

Leadership
Council for



SUMMITRY

The Leadership Council for Inter-American Summitry

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March 29, 1999

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on Civil Society Participation
C/O Tripartite Committee (Ref. Civil Society)
United Nations Economic Commission for
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Dear Ambassador McCallion:

In response to your "Open Invitation to Civil Society in FTAA Participating Countries," we are pleased to present to the Committee of Government Representatives on Civil Society Participation the Second Policy Report of the Leadership Council for Inter-American Summitry, *Mastering Summitry: An Evaluation of the Santiago Summit of the Americas and Its Aftermath*, which was released this month at a presentation in Washington hosted by Secretary General César Gaviria at the Organization of American States.

As you may know, the Leadership Council is an independent initiative of eminent citizens from across the hemisphere who share the belief that Summits, and especially the FTAA centerpiece, can make a difference in the lives of the peoples of the Americas. We trust that this timely report will be useful to the relevant committees and negotiating groups as you prepare for the November 1999 FTAA Trade Ministerial in Toronto, and as the hemisphere prepares for the Summit of the Americas III in Canada.

Pursuant to your guidelines on submissions, the Leadership Council's perspectives and recommendations on trade matters referring to the FTAA process are contained throughout the report and are concisely summarized both in the two-page Executive Summary, and in Part IV, "Recommendations for More Effective Summitry."

The Leadership Council wishes to express its gratitude for the support of the Ford Foundation



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We would very much welcome the Committee's and the Ministers' comments and reactions to *Mastering Summitry*. In the spirit of partnership that characterizes the Summit process, the Leadership Council looks forward to working together with the relevant bodies in the FTAA process to realize the promise of summitry in the Americas.

Sincerely,

Richard E. Feinberg
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*The Leadership Council for
Inter-American Summitry*

**MASTERING SUMMITRY:
AN EVALUATION OF THE SANTIAGO
SUMMIT OF THE AMERICAS
AND ITS AFTERMATH**

Policy Report II

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San Diego

MASTERING SUMMITRY: AN EVALUATION OF THE SANTIAGO SUMMIT OF THE AMERICAS AND ITS AFTERMATH

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

This second Report of the Leadership Council for Inter-American Summitry is intended to serve three purposes. First, it provides a critical account of what transpired at the Santiago Summit in April 1998 and compares and contrasts official actions with the recommendations made by the Leadership Council in its own pre-Summit Report. Second, it chronicles the actions taken — and not taken — since Santiago to follow up on Summit initiatives. Third, the Leadership Council offers recommendations for the improvement of summitry in the Americas.

The Santiago Summit: An Evaluation

The first Leadership Council Report, *From Talk to Action*, offered a series of substantive and process recommendations for adoption at the Second Summit of the Americas. Of the eight substantive recommendations, the Santiago Summit followed two substantially (poverty and education); three partially (civil society, free trade, and institutional strengthening); and three weakly (corruption, environment, and finance). Of the process recommendations, the leaders at Santiago accepted two substantially (appointment of senior government coordinators and summit institutionalization); four partially (resources, functional networks, civil society participation, and monitoring responsibilities); and one weakly (targets and timetables). All in all, real progress was achieved in many respects; however, disappointments were also significant.

Reverses and Advances Since Santiago

In the months since Santiago, there has been a notable, perhaps inevitable decline in senior-level

focus on summitry in the Americas. Notwithstanding this generalized dip in energy, activity is proceeding. Among functional ministries, follow-up meetings are taking place throughout the hemisphere. In Washington, the outlines of a fortified implementation architecture are beginning to take shape. Some of the more noteworthy post-Santiago developments in summitry include:

Trade: Santiago officially launched negotiations toward the Free Trade Area of the Americas (FTAA). Nine negotiating groups held their first round of meetings in Miami in September 1998 to kick off what will be on-going meetings preparatory to the October 1999 ministerial in Canada.

Finance: The ministers of finance have not seen fit to accelerate the date for their next meeting, scheduled for Mexico in mid-1999. Vice ministers, however, have been meeting twice annually, and have built a "club" of officials whose personal ties facilitate the handling of crises as they arise.

Corruption: There is little evidence of implementation of the Inter-American Convention Against Corruption. However, the Organization of American States (OAS) and the Inter-American Development Bank (IDB) have begun to hold workshops to encourage ratification by more governments. Transparency International is planning to erect a monitoring system to track implementation of the Convention.

Education: Education was a centerpiece in Santiago; the World Bank, IDB, and USAID pledged more than \$8 billion over three years. Some of these projects are proceeding; however, so far the effort to transform the generalities of the Santiago *Plan of Action* into a concrete work plan have not prospered.

Human Rights: The Inter-American Human Rights Commission named its first Special Rapporteur on Freedom of Expression. USAID funded the new position.

Women's Rights: The IDB and U.S. government sponsored a well-attended "Vital Voices" conference in Montevideo, and the First Ladies of the Americas held a successful annual conference in Santiago.

Health Technologies: Health ministers advanced two Summit initiatives: the use of vaccines and the strengthening of epidemiological surveillance systems.

Administrative Infrastructure: The OAS created the Office of Summit Follow-Up to serve as the institutional memory for inter-American summitry and to provide technical support to the Summit Implementation Review Group (SIRG).

Recommendations for More Effective Summitry

The Santiago Summit built on the lessons of the Miami process, but there is still a long way to go before summitry in the Americas fulfills its promise. In this spirit of continual summitry, the Leadership Council offers these recommendations:

1. The vision of the Free Trade Area of the Americas should be pursued even if the 1999 World Trade Organization (WTO) Ministerial charts an agenda that might accomplish some of the FTAA's economic objectives. In preparing the third Summit, Canada should take the lead in building a hemispheric consensus for a "democracy clause" that would circumscribe participation in the FTAA to democratically elected governments.
2. A ministerial-level Inter-American Financial Council should be formed to improve regional economic cooperation. The Financial Council would have more structure and influence than the current occasional meetings of regional finance ministers.
3. To spur ratification of the Inter-American Convention Against Corruption, the OAS should set target dates for ratification and entry into force. A new OAS mechanism should transform the Convention into a work plan, set priority goals, and issue an annual progress report.
4. The ministers of education should establish a series of issue-specific working groups that set concrete goals and that establish and publish useful monitoring guidelines with comparative data on each country's progress.
5. Canada should reassert the importance of the involvement of the private sector and civil society in summitry. Canada can set an example by involving its own civil society in preparations for the third Summit of the Americas.
6. The OAS's promising new Office of Summit Follow-Up should direct its network of staff experts to identify points of contact within national ministries, to complete standardized reports, and to publish them as a way to spur progress toward Summit goals.
7. The Troika (Canada, Chile, and the United States) and the OAS's Office of Summit Follow-Up should form a Summit Coordinating Committee (SCC) to coordinate overall Summit implementation. It might be appropriate for the World Bank and IDB to join the SCC, thereby bringing the key official actors together under a single umbrella.
8. Summit administrators should devise mechanisms to combat issue compartmentalization.
9. Canada should set a date for the Third Summit of the Americas without delay. A visible end-date prompts bureaucracies to fulfill mandates. The proposed SCC should develop a list of summit-approved items that can be completed by the third summit. Such an "early harvest" could include concrete progress toward the FTAA, agreement on a multilateral evaluation mechanism for counternarcotics efforts, entry into force of the Convention Against Corruption, agreement on the design and financial plan for a judicial studies center, and establishment of monitoring systems on key goals mandated on education and health.