must be supported by international cooperation and solidarity. We will seek the full and effective use of international financial institutions and will promote development of appropriate financial instruments to serve client needs.

9. Recognizing that job creation is enhanced through trade liberalization and regional economic integration, we maintain our commitment to the WTO’s Doha Development Agenda in order to gain access to markets for our exports.

**Jobs to Fight Poverty**

10. Considering the widespread demand for decent work in the hemisphere, the great task of our societies and governments in combating poverty and social exclusion is to adopt policies to support the generation of more and better jobs in rural and urban areas to contribute effectively to social inclusion and cohesion, prosperity, and democratic governance.

11. We commit to implementing active policies to generate decent work and create the conditions for good employment that imbue economic policies and globalization with a strong ethical and human component, putting the individual at the center of work, the company, and the economy. We will therefore promote decent work by respect for fundamental labor rights at work, employment creation, adequate social protections and participation through social dialogue.

12. We reaffirm our commitment to the ILO Declaration on Fundamental Principles and Rights at Work (1998) and to adopt and implement legislation and policies that provide for the effective application of the core labor standards it embodies.

13. We will combat gender-based discrimination in the workplace by promoting equal opportunities and eliminating existing disparities between men and women in the working world through an integrated approach that incorporates gender perspective in labor policies including by promoting and facilitating more opportunities for ownership of businesses by women.

13bis. We will confront racism and all forms of discrimination and intolerance in employment and at work. In accordance with Resolution 2126 of the XXXV OAS General Assembly, we will work toward the elaboration of an Inter-American Convention for the Prevention of Racism and All Forms of Discrimination and Intolerance.
14. We commit to protect children from economic exploitation and from any tasks that may interfere with their education and integral development, according to the principle of effective abolition of child labor, as set out in the ILO Declaration on Fundamental Principles and Rights at Work (1998). In addition, we will take immediate and effective measures to prevent and eradicate the worst forms of child labor according to Convention 182 of the ILO (1999). We will strive to improve access to and the quality of basic education for all children, recognizing that providing educational opportunities is an investment in the future of our societies.

15. We reaffirm our commitment to protecting the labor rights of all workers, regardless of their immigration status, within the legal framework of each country and in keeping with universal principles protecting the human individual. We emphasize the fundamental importance of the principle of nondiscrimination in employment, which entails obligations to protect workers in general. The right of all migrants to due process of law must be recognized, regardless of their immigration status.

16. We urge those countries that have not yet ratified the International Convention on the Protection of the Human Rights of All Migrant Workers and Members of Their Families to consider doing so as soon as possible. We call for an increase in international cooperation to lower the costs of remittances; the establishment of bilateral temporary migrant worker programs, in order to reduce labor exploitation and illegal migration; efforts to combat illicit smuggling of migrants and trafficking in persons, consistent with international human rights instruments and the 1951 Convention on the Status of Refugees and its 1967 Protocol; and the dignified, orderly, and safe return of migrants.

17. Within the expansion of employment opportunities for all, special attention must be paid to the needs of women, indigenous peoples, minorities, persons with disabilities, children and youth, and the elderly, for access to education and training; and to inequalities in the workplace and in remuneration for reasons of social origin, race, gender, age, or any other kind of discrimination.

18. We commit to implementing policies to protect the health and safety of formal and informal workers in the workplace, whether paid or unpaid and without discrimination of any kind.

19. We recognize the positive contribution of unemployment insurance systems to relieving the economic sufferings of individuals and limiting the need for workers to resort to the informal economy. We will examine the forms of unemployment protection most appropriate to our respective economies, with the goal of having workers reenter the labor market.

20. We consider it essential to strengthen social dialogue at the local, national, regional, and hemispheric levels as an important instrument for society’s participation in building a development process with inclusion and social justice, in order to develop strategies designed to strengthen democratic life in the work environment, and as a central factor in maintaining harmonious labor relations. We will also strengthen collaboration with parliamentarians, civil society and other private sector actors, including micro-, small, and medium-size entrepreneurs, in order to participate jointly in the discussion and development of job creation strategies and their implementation.

20 (bis) We recognize the importance of promoting and valuing the diversity of cultural expressions as an instrument for the promotion of social cohesion and sustainable economic development, and we reaffirm the essential role of cultural diversity as a source of creativity and innovation.

**Investing in the Labor Force**
21. We recognize the essential role of training in enabling our people to take full advantage of emerging job opportunities. Improvements in the quality of and access to education are central to strengthening our democracies and giving people the tools and knowledge required by the labor market. We will therefore work to ensure that public education prepares citizens to work in the knowledge economy and forms the basis for acquiring knowledge throughout the working life of individuals.

22. We recognize the importance of good and efficient educational and professional training systems to allow the formation of societies with higher educational levels and efficient professional training. In order to integrate those systems, linked to economic, educational, and employment policies, we will promote increased investment in professional instruction and in training—in both the private and public sectors—to foster the productivity of companies and the employability of individuals.

23. We will ensure that public education at the primary level creates opportunities for all children to continue their education successfully at the secondary and tertiary levels. We recognize the importance of facilitating the inclusion and employment of youth in the labor market, expanding coverage and improving the quality of information and employment counseling services.

23 (bis) We recognize the importance of investing in science and technology and in connectivity in order to bridge the digital divide. To this extent we reaffirm our commitment to continue promoting the adoption of Information and Communications Technologies (ICTs), as an essential tool for social and economic development and for the strengthening of democratic governance.

Micro-, small, and medium-size enterprises as an engine of job growth

24. Micro-, small, and medium-sized enterprises represent a strategic force in the effort to generate more employment, a more balanced production and labor structure, and inclusive, sustainable economic development. We recognize the importance of developing explicit policies to promote these enterprises in order to improve competitiveness and expand the formal enterprise network.

25. We will pursue industrial and competition policies that contribute to the growth of private investment and employment. We will implement specific programs for micro-, small, and medium-sized enterprises, providing them with training and technical assistance, microcredit, labor mediation, and technology transfer services, with emphasis on productivity, quality, and innovation. These programs must meet the needs of all people, and foster the development of entrepreneurial skills and technical competence.

Framework for Creating Decent Work

26. Recognizing the need for greater inter-governmental cooperation and coordination, both vertical and horizontal, in planning and programme delivery, we will build strong and inclusive institutional frameworks, conducive to job creation, including:

a. A transparent legal framework as a basis for attracting investment, that provides legal security; independent, impartial, and accessible judicial institutions; effective action against corruption and organized crime.
b. A macroeconomic framework characterized by progressive and responsible economic policies, solid public finances, transparent fiscal management, and monetary policies geared to price stability and full employment.

c. An effective labor framework that promotes, respects and realizes the ILO Declaration on Fundamental Principles and Rights at Work, providing for the effective application of the core labor standards this Declaration embodies, and helps citizens respond to the opportunities created by economic growth and new technologies.

d. Environmental laws that ensure economic growth and employment are sustainable and consistent with international agreements to address the impact of climate change.

e. Efficient, affordable, and environmentally sustainable energy supplies.

f. Policies that encourage the incorporation of the informal sector within the formal sector, including the provision of appropriate pay and benefits to create incentives to work.

26 (bis) Acknowledging that job creation is a complex process involving interdependent components, we endorse the recommendations of the various recent sectoral Inter-American Ministerial meetings.

**Strengthening Democratic Governance**

27. We will promote economic prosperity by ensuring the community of democratic states remains committed to peace and to dealing with threats, concerns, and other challenges to security. We recognize that strengthening cooperation among our states, in the context of the Declaration on Security in the Americas, helps to strengthen peace and security in the Hemisphere. Strengthening cooperation among our states in fighting the threats of terrorism, the proliferation of weapons of mass destruction, trafficking in persons and narcotics, transnational organized crime, conflict, money laundering, illicit arms trafficking, and the connections among them is essential to security.

28. On the basis of our commitment to the Inter-American Democratic Charter, we reiterate our firm decision to strengthen the effective exercise of representative democracy. On the basis of the rule of law, we will promote better citizen training and participation and the development of local communities, so that the benefits of democracy will be shared by all of society.

29. We recognize that the universal promotion and protection of human rights – civil, cultural, economic, political and social – on the basis of the internationally recognized principles of universality, indivisibility, and interdependence, as well as respect for the rules and principles of humanitarian law, is essential to the functioning of democratic societies. We stress the importance of respect for the rule of law, effective and equal access to justice, and participation by all sectors of society in public decision-making.

30. We will support the work of the OAS in drafting the Social Charter of the Americas, whose principles and political objectives will be geared toward ongoing action on economic, social, and cultural rights in the American Hemisphere, inspired by justice, universality, solidarity, and the shared responsibility of all to achieve more equitable and inclusive societies.
30bis. Considering the emergence and re-emergence of many infectious diseases, we recognize the substantial impact that diseases such as SARS, Avian influenza, HIV/AIDS, malaria, tuberculosis, can have on a country's economy, social and political development and the health of its citizens. Hemispheric engagement on planning, capacity building, and enhanced linkages between animal and human health, risk communication and information sharing are critical to our collective success in minimizing the impact of infectious disease events on job creation and democratic development.

31. We reaffirm our commitment to successfully concluding negotiations on the American Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples.

32. Fighting corruption is one of the essential means of strengthening democracy and a necessary condition for economic growth. For this reason, we have agreed to strengthen and accelerate the evaluation rounds of the Follow-up Mechanism for the Implementation of the Inter-American Convention against Corruption, meeting the demands of our people. We reaffirm the need to strengthen the supervisory role of legislators and to encourage interparliamentary exchanges for the development of national and international anti-corruption strategies.

33. With this Declaration and the attached Plan of Action, we Heads of State and Government of the Hemisphere reaffirm the central role we assign to the creation of decent jobs, as a means for fulfilling our commitments to combat poverty and strengthen democratic governance, as an activity that structures the lives of our people, as a setting for social interaction, as a means of participation in the achievements of society, and, fundamentally, to promote human dignity as the primary objective of our governmental action for the Americas.