Brazil has proven, once again, the superiority of Latin over European styles of football and millions of Brazilians continue to rightfully celebrate that country's World Cup victory. So, congratulations Brazil, but now it is time for the Americas to go back to work. The conditions and issues that confront us do not allow us to dawdle any longer.

FOCAL will be pursuing a number of themes that we have selected in collaboration with our key partners and that we think merit concentrated attention. In partnership with the Canadian International Development Agency (CIDA), we will work on issues of poverty and inequality; trade and development; and, governance and democratic development. The latter two sets of themes (trade and governance) are established programs within FOCAL. Our experience and knowledge base on the critical issue of poverty and inequality is smaller, but is progressing nicely. In the early phase, our strategy is to partner with key institutions and entities, in Canada and abroad, with the goal of bringing constructive policy considerations to bear among the region’s decision-makers. Inscribing the “Monterrey Consensus” for examination during our recent III Forum of Hemispheric Experts was a component of this strategy. The themes of trade continued on page 2
and governance are necessary supporting pillars to that of poverty and inequality and we shall continue to focus much of our work through those particular prisms.

The issue of an emerging North American community has been pursued with vigour at FOCAL. Integration within the North American continent is proceeding across a variety of fronts. It is most pronounced and visible in commercial terms, based on the foundation of arrangements such as the NAFTA, but goes well beyond such narrow definitions. The strands of political and social integration can be discerned with increasing frequency as Canada, the United States and Mexico more and more adopt policies and approaches that are more similar than they are different. Decision-makers in Canada and the United States remain hobbled by systemic information gaps about our Mexican partner. The body of Canadian based knowledge about Mexico is indeed thin, and thus we believe that FOCAL has and will continue to make a positive contribution to this area of study.

Cuba remains a subject of specialized focus within FOCAL in the framework of our Research Forum on Cuba and we will continue to bring a balanced approach to our information gathering and analysis of issues pertaining to the island.

And in four years, we’ll take a break to once again concentrate on the World Cup. Bravo Brazil.

Donald R. Mackay

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Spotlight on FOCAL Events

FOCAL Testifies to House of Commons Standing Committee on Foreign Affairs and International Trade — North American Relationship Study, June 6, 2002

Stacey Wilson-Forsberg and Don Mackay testified at the meeting of the House of Commons Standing Committee on Foreign Affairs and International Trade. The meeting concluded a series of public hearings that were organized across Canada as well as Mexico City. The complete testimony can be found on our web site www.focal.ca.

Civil Society Meeting with Representatives of the Organization of American States, June 2, 2002

Prior to the opening of the General Assembly in Barbados, the Centre for Justice and International Law (CEJIL), in partnership with the International Centre for Human Rights and Democratic Development (ICHRDD) and the Canadian Foundation for the Americas (FOCAL) hosted a meeting between accredited civil society organizations and Foreign Affairs ministers from the hemisphere. Over 100 people attended the event where both ministers and civil society representatives could interact and have their interventions resulting in effective engagement with government officials. The occasion gave a voice to civil society and allowed their representatives to express their concerns about human rights and democratic development in the Americas.

Topics for the meeting were the following: the Inter-American Convention on Terrorism; the Inter-American Democratic Charter; strengthening the Inter-American Human Rights System; and the current situation in Colombia.


FOCAL, in conjunction with the embassies of Guatemala, El Salvador, Honduras, Costa Rica and Panama, hosted a roundtable on the “Evolution of Central America’s Political Development and Economic Integration.” The event gathered several Central American and Canadian experts, from the private, academic and public sectors, to discuss Canada–Central America relations. Among the guests were: Laura E. Flores, former Vice Minister of Foreign Trade of Panama; Paul Wever, former Vice Minister of Economy of Guatemala; Enrique Lacs, Coordinator of the Comisión Empresarial de Negociaciones Internacionales; Rigoberto Monge, Director, Oficina de Apoyo al Sector Privado (ODASP), El Salvador; Manuel Orozco, Project Director, Central America Program, Inter-American Dialogue, Washington, D.C.; and Professor W. George Lovell, Queen’s University.

Focusing exclusively on the political development, social evolution and the economic and trade integration that Central America has experienced in the last decade, the roundtable served to underscore the importance of greater bilateral cooperation between Canada and Central American nations. Discussions resulted in an agreement that these nations have much to learn from one another, which could be key for negotiating a Free Trade Agreement (FTA).
Marc Lortie, Assistant Deputy Minister Americas, Department of Foreign Affairs and International Trade (DFAIT) and Maria Teresa García Segovia de Madero, Ambassador of Mexico to Canada at a break during the FOCAL North American Linkages roundtable.

Marc Rioux, Human Resources Development Canada; Enrique Lacs, Comisión Empresarial de Negociaciones Comerciales Internacionales (CENCIT), Guatemala; and Claudia Paguaga, FOCAL Analyst, at the roundtable on the Evolution of Central America’s Political Development and Economic Integration.

FOCAL’s Speaker Series event with Dr. Manuel Orozco, March 20, 2002

FOCAL, with the collaboration of Action Canada for Population and Development (ACPD), hosted Dr. Manuel Orozco, Project Director for the Central American Division at the Inter-American Dialogue in Washington, D.C., for the first of a series of events on migration. This event titled “Assessing the impact of remittances on economic development in Mexico, Central America and the Caribbean” took place at the National Press Club in Ottawa. Dr. Orozco's presentation explained the dynamics and trends of Latino immigrants in the global economy. Dr. Orozco's Power Point presentation can be accessed at www.focal.ca/english/2002_events/2002mar.htm as well as his paper on the Impact of Family Remittances in Latin America.


This roundtable hosted by FOCAL gathered non-governmental Mexican experts, Canadian policy makers and policy researchers to discuss emerging issues within North American relations. Guests at the event included:

Ambassador Andrés Rozental, Director of the newly established Mexican think tank Consejo Mexicano de Estudios Internacionales; Mexico’s Ambassador to Canada María Teresa García Segovia de Madero; Marc Lortie, Assistant Deputy Minister Americas, DFAIT; Ana María Salazar, former Deputy Assistant Secretary of Defence for Drug Policy Enforcement and Support in the second Clinton administration; Rafael Fernández de Castro, Director of International Studies at Mexico’s ITAM (Instituto Tecnológico Antónomo de México); and Rogelio Ramírez de la O, President of ECANAL (Economic Analysis for Company Planning).

FOCAL News and Media Release

FOCAL’s roundtable on North American Linkages served to underscore those areas meriting greater bilateral cooperation between Canada and Mexico, as well as those in need of a trilateral or continental approach. Discussions resulted in an agreement that the two countries have much to learn from one another, particularly with regard to their respective relations with the United States. They also stressed the point that, while Canadian and Mexican policy makers and policy researchers may concur on many issues, they often diverge on the direction that North American relations should take in the long term, and on the necessary steps to get there.

All sessions underscored the importance of information gathering and sharing. North American linkages cannot deepen and broaden, and trust among the three countries cannot be built when information and knowledge are lacking. Further research on the opportunities and challenges of a North American perspective should be
encouraged along with the continuation of the dialogue that occurred at the roundtable. The organization of the event was made possible by the kind and valuable support of: the Policy Research Initiative; Industry Canada; Solicitor General of Canada; the Royal Canadian Mounted Police; the Department of Foreign Affairs and International Trade; Natural Resources Canada; and Human Resources Development Canada.

The Canadian International Development Agency (CIDA) and FOCAL sign Partnership Agreement (2002–2005), February 1, 2002

Bob Anderson, Vice President Americas Branch signed the agreement on behalf of CIDA while Executive Director, Don Mackay, did it on behalf of FOCAL. Under the terms of the three-year agreement, FOCAL will continue to work on the themes of poverty and inequality; trade and development; and, governance and civil society as they pertain to the Americas. FOCAL has benefited from the support of CIDA since 1993 and the current Agreement represents the fourth such agreement in the relationship. Under the terms of the Agreement, FOCAL will continue to offer an independent and non-partisan view on developments in the Western Hemisphere and will encourage governments in particular to fully implement their commitments made at the Summit of the Americas in Quebec City in 2001. FOCAL will continue building its contacts in the region and will participate in CIDA-sponsored knowledge networks.

FOCAL Speaker Series Conflict, Peace and Human Rights in Colombia, January 25, 2002

FOCAL and the Embassy of the Republic of Colombia co-hosted a speaker series event featuring Vice Minister of Defence Mr. Bernardo Ortiz and Deputy Director Alberto Lara of the Human Rights Program of the Office of the Vice-President. You can view a PowerPoint presentation by the speakers on the Colombian Armed Forces and on Human Rights in Columbia at http://www.focal.ca/english/2002_events/2002jan.htm

FOCAL Hosts High Level Delegation from Peru, January 9, 2002

The delegation included Dr. César Rodríguez Rabanal who serves as Counsellor to the President for human rights, poverty and civil society. Dr. Rodríguez was a founding member of the “Foro Democrático” which spoke out publicly against the abuses of the Fujimori years. The delegation also included Mr. Rudecindo Vega Carreazo, Executive Secretary to President Toledo and responsible for decentralization of government functions and Mr. Guillermo Russo Checa from the Peruvian Ministry of Foreign Affairs. Also participating in the discussions was Mr. John Graham, Chair of FOCAL’s Board of Directors. The key issue covered concerned ways in which democratic principles and practices could and should be pursued in an atmosphere of decentralized government functions and responsibilities.

The FOCAL Forum of Hemispheric Experts

On June 10, 2002, FOCAL held its third annual Forum of Hemispheric Experts. The event was entitled, “Beyond Monterrey: Democracy and Development in Latin America and the Caribbean”. Last year’s Forum focused on the importance of the new OAS democratic charter for the protection of democracy in the region. This year FOCAL invited hemispheric experts from academia, government, the private sector, NGOs, and international organizations such as the OAS and World Bank to discuss what has become a dominant theme in the Americas: the growing difficulty in completing the economic and political reform agenda begun in the 1990s.

The impact of the UN Conference on Financing for Development, held in Monterrey, Mexico in March 2002 was the unifying theme for the Forum. The four sessions of the day addressed the ongoing challenges of consolidating democratic institutions in the region, the political reasons behind reform failure, the implications of the Monterrey Consensus for official development at dinner during the Forum of Hemispheric Experts (l. to r.) Dr. Catherine Conaghan Professor and Associate Director, Center for the Study of Democracy, Department of Political Studies, Queen's University; Augusto de la Torre, Regional Financial Services Advisor, Latin American and the Caribbean Region, the World Bank; and Dr. Julio Carrión, Assistant Professor, Department of Political Science and International Relations, University of Delaware.
assistance to Latin America and the Caribbean, and the limits to the Washington Consensus reforms in Latin America.

The keynote speaker at the FOCAL Forum of Hemispheric Experts was Bob Anderson, Vice-President, Americas Branch, Canadian International Development Agency (CIDA). Leadoff speakers included Catherine Conaghan, Queen’s University; Julio Carrión, University of Delaware; Donna Lee Van Cott, University of Tennessee; Pamela K. Starr, Instituto Tecnológico Autónomo de México; Luigi Manzetti, Southern Methodist University, Texas; Ian Goldin, Director of Development Policy at the World Bank; Don McMaster, Director

General, Policy and Planning, Americas Branch, CIDA; Augusto de la Torre, Financial Services Advisor, World Bank; and Peter Hakim, President, Inter-American Dialogue.

As FOCAL’s premier “branding” event, the 2002 Forum of Hemispheric Experts was an important milestone for FOCAL. The organization succeeded in attracting very high profile participants, and in this respect built on the successes of previous years. FOCAL significantly expanded its network of contacts in U.S. academic circles, and the World Bank. The Forum discussion will also guide the development of new programme areas for FOCAL.

Where Else Has FOCAL Been?

The following are highlights of some of the events in which FOCAL participated between January and June 2002. Full reports on all activities can be found on our web site, www.focal.ca

Panel Discussions on the Americas, June 19, 2002
Claudia Paguaga represented FOCAL at the Open Program Meeting (OPM) organized by the International Development Research Centre (IDRC). Panellists for the session focussing on the Americas included Juan Alberto Fuentes (UNDP–Guatemala), Kemly Camacho (Fundación Acceso – Costa Rica) and Roberto Bazzani (Ecohealth – IDRC/Latin America and Caribbean Regional Office –LACRO).

Public Policy Forum/Ekos Conference, Rethinking North American Integration, Toronto, June 18, 2002
Stacey Wilson-Forsberg participated in this conference co-hosted by the Public Policy Forum and Ekos Research Associates. Based on the results of three public opinion studies recently carried out by Ekos, the event focused on Canadian, American, and Mexican attitudes toward North American integration. The audience consisted primarily of Canadian business and government representatives who seek to be responsive to shifting North American attitudes, and more informed about the range of North American issues confronting public and private sector decision-makers in the three countries. Proceedings included a presentation of the survey results by Frank Graves, President of Ekos Research Associates, and discussion by such experts as: Christopher Sands (Center for Strategic and International Studies, Washington, D.C.); Ambassador Maria-Teresa García Segovia de Madero (Mexico’s Ambassador to Canada); Perrin Beatty (President and CEO Canadian Manufacturers and Exporters); Robert Pastor (Emory University); and Andrés Rozental (President of the Consejo Mexicano de Asuntos Exteriores).

FOCAL at the Woodrow Wilson International Center for Scholars “Toward a North American Community?” Conference, June 11, 2002
Stacey Wilson-Forsberg was invited to be a panellist at this conference that took place at the Woodrow Wilson international Center for Scholars in Washington, D.C. The event produced thought-provoking discussion on two themes: the changing identity in Canada, Mexico and the United States, and the Canada–Mexico relationship. Other panellists included: Stephanie R. Golob (City University of New York), Laura MacDonald (Carleton University), Alejandro Moreno (Reforma Mexico City), Isabel Studor (FLACSO Mexico), and Bruce Stokes (The National Journal). Representatives of the U.S. government and the Canadian Embassy also participated.

FOCAL Outreach at Dalhousie University, June 4, 2002
Stacey Wilson-Forsberg spent the day with students and faculty of Dalhousie University in Halifax. Discussions focused on the strategic direction of the institution’s International Development Studies Graduate programme and career preparation. The day concluded with a lecture to MBA students on emerging issues in North American integration.
XXXII General Assembly of the Organization of American States (OAS), Bridgetown, Barbados, June 2–4, 2002
FOCAL attended the XXXII GA of the OAS as an accredited civil society organization. Through its special guest status, John Graham, the Chair of FOCAL and Sharon O’Regan, Deputy Director, gained access to sessions of both the OAS General Committee and the General Assembly. There were three thematic topics on the agenda: the Multi Dimensional Approach to Hemispheric Security; Follow-up and Development of the Inter-American Democratic Charter; the OAS, Democracy, and Trade.”

FOCAL at the Caribbean Studies Association Conference, May 27–June 1, 2002
Worldwide specialists on the Caribbean met at the 27th Annual Conference of the Caribbean Studies Association (CSA), which took place in the Bahamian capital of Nassau. José Zaragoza represented FOCAL at the event making a presentation on the future of the Caribbean economy.

Entitled “Coping with Challenge, Contending with Change”, the CSA conference was marked by the opening remarks of the newly elected Prime Minister of the Bahamas, Perry Christie. Issues discussed included: sustainable development, drug trafficking and criminality, HIV/AIDS, nationalism, identity, religion, tourism industry, transportation infrastructures and economy.

A highlight of the conference was the speech delivered by Assistant Secretary General of the Organization of American States (OAS), Ambassador Luigi Einaudi over lunch. Ambassador Einaudi urged to develop a common vision for the region and to take advantage of the vast and active Caribbean Diasporas in the United States, the European Union, Canada and Latin America.

Annual Meeting of the Regional Civil Society Organizations for Migratory Affairs (Red Regional de Organizaciones Civiles para las Migraciones – RROCM), Guatemala, May 26–30, 2002
Sharon O’Regan represented FOCAL at this event, which took place concurrent with the annual Ministerial Puebla Process Meeting. The principal objectives of the conference were to discuss the approval of a document on migratory guidelines and to determine if the guidelines should be submitted for final acceptance by the regional government representatives. The priority for the RROCM was to review existing procedures and to evaluate the promotion of specific projects. The RROCM was able to discuss strategic plans including the regional operation plan for advancing migration projects. Sharing of information and knowledge was also a priority for the conference. The RROCM took the opportunity to deliver their interventions on specific issues of concern to ministerial representatives from the region.

FOCAL at the International Seminar, “Integración Hemisférica y Diplomacia Ciudadana: Entre la Confrontación y el Diálogo”, May 27–28, 2002
Hemispheric academics and practitioners attended the seminar, hosted by the Graduate Faculty at the University of Belgrano, Buenos Aires, Argentina. The seminar examined the participation of civil society networks in various multilateral processes underway across the region, including the Summit of the Americas and FTAA negotiations, the formation of Mercosur and the Andean Community of Nations (CAN), as well as the integration of the Greater Caribbean. FOCAL analyst Laurie Cole participated as a panellist in discussions regarding recent presidential summits, presenting observations on civil society participation in last year’s Quebec City Summit of the Americas.

Civil Society Network’s Participation in Recent Multilateral Processes Throughout the Region, Buenos Aires, Argentina, May 23–24, 2002
Laurie Cole participated in a workshop hosted by Corporación Participa of Chile, which gathered NGO representatives from nineteen Latin American and Caribbean nations to review the evaluation of the national-level civil society consultations held prior to the Quebec City Summit. This consultation process, co-facilitated by Corporación PARTICIPA (Chile), Fundación ESQUEL (U.S.) and FOCAL, presented the Summit organizers with civil society input on key issues, 50% of which were eventually included in the meeting’s final Plan of Action. The meeting allowed a positive exchange of ideas and feedback on the Summit process and the contributions of civil society participation. A future project, which aims to include civil society in monitoring the implementation of Summit initiatives throughout the hemisphere, is currently being formulated.

Stacey Wilson-Forsberg joined a group of eleven representatives from Canadian federal and provincial
FOCAL at the Standing Senate Committee on Human Rights, May 6, 2002

John Graham, Chairperson of the Board of Directors of FOCAL and Sharon O’Regan, Deputy Director, participated in a meeting of the Standing Senate Committee on Human Rights to study the status of Canada’s adherence to international human rights instruments and on the process whereby Canada enters into, implements and reports on such agreements. In particular, the committee met to examine whether Canada should accede to the Inter-American Convention on Human Rights, an issue that was identified as one requiring detailed study in the committee’s December 2001 report: Promises to Keep: Implementing Canada’s Human Rights Obligations.

Workshop on Strengthening of Civil Society Participation in International Processes, San Salvador, May 2, 2002

Sharon O’Regan, Deputy Director, represented FOCAL at this event. The discussions centred on the design of an alternative governance model whereupon NGO networks would take the first step in analyzing and assessing their practices in the Greater Caribbean. The following were suggested areas of study: examine and evaluate the integration processes which they have been involved in; identify the different actors towards whom these agendas will be directed; delineate a proactive agenda based on specific issues and policies as well as identify the channels required to formulate this agenda; and, develop strategies for dialogue and/or confrontation. The event was sponsored by CRIES (Coordinadora Regional de Investigaciones Económicas y Sociales) and OXFAM-UK and the local coordinators were from the NGO FUNSALPRODESE.

FOCAL Attends Roundtable Discussion the “Summit of the Americas: One Year Later”, April 15, 2002

Donald Mackay, Executive Director of FOCAL, John Graham, Chair of FOCAL’s Board of Directors, and Laurie Cole, Policy Analyst attended the “Summit of the Americas: One Year Later” roundtable discussion with non-governmental experts, hosted by the Department of Foreign Affairs and International Trade.

This gathering marked the first anniversary of the Quebec City Summit of the Americas, providing government policy makers and civil society organizations the chance to review the progress Canada has made in the implementation of Summit initiatives since Quebec City. Afternoon workshop discussions focusing on the areas of Good Governance and Security, Ensuring Social Inclusion in the Americas and Corporate Social Responsibility and Corruption provided participants the opportunity to highlight advancements made to date, as well as to define strategies for future engagement in key areas.

Representatives from over 40 civil society organizations and delegates from relevant government departments actively participated in the discussions, including the Minister of Foreign Affairs, Mr. Bill Graham, Minister for International Trade, Mr. Pierre Pettigrew, and the Minister for International Cooperation, Ms. Susan Whelan. Workshop participants and all Canadian Ambassadors and High Commissioners from the hemisphere attended an evening reception hosted by DFAIT.

“Strengthening Participation of Civil Society in International Processes”, San Salvador, April 29 & 30, 2002

This workshop brought together representatives of the civil society organizations of both Central America and the Caribbean. The event was sponsored by OXFAM and organized by NGOs from the region, CRIES, Funsal/Prodese. The objectives of the workshop were to review the tendencies and processes of regional and subregional integration from the perspective of the civil society movements in the hemispheric globalization process. The agenda items were based on the analysis of the promotion of specific NGO interests and the ability to deal with institutions effectively allowing for their voice to be heard in government. Mechanisms such as information and communication strategies were analyzed in order to develop a greater capacity to pursue the civil society agenda in the international fora. Sharon O’Regan participated in the workshop representing FOCAL.

At the Organization of American States (OAS), Washington, D.C., March 22, 2002

Nobina Robinson, Manager, International Program Development and Laurie Cole, FOCAL Policy Analyst, attended two formal meetings at the Organization of American States (OAS) in Washington, D.C. FOCAL has been an accredited civil society organization to the OAS since 1999 and regularly attends open meetings of OAS Committees, as well as the annual General Assembly of the OAS.
At the first meeting, the Special Session of the OAS Committee on Civil Society Participation with Registered Civil Society Organizations, FOCAL made suggestions about improving civil society access to OAS meetings, decisions and documents.

FOCAL used the occasion of an open meeting of the OAS Special Committee on Inter-American Summits Management (Chaired by Paul Durand, Canadian Ambassador to the OAS, and an ex-officio member of FOCAL's Board) to address the issue of civil society involvement in the Summit of the Americas process. Ms. Robinson put forth recommendations for improved and strengthened civil society participation in implementing Summit mandates, emphasizing the need for governments and international agencies to make public their reports on Summit implementation. FOCAL held fruitful discussions with government and OAS officials and with our civil society partners from across the hemisphere that attended these meetings.

FOCAL Participates in a Round-table Discussion on Cuba’s Dual Economy and Convertibility Issues, March 18–19, 2002

Don Mackay, Executive Director and Cristina Warren, Director, Research Forum on Cuba participated in this event entitled “Cuba’s Dual Economy: Experiences from Countries Confronting the Issues of Convertibility and Dollarization”, in Ottawa. The event, which was organized by the Department of Foreign Affairs and International Trade (DFAIT), brought together a variety of experts on currency regimes and dual economies, including academics, Canadian government officials and representatives of non-governmental organizations and the private sector. The event shed light on Cuba’s recent experiences with dollarization and examined a number of convertibility issues through a comparative analysis of a diverse selection of countries including Vietnam, China, Argentina, Ecuador and Zambia.

DFAIT–NGO Human Rights Consultations 2002, February 27, 2002

This small roundtable was an opportunity for NGOs to come together and listen to the government’s position on human rights violations in Mexico, Guatemala and Haiti. Claudia Paguaga attended on behalf of FOCAL.

The overall consensus among the NGOs represented was that the Canadian government needs to do more about human rights violations in Latin America, particularly in the countries that were discussed. The government’s response to this was that human rights violations are a big concern for Canada and thus will not disregard the situation in these countries and the rest of the region for that matter.

FOCAL at the 18th Annual Conference of the Birkbeck Centre for Canadian Studies at the University of London (UK), February 22–23, 2002

Sharon O’Regan, Deputy Director, represented FOCAL as Keynote Speaker at the 18th Annual Conference of the Birkbeck Centre for Canadian Studies at the University of London (UK). The topic for the Conference was “Deepening Integration In The Americas.” Ms. O’Regan delivered a lecture that explored the process of second-generation democracy and human rights structures and the transformation in human rights and democratic development in Latin America over the past decade. The Canadian High Commission (London, UK), the Délégation générale du Québec à Londres (UK) and FOCAL sponsored the event.

FOCAL Attends a Seminar on Caribbean and Canadian NGO Perspectives on the FTAA, February 22–23, 2002

Policy Analyst José Zaragoza attended this two day event organized by Alternatives, a Montreal-based NGO that fosters debate to create a more sustainable and equitable world. Taking place in Ottawa, the purpose of this event was to strengthen and stimulate NGO participation in the debate of economic integration. During the seminar, Norman Girvan, Secretary General of the Association of Caribbean States (ACS), made a presentation in which he exposed the realities of smaller economies in the Caribbean region and invited the audience to ensure that hemispheric integration is economically equitable and socially just.

Preparatory Meeting for the Health and Environment Ministers of the Americas Conference (HEMA), February 20, 2002

Representing FOCAL, Donald Mackay and José Zaragoza met with other NGOs in preparations for the Conference of Environment and Health Ministers of the Americas, which was held in Ottawa on March 4–5, 2002. The Honourable David Anderson, Minister of the Environment, and Dr. Jeannot Castonguay, elected deputy of the Standing Committee on Health, were also present at this meeting. They acted as observers and listened to what Canadian civil society representatives had to say about interrelated health and environment issues.

Most environmental NGOs were pleased with the quality of research papers presented by the Canadian government. Participating NGOs raised their concerns
and were interested in knowing how the following issues could be added to the current HEMA Agenda: impacts of trade (FTAA) on the environment and health, health conditions of children and urban pollution, access and quality of water as a basic human right.

**Migration, Regional Development and Potential Revenues of Remittances, Guadalajara, Mexico, February 14–15, 2002**

This Regional Conference (**Migración, Desarrollo Regional y Potencial Productivo de las Remesas**, by its title in Spanish) was organized by the Mexican National Migration Institute together with the **Secretaría de Relaciones Exteriores** and the **Secretaría de Gobernación**. Claudia Paguaga represented FOCAL at this event, which included a range of experts in the field of remittances. The two-day event predominantly focused on the migratory experience in Mexico; the cases of El Salvador, Guatemala and Greece were also examined.

Among the participants were Felipe Preciado, Commissioner of the National Migration Institute, Rodolfo Tuírán, Secretary General of the National Council on Population, Francisco Alba from El Colegio de Mexico, Fernando Lozano from the UNAM (Universidad Nacional Autónoma de Mexico), Pablo Serrano (Economic Commission for Latin America and the Caribbean ECLAC – Chile), Rómulo Caballeros (Guatemalan Ambassador in Mexico), Günter Mussig (International Organization for Migration – Guatemala) and Nicholas Glytsos (Centre for Planning and Economic Research – Athens), among others.

**FOCAL at the Sub-Committee on International Trade, Trade Disputes and Investment of the Standing Committee on Foreign Affairs and International Trade (SCFAIT), February 7, 2002**

The Sub-Committee on International Trade, Trade Disputes and Investment of the Standing Committee on Foreign Affairs and International Trade (SCFAIT) invited FOCAL to appear before it to provide information and to answer questions as the Sub-Committee continues its examination of the Doha Round of WTO negotiations and the negotiation of a Free Trade Area of the Americas (FTAA). FOCAL’s Executive Director, Don Mackay appeared on behalf of the organization and urged that members focus their attention on the congruence of issues and processes between the WTO and FTAA negotiations. Some observers may conclude that with the successful launch of the Doha Round the need for a hemispheric wide agreement has somehow dissipated. FOCAL does not subscribe to this view and believes that all of the countries of the Hemisphere would benefit from an FTAA. Mr. Mackay also noted that the successful conclusion of an FTAA would hinge in large measure on the ability of the United States and Brazil to approach the negotiations constructively. A successful FTAA would require concessions by both economic powerhouses in many areas of economic and political sensitivity — but both parties could still accomplish this given sufficient political will.

**Meeting of the Consultative Group on Guatemala, February 5, 2002**

Claudia Paguaga represented FOCAL at this meeting organized by Rights & Democracy in conjunction with the International Development Research Centre (IDRC). Participants included representatives from the Department of Foreign Affairs and International Trade and the Canadian International Development Agency as well as from officials from Amnesty International, United Steel Workers, Guatemala Solidarity Network, the Asociación de Investigación y Estudios Sociales (ASIES) and the Canadian Council for International Cooperation (CCIC) among others.

The overall objective of the event was to discuss the current state of the implementation of the Peace Accord in Guatemala. The presentation by Ms. Raquel Zelaya was particularly of interest because she brought a local perspective to the discussion. Ms. Zelaya is a member of the Comisión de la Paz (COPAZ), coordinator of the Comisión de Acompañamiento de los Acuerdos de Paz and is involved with the Secretaría de la Paz of the Presidency. The overall conclusion was that the implementation of the Peace Accords needs to continue.
FOCAL’s 2001–2002 interns successfully completed their internships last March. Of the thirteen interns that took part in the program, eleven are currently employed either by their host organizations in Washington or other ones in Canada. For this group the internship experience has been a real stepping-stone for their career. The other two interns are planning to go back to school in the fall. For them, the internship helped to focus their career goals. From all the staff at FOCAL, we wish all of them the best of luck and success in their future undertakings.

FOCAL has been selected for a fourth year to be an implementing organization of the Youth International Internship Program 2002–2003 (YIIP) of the Department of Foreign Affairs and International Trade (DFAIT). This year marks a change in focus for the Program. While in past years, almost all interns were placed in Washington, D.C., this year almost half of them will be going to Latin American countries. Host Organisations include: the Organisation of American States (OAS) in Washington; the United Nations’ Economic Commission for Latin America and the Caribbean (ECLAC) in Washington and Santiago, Chile; the Pan-American Health Organisation (PAHO) in Washington; the Inter-American Children’s Institute (IIN) in Montevideo, Uruguay; and the Inter-American Human Rights Institute (IIDH) in San José, Costa Rica.

After reviewing more than 100 applications this year, the final selection has been made; thus concluding the recruitment period for the 2002–2003 Program.

Further information about the program can be found on FOCAL’s web site, www.focal.ca or contact our Internships Coordinator (see Staff section).

FOCAL regularly produces policy papers and information backgrounderers dealing with hemispheric issues. All FOCAL publications are available on our web site: www.focal.ca

FOCAL also early this year, under its Research Forum on Cuba, launched a monthly chronology of top news items (and related web links) on Cuba called Chronicle on Cuba. The news items are grouped by key themes, including: Cuban domestic affairs, the economy, the exile community, foreign affairs, security, terrorism and U.S.–Cuba relations. Current and previous issues can be viewed at www.cubasource.org and interested readers may subscribe at the above web site to be notified periodically of relevant news on our Cuba program.

FOCAL publications in the first half of 2002 include:

Challenges Confronting the Free Trade Area of the Americas  
Author: Donald R. Mackay  
FPP-02-7  

The Future of the Caribbean Economy  
Author: Jose Zaragoza  
FPP-02-6  

Brazil and Canada: What is to be done?  
Author: Edgard J. Dosman & Kenneth N. Frankel  
FPP-02-5  
ISBN: 1-896301-77-0

Hemispheric Security After the Towers Went Down  
Author: Hal Klepak  
FPP-02-4  

Canada and Mexico: Searching for Common Ground on the North American Continent  
Author: Stacey Wilson-Forsberg  
FPP-02-3  
ISBN: 1-896301-75-4

Enrique Bolaños Geyer: A Step Towards Consolidating Democracy in Nicaragua  
Author: Claudia Paguaga  
FPP-02-2  

Venezuela: The Chávez Government in 2002  
Author: Donald R. Mackay  
FPP-02-1  

Cuba’s Economic Performance and the Challenges Ahead  
Author: Prof. Archibald R.M. Ritter  
RFC-02-1  

Forthcoming Publications

In the coming months, look for FOCAL Policy Papers on the political and economic crisis in Argentina, an analysis of human security issues in the region, the Inter-American Democratic Charter, judicial reform and a Research Forum on Cuba background briefing on Cuba-Caribbean relations. Other plans for future publications include the FTAA, Brazil and Mexico in a North America context among others.
Board of Directors

Board of Directors’ Meeting, June 2002

In June 2002, the Board of Directors of the Canadian Foundation for the Americas (FOCAL) held its bi-annual meeting in Ottawa. Elected officers of the Board were Dr. Beatrice E. Rangel, Senior Advisor to the Chairman, from the Cisneros Television Group, Cisneros Group of Companies, as well as Mr. Kenneth N. Frankel, Partner, Torys law firm. Retiring from the Board are Meriel Bradford and Richard Gorham after a long service to the organization. Mr. Gorham, a former Canadian diplomat, was instrumental in the founding of FOCAL. The Board also expressed its sincere appreciation to Ms. Nobina Robinson who resigned as Executive Director of FOCAL in January 2002. In addition to corporate governance issues, the Board engaged in a discussion of developments in the Latin America and Caribbean regions and concluded that Canada needs to remain fully engaged in the region with a special emphasis being placed on the implementation of the Quebec City Summit Plan of Action. John Graham, former Canadian Ambassador to Venezuela continues to serve as Chair of the Board and is assisted by the Vice-Chair, Maureen Appel-Molot, Director of the Norman Paterson School of International Affairs at Carleton University.

FOCAL Board of Directors 2002-2003

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John W. Graham
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Consultant

Maureen Appel-Molot
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Cisneros Group of Companies

Kenneth N. Frankel
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Directors

The Hon. Mitchell Sharp, P.C., O.C.
Personal Advisor to the Prime Minister,
Office of the Prime Minister

How to Contact Us

To receive information about upcoming events and publications, send your full name and address to database@focal.ca or e-mail us at focal@focal.ca

FOCAL’s Calendar of Hemispheric Events is one of the many resources to be found at the FOCAL web site www.focal.ca. The site is regularly updated with information on important hemispheric issue and FOCAL events.
FOCAL Staff

Comings and Goings

**Nobina Robinson**, Manager International Program Development, and former Executive Director, is no longer with us. FOCAL wishes to recognize Mrs. Robinson’s valuable contributions to solidifying and expanding the work of FOCAL in her different capacities since she joined FOCAL in 1998. She advanced FOCAL’s mission of promoting a better and wider understanding of hemispheric issues in Canada and abroad and helped solidify FOCAL’s networks and position as a relevant policy centre. We wish her success in her future endeavours.

We welcome **Paul Haslam** and **Laurie Cole** who joined our team early this year as policy analysts. Paul will cover issues related to the Southern Cone, particularly Argentina and Chile, while Laurie would be dealing with summit-related and multilateral topics.

**FOCAL Staff as of June 2002**

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About FOCAL

The Canadian Foundation for the Americas (FOCAL) is an independent policy centre based in Ottawa that works to develop greater understanding of important issues in the Americas, and promotes hemispheric cooperation and integration.

We focus our policy analysis on five program areas: Poverty and Inequality; Economic Development and Trade Integration; Governance and Democratic Development; Inter-American Relations, North America Integration. The FOCAL’s Research Forum on Cuba is a special program that fosters informed discussion on the immediate and long-term issues facing Cuba and Canadian policy towards the island. More information on this program and its activities, as well as annotated links to useful web sites on Cuba and its international relations, are found on the Research Forum on Cuba’s web site (www.cubasource.org).

Founded in 1990, FOCAL is a not-for-profit organization and a registered charity. Our main sources of funding include the Department of Foreign Affairs and International Trade (DFAIT), the Canadian International Development Agency (CIDA) and other public and private sector organizations, including the Canadian Centre for Foreign Policy Development (CCFPD), the International Development Research Centre (IDRC), the Ford Foundation, and the Organization of American States (OAS).