



REPORT ON THE FOURTH SUMMIT OF THE AMERICAS

**November 4-5, 2005
Mar del Plata – Argentina**

**Summits of the Americas Secretariat
Organization of American States**

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CONTENTS

Prologue	ii
Preparatory Meetings	3
Official Program	8
Inaugural Ceremony	9
Speech of the President of the Inter-American Development Bank, Luis Alberto Moreno	9
Speech of the Secretary General of the Organization of American States, José Miguel Insulza	11
Speech of the Prime Minister of Canada, the Honorable Paul Martin	14
Speech of the President of the Republic of Argentina, His Excellency Néstor Kirchner	16
Plenary Sessions	22
Conclusions	23
Annexes	25
Official Documents of the Fourth Summit of the Americas	
Declaration of Mar del Plata	25
Plan of Action of Mar del Plata	39
Communiqués	49
Official Delegations	52

PROLOGUE

The purpose of this report, prepared by the Summits of the Americas Secretariat of the Organization of American States, is to provide a summary of the Fourth Summit of the Americas, and to depict the spirit of commitment and cooperation that gathered the participating countries. This report will become part of the institutional memory of the Summits Process, and will serve as a reference for future Summits.

The holding of the Fourth Summit of the Americas in Mar del Plata, Argentina, in November of 2005, reflects the importance of the Summit Process, initiated eleven years ago with the First Summit of the Americas held in Miami, Florida, in 1994 followed by the Second Summit of the Americas held in 1998 in Santiago, Chile, and the Third Summit of the Americas held in Québec, Canada in 2001. Also noteworthy are the two Special Summits which took place as part of the same Process: the Summit on Sustainable Development in Santa Cruz, Bolivia, in 1996, and the Special Summit in Monterrey, Mexico, in 2004.

The Summit Process offers a unique opportunity for the 34 Heads of State and Government of the Member States of the Organization of American States to share the same forum and exchange ideas and opinions on the region's political, economic and social situation, with the purpose of seeking common solutions to the problems identified and to jointly confront the challenges faced in the Hemisphere.

In addition, this Process receives institutional support from the member institutions of the Joint Summit Working Group, as well as the active participation of different sectors of society, such as the academia, the private sector, civil society, parliamentarians, and others playing a significant role in the follow-up and implementation of the Summits mandates.

This report includes the official documents of the Summit, and the speeches given during the inaugural ceremony. It also includes brief summaries of the sessions held with different sectors of society within the framework of the Fourth Summit of the Americas.

PREPARATORY MEETINGS

Two SIRG meetings were held prior to the Fourth Summit of the Americas.

XLII SIRG Meeting:

This meeting was held on October 28, at the Palacio San Martín in Buenos Aires, and on October 31, at the Costa Galana Hotel in Mar del Plata. During the meeting, the National Summit Coordinators continued the negotiation process of the Draft Declaration of Mar del Plata and the Draft Plan of Action. The discussions related to this negotiation took place simultaneously in a plenary session and in a working group that proposed specific paragraphs assigned to them by the plenary session. In addition, the working group significantly advanced in the negotiation of the Plan of Action of Mar del Plata.

XLIII SIRG Meeting at the Plenipotentiary Level

This meeting was held on November 1-3 at the Costa Galana Hotel in Mar del Plata, and was chaired by Ambassador Roberto García Moritán. The plenipotentiary delegates reached important consensuses with respect to the Declaration and Plan of Action of Mar del Plata. During the meeting, the delegates agreed upon a set of communiqués from the Member States. At the end of the meeting, some topics remained pending, to be resolved by consultations among the States.

Dialogue Sessions of the Ministers of Foreign Affairs with Different Sectors of Civil Society:

These sessions were held on November 3, 2005, with the following agenda:

- Meeting of the Ministers of Foreign Affairs with civil society representatives
- Meeting of the Ministers of Foreign Affairs with the private sector
- Meeting of the Ministers of Foreign Affairs with workers and employers
- Meeting of the Ministers of Foreign Affairs with indigenous peoples
- Meeting of the Ministers of Foreign Affairs with parliamentarians and non-executive officials

Meeting of the Ministers of Foreign Affairs with Civil Society Representatives

Within the framework of the Fourth Summit of the Americas, the Office of the General Coordinator of the Forum for the Participation of Civil Society and the Summits of the Americas Secretariat of the OAS held a series of dialogue sessions with representatives of the different sectors, the Ministers of Foreign Affairs of the Americas, and the Heads of Delegation of the 34 OAS Member States, who underscored the importance of involving civil society, the private sector, the academia, youth, indigenous peoples, Afro-descendant communities, as well as the business and workers communities, in the discussions of the Summit of the Americas. These discussions focused on mechanisms to create jobs, fight poverty, and strengthen democratic governance in the region. The exchanges took place in Mar del Plata, Argentina, on November 3, 2005, and were chaired by the Minister of Foreign Affairs of Argentina, Rafael Bielsa, the OAS Secretary General, José Miguel Insulza, and the Secretary of Foreign Affairs of Argentina, Ambassador Jorge Taiana.

The main purpose of this meeting was to provide recommendations and foster discussion around the central theme of the Fourth Summit of the Americas, the Draft Declaration and the Plan of

Action of Mar del Plata. This exchange of ideas strengthened the leaders' deliberations and was useful in the adoption of policies and the launching of initiatives. The ministers and other delegates present in the meeting acknowledged the importance of fostering coordination of the work of governmental institutions and civil society.

More than 200 civil society representatives participated in the meeting and over 20 civil society representatives addressed the Ministers of Foreign Affairs of the Americas, presenting several proposals related to the theme of the Summit, as well as the Draft Declaration and Plan of Action to create jobs, fight poverty and strengthen democracy in the region. The points of view gathered in the dialogue were an essential tool for the development of new policies in the topics of job creation, democracy, human rights, and other priority areas of the Summit. The conclusions that arose from this meeting between civil society and governments provided a better understanding of regional challenges, and served as a basis to confront the problems of concern for all sectors.

In their remarks, the civil society representatives presented the conclusions of the different meetings organized to provide inputs for the documents of the Fourth Summit. The conclusions of, *inter alia*, the Gender Forum of the Americas, the Inter-American Forum of Afro-descendants, the Forum of Young Entrepreneurs, the Latin-American forum "Labor and Fair Trade for a Full Democracy and Social Justice," and the Inter-American Forum of Science and Technology, were useful to increase understanding of the challenges and realities faced for each topic addressed, and to approach, in a broader fashion, the current problems of the region.

Meeting of the Ministers of Foreign Affairs with the Private Sector

The meeting with the private sector was an important component of the Summit Process, given the role of the private sector in the creation of employment. This dialogue also provided continuity to the consultative process initiated with this sector in the Special Summit of the Americas held in January, 2004.

The meeting was chaired by Mr. Alfredo Charadia, Undersecretary for Economic Affairs of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, International Trade and Worship of the Republic of Argentina, and constituted an opportunity for the exchange of ideas between businessmen and government representatives on the theme of the Fourth Summit, "Creating Jobs to Fight Poverty and Strengthen Democratic Governance."

The purpose of the meeting was to foster private sector support for the initiatives of this Summit, to promote the establishment of a consultative mechanism with the private sector, and to highlight its role in the achievement of the Summit's goals. The topics for debate centered on the need to join efforts to increase competitiveness and productivity through education and technology, promote good governance and transparency, and develop innovative strategies to create employment.

In his remarks during the meeting, the OAS Secretary General, José Miguel Insulza, highlighted the need for a dynamic and productive private sector that is supportive of the rule of law, promotes democratic governance and transparency in all levels of government, and fights corruption. The Ministers and plenipotentiary representatives reiterated their invitation to the private sector to work with the OAS in order to achieve the proposed goals of growth and prosperity. They also acknowledged that the reduction of poverty in the long term cannot be obtained without the jobs, trade, and investment generated by the private sector.

Meeting of the Ministers of Foreign Affairs with Workers and Employers

This meeting was attended by representatives of the Trade Union Technical Advisory Council (COSATE) and the Permanent Executive Committee of the Business Technical Advisory Committee on Labor Matters (CEATAL), which are the technical advisory organs of the Inter-American Conference of Ministers of Labor. Mr. Carlos Alfonso Tomada, Minister of Labor, Employment and Social Security of the Republic of Argentina, chaired the session.

This hemispheric dialogue among governments, workers, and employers constituted an important opportunity to gather recommendations on the base documents of the Fourth Summit. Mr. Salvador Medina Torres, Chair of COSATE, and Mr. Daniel Funes de Rioja, Chair of CEATAL, were the spokespersons and presented the conclusions of the Workshop on “Innovation and Decent Work,” held in March 2005, in Buenos Aires, Argentina, and the “Joint CEATAL-COSATE Declaration” proposed at the XIV Inter-American Conference of Ministers of Labor of the OAS, held in September 2005 in Mexico City. On the other hand, COSATE representatives presented the “Labor Platform of the Americas.”

The participants in this dialogue discussed central topics such as the ILO's proposal on decent work, the challenges of competitiveness and productivity in the context of globalization and technological innovation, the importance of social dialogue, and corporate social responsibility. The representatives of COSATE and CEATAL called for the creation of opportunities for dialogue between governments, social interlocutors, and financial institutions at a high level, in order to address the employment situation and its impact on poverty levels. In addition, they underscored the unique and essential role played by employers and workers organizations in the definition of labor policies.

Meeting of the Ministers of Foreign Affairs with Indigenous Peoples

The meeting between the Ministers of Foreign Affairs and the representatives of indigenous peoples was held on November 3, 2005 in Mar del Plata, Argentina. It began with a brief traditional greeting ceremony of the indigenous peoples of the region. Dialogue was centered on the theme of the Fourth Summit and its relationship to the issues of concern for indigenous peoples, with respect to the guarantees of their rights and the improvement of their living conditions.

Ambassador Albert Ramdin, Assistant General Secretary of the OAS, chaired the session, and underscored the Organization's commitment to support the negotiation process towards an American Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples.

In the course of the meeting, representatives of the hemisphere's indigenous peoples presented the document issued by the Second Indigenous Peoples Summit, held in Buenos Aires on October 27-29, 2005. This meeting approved a Declaration that emphasizes the need “to establish the government-to-government relationship that impacts positively on the overall relationship between indigenous peoples and States.”

The holding of this dialogue reflects, not only the acknowledgement on the part of governments of the need to implement political reforms that involve the active participation of indigenous peoples, but also the success of the indigenous peoples' representatives in their efforts to make the fundamental issues that affect their lives known and highlighted. The Fourth Summit of the Americas recognized the importance of the work being carried out by the Organization towards the adoption of the American Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples. The meeting in

Mar del Plata was an important example of the governments' will to promote and protect the human rights of all citizens of the Americas.

Meeting of the Ministers of Foreign Affairs with Parliamentarians and non-Executive Public Officials

Participants of the meeting were parliamentarians and non-executive officials from the 34 OAS Member States and the Ministers of Foreign Affairs of the Hemisphere. This initiative was part of the efforts carried out since the Third Summit of the Americas to actively involve different sectors of society in the decisions adopted by the region's leaders, which are expressed in the Declarations and Plans of Action of the Summits. The Government of Argentina considered it of great importance to carry out this dialogue for the first time, as an acknowledgement of the important role of parliamentarians in the Summit Process.

The parliamentary representatives offered their views on the theme of the Fourth Summit, linking it to other topics of relevance for the countries. The recommendations presented served as an input for the process of negotiation of the official documents of the Summit.

Canadian Senator Céline Hervieux-Payette presented the recommendations of the Interparliamentary Forum of the Americas (FIPA) to the Summit of the Americas Process. She noted the necessity of recognizing the participation of parliamentarians in international negotiations, such as the Fourth Summit. From its creation in 2001, FIPA has gathered parliamentarians from the entire region to address some of the most important topics of the Summits, such as terrorism, the FTAA, fiscal reform, debt relief, and gender equity. The organization's objectives are to promote parliamentary participation in the inter-American system and to establish interparliamentary dialogue on topics of importance for the entire hemisphere.

II Essay Contest

The Summits of the Americas Secretariat of the OAS organized the II Essay Contest, to encourage youth to reflect on the region's challenges and develop concrete proposals to address them. Five university students from around the hemisphere were the winners of the contest, which focused on the central theme of the Fourth Summit: "Creating Jobs to Fight Poverty and Strengthen Democratic Governance." Sofía Donoso Knaut from the Universidad de Chile, Lesley-Ann Dixon from the University of the West Indies in Jamaica, Daniel Arturo Abreu Mejía from the Universidad Católica de Santo Domingo in Dominican Republic, Matthew Bird from the University of Chicago in the United States, and Xavier Flores Aguirre from the Universidad Católica de Santiago in Ecuador were the winning students.

More than 90 essays were received from 22 countries. The winners were awarded an invitation to attend the Fourth Summit of the Americas as observers and received recognition at the dialogue between the Ministers of Foreign Affairs and civil society representatives organized in the framework of the Fourth Summit of the Americas.

OTHER MEETINGS

The Style Committee met on Friday, November 4, 2005, to review the Fourth Summit documents and ensure concordance among the four languages. The members of this committee were the delegations of Argentina, Brazil, Canada, Colombia, and the United States, and received the support of the OAS Summits Secretariat.

The meeting of the heads of the member institutions of the Joint Summit Working Group also took place on November 4. Its purpose was to exchange ideas on the role and contributions of these organizations to the follow-up process of the Summits of the Americas. Participants representing the member institutions in this meeting, organized by the Summits Secretariat of the OAS, were the Secretary General of the OAS, José Miguel Insulza, the President of the IDB, Luis Alberto Moreno, the Director General of the ILO, Juan Somavia, the Director of PAHO, Mirta Roses, the President of the CAF, Enrique García, and the Director of IICA, Chelston Brathwaite, among other representatives of the member institutions.

OFFICIAL PROGRAM FOR THE FOURTH SUMMIT

Friday, November 4

16:30 - 17:15 INAUGURAL CEREMONY

Venue: Auditorium of Mar del Plata

16:30 - 16:55 SPEECHES

16:55 - 17:15 CULTURAL EVENT

Venue: Auditorium of Mar del Plata

18:00 - 20:00 FIRST PLENARY SESSION “CREATING DECENT JOBS”

Venue: Hermitage Hotel –Versalles room

Format: 1+4

21:00 - 21:00 RECEPTION IN HONOR OF THE ATTENDING DELEGATIONS

Lugar: Yacht Club Argentina

21:00 - 22:30 DINNER IN HONOR OF THE HEADS OF STATE AND GOVERNMENT

Venue: Casino Central

Saturday, November 5

09:00 - 10:30 SECOND PLENARY SESSION “CREATING JOBS TO FIGHT POVERTY”

Venue: Hermitage Hotel –Versalles room

Format: 1+4

10:30 - 10:45 BREAK

10:45 - 12:15 “THIRD PLENARY SESSION: “CREATING JOBS TO STRENGTHEN
DEMOCRATIC GOVERNANCE”

Venue: Hermitage Hotel –Versalles room

Format: 1+4

12:15 - 12:30 CLOSING CEREMONY AND ADOPTION OF THE DECLARATION OF MAR
DEL PLATA

Venue: Hermitage Hotel –Versalles room

Format: 1+4

INAUGURAL CEREMONY

Speech of the President of the Inter-American Development Bank, Luis Alberto Moreno

Nuestra región atraviesa un momento potencialmente transformativo de su historia. Las buenas condiciones externas y el acertado manejo económico han producido tres años de sólido crecimiento con baja inflación. Pero tres años son sólo un instante en el proceso gradual de acumulación que es el desarrollo. Para comenzar a hacer mella real sobre los amplios caudales de pobreza y desigualdad que agobian a nuestra región, debemos enfocarnos en sostener y acelerar la expansión económica, al tiempo que mejoramos la calidad de este crecimiento en aspectos cruciales como la equidad, la inclusión y la sostenibilidad ambiental.

La década pasada, a pesar de sus escasos logros en materia de alivio de la pobreza, nos deja dos legados importantes. El primero es que no hay recetas mágicas o atajos al desarrollo. De hecho, vencer la pobreza, la desigualdad, la corrupción, la exclusión y la desesperanza demandan un enfoque pragmático que combine, dentro del legítimo proceso democrático, “todas las formas de lucha”. El otro legado es una mejor institucionalidad macro y un gran acervo de experiencia en el manejo económico. Estos progresos, acumulados a costa de gran dificultad y sacrificio, son condiciones necesarias, aunque no suficientes, para el desarrollo sostenible y con equidad que todos anhelamos.

Ahora es el momento de concentrar nuestros esfuerzos más abajo, en las trincheras del desarrollo; la llamada “base de la pirámide”, donde está la gente y donde a través de millones de pequeñas decisiones y transacciones se fragua a diario el destino económico de nuestra región. En los próximos años, el BID dará prioridad a apoyar a sus países miembros en el diseño y aplicación de mecanismos eficaces para empoderar a esta base de pequeños empresarios, consumidores, propietarios y productores, para que se conviertan en motores de desarrollo. Éste se construye principalmente de abajo hacia arriba, a través de la mejora continua en las oportunidades de nuestros ciudadanos menos favorecidos y su surgimiento como actores de cambio. Como lo dijera Rawls, el éxito de una sociedad no se mide por la situación de sus habitantes más ricos, sino por la capacidad de sus ciudadanos más pobres de llevar una vida digna y poder realizar sus sueños.

El empleo, tema central de este foro, no sólo es el mecanismo por excelencia de movilidad social, sino que también constituye la columna vertebral de la gobernabilidad democrática y la cohesión social. Para los más pobres su capacidad de trabajo es el único activo del que disponen. Nuestra región necesita crear más y mejores empleos para quebrar los ciclos de pobreza e inestabilidad. Ello depende principalmente de generar entornos en los que se combinen adecuadas infraestructuras físicas, regulatorias y financieras que fomenten el desarrollo empresarial a todos los niveles—pues son en definitiva las empresas quienes generan el empleo productivo. Requerimos políticas públicas focalizadas que estimulen la formación de capital humano con base en buena nutrición, salud, educación, y capacitación continuada; y un marco institucional y legal estable, justo y transparente que permita a empresarios y trabajadores generar y acceder a empleos de calidad, protegidos por normas efectivamente aplicadas. Las líneas de acción en estos frentes abarcan múltiples dimensiones que confluyen en el quehacer diario de la política económica y social de nuestros países.

Voy a enfocarme brevemente en algunas que considero de gran prioridad. En momentos como el actual de expansión del comercio, tratados de integración y altos precios de la energía, la infraestructura resurge como factor determinante de la agenda de competitividad y generación de empleo en la región. Las mejoras en infraestructura no sólo potencian a grandes empresas y a pequeños empresarios, que ansían poder llevar sus productos a nuevos mercados, sino que también le reducen costos, le amplían opciones y le mejoran la calidad de vida a la gente. En este campo, las necesidades de la región son tan grandes—se estiman en más de 80 mil millones de dólares al año—que se requiere de formas creativas de movilizar recursos, como las alianzas público privadas, adaptadas al contexto local de capacidades institucionales y fiscales. El BID está comprometido con intensificar su labor en el área de la infraestructura y las alianzas público-privadas, pues está singularmente posicionado para servir de interfaz entre gobiernos y empresas, y para actuar eficazmente en proyectos trans-fronterizos.

Otro elemento clave en materia de productividad y generación de empleo es la democratización financiera. La falta de acceso a servicios financieros se ha convertido en un factor crucial de desigualdad en nuestras sociedades. La ampliación de la cobertura financiera, aparte de un estímulo importante al ahorro, el consumo y la inversión, es una herramienta clave de cohesión social, pues genera oportunidades para la gente. Sin embargo, siete de cada diez ciudadanos de la región no tiene una cuenta bancaria y miles de pequeños empresarios carecen de opciones de crédito. Esto dificulta la movilización del ahorro popular doméstico y la acumulación de activos que permita a las personas de escasos recursos mejorar sus niveles de bienestar. En este campo, el BID está trabajando sobre los compromisos adquiridos en Nuevo León, mediante el fomento al micro crédito, el apoyo a la canalización de remesas de emigrantes a través del sistema financiero hacia la financiación de vivienda y otros fines productivos, y el apoyo al desarrollo de productos financieros para la micro, pequeña y mediana empresa.

Al tiempo que adelantamos la mejora y democratización de la infraestructura física y financiera, hay que trabajar en la depuración de los ambientes regulatorios para facilitar la inversión, la creación de empresa y la generación de empleo. El BID está dispuesto a continuar apoyando con recursos financieros y cooperación técnica iniciativas tendientes a agilizar y reducir los costos de montaje y funcionamiento de las empresas, reforzar la seguridad jurídica, y fortalecer la protección de los derechos de propiedad y laborales, para liberar el capital, ingenio y capacidad de trabajo de todos nuestros ciudadanos. Al mismo tiempo que se estimula la demanda de trabajo, hay que ampliar y adecuar la oferta; es decir, capacitar a las personas para que puedan ellas mismas forjar su propio destino económico y personal. Para aumentar la productividad y opciones de estas personas, y combatir la desigualdad que generan las agudas diferencias en formación, se requiere de sistemas más amplios y eficaces con instituciones públicas y privadas de educación y capacitación durante todo el ciclo de vida, que velen por la compatibilidad entre habilidades existentes y las que exige el mercado. En este aspecto, por ejemplo, los programas de intermediación y certificación laboral, y de capacitación de jóvenes que está apoyando el BID, han demostrado ser instrumentos eficaces. Asimismo, los programas de transferencias condicionadas de efectivo son un ejemplo de políticas públicas que actúan en forma eficaz y focalizada para desarrollar capital humano y oportunidad desde la edad más temprana.

Para terminar, quiero hacer referencia a un tema de gran urgencia en la actualidad. Recientemente, nuestra región se ha visto azotada por desastres naturales que interrumpen la actividad productiva y afectan los ingresos de miles de personas. El Banco

se ha enfocado en desarrollar instrumentos que contribuyan a la prevención, mitigación y rehabilitación frente a estos acontecimientos. Pero estamos listos para trabajar con los países miembros, mano a mano y en forma estratégica, para fortalecer los sistemas nacionales y regionales de manejo de desastres, y otras amenazas trans-fronterizas como el SIDA y la fiebre aviar, que comprometen el progreso de nuestra región. Si trabajamos en forma coordinada, con énfasis en resultados concretos, en frentes como la actualización de la infraestructura y la integración regional, la democratización financiera, la mejora del clima de negocios, las alianzas público-privadas, el desarrollo de la micro, pequeña y mediana empresa, y la formación continua de capital humano, no sólo daremos una oportunidad histórica a nuestros conciudadanos más pobres y excluidos de ser partícipes activos en el desarrollo, sino que nos beneficiaremos todos de la potencialización de nuevos talentos, nuevas ideas y mayor diversidad. Solo fundamentando nuestro desarrollo en la liberación de las potencialidades propias, de ahorro, consumo, inversión y, sobre todo, de trabajo y espíritu emprendedor, podremos generar un círculo virtuoso de crecimiento inclusivo que conduzca a sociedades más cohesionadas y justas.

En los próximos dieciocho meses, nuestra región renovará su compromiso con la democracia a través de elecciones libres y competidas en más de una docena de países. Hoy, en esta importante cumbre, todos los miembros del sistema inter-americano renovamos también nuestro compromiso con la región, su desarrollo económico y social, y el proyecto conjunto de edificar un hemisferio justo, más próspero y unido en beneficio de todos sus habitantes.

Muchas gracias al Presidente Kirchner y al gobierno y pueblo Argentinos por abrirnos la puerta de su casa para la discusión y búsqueda de consensos en torno a la agenda regional, y por su cálida hospitalidad en esta Gran Patria Austral y en esta bella Ciudad de Mar del Plata.

Muchas gracias.

Speech by the Secretary General of the Organization of American States (OAS), José Miguel Insulza,

For over a decade the Summit of the Americas has been the foremost event in our Hemisphere. At the five Summits held over the years (Miami, Santiago, and Quebec City, in addition to Santa Cruz and Monterrey), you have adopted decisions that have affected life in the Americas and continue to do so. The Inter-American Democratic Charter, the launching of FTAA negotiations, the Inter-American Convention against Corruption, the Special Rapporteurship for Freedom of Expression, and the formation of the Inter-American Drug Abuse Control Commission are only a few of these achievements.

That is why we make lengthy preparations for these Summits and why they generate so many expectations. In recent months, and up until yesterday, we have spent many hours in discussions among our governments, agencies of the inter-American system, young people, women, original peoples, entrepreneurs, workers, nongovernmental organizations, legislators, and many other groups, in pursuit of agreements that would make this Summit the important event our peoples have a right to expect.

Although the task has been lengthy, your coordinators have succeeded in adopting very important conclusions, included in the text of the Declaration and Plan of Action. Many questions remain, however, on which the voice of our leaders could make a substantive difference. We are certain that you will take this opportunity to put forward the proposals and policies that will guide the affairs of our inter-American community in the coming three years.

This Summit is also being held at a crucial moment. 2004 was the region's best economic year in over two decades, and 2005 and 2006 also have favorable prospects, despite the problems caused by high oil prices. We have democratic governments throughout the Hemisphere and many countries, among them all those that have undergone crises of governance, are preparing to hold democratic elections in the coming months to elect their officials once again.

Still, we feel a palpable sense of uncertainty, which is natural after the crises we faced in the first years of the decade. From the people's point of view, there are two key questions: First, will we be able, this time, to maintain a pace of growth that will prevent our region from continuing to lose standing in the world economy, in the face of other developing regions that, in recent decades, have had much higher rates of growth? And, this time, will the benefits of our growth and our democracy actually benefit the more than 200 million poor, half of them destitute, living in our region today?

The theme chosen for this Summit, which our citizens have identified in numerous surveys as the primary problem of the region, is at the heart of these questions. According to the most recent figures, each year five million people join the labor market in Latin America and the Caribbean. This enormous number items from high birth rates in recent decades and from the growing and welcome incorporation of women into the workplace. If we already have over 20 million officially unemployed, just maintaining that figure represents an enormous effort. In addition, seven in 10 new jobs are in the informal sector, and many working people earn too little to support their families above the poverty line. Worse yet, the wage gap between unskilled and skilled workers has been increasing and the concentration of wealth in a small group of people is ever more obvious. Poverty and employment are inextricably linked, but in a much more complex way than we think. There are far more poor than unemployed. Our challenge includes the non-working poor as well as those who work for less than a living wage.

In order for this effort to be successful, certain essential conditions must be met. These are growth, macroeconomic balance, and open markets. We have made important strides with these policies, such as the rates of growth mentioned above, a substantial lowering of deficits and inflation, and the conclusion of a significant number of bilateral and regional trade agreements, including, most recently, the CAFTA-DR. Preserving these macro-policies is the basis for the specific policies you will adopt in terms of productivity, efficiency, encouragement of small and medium-sized enterprise, access to credit, education, and training, and many others that make up the essence of the Declaration and Plan of Action of Mar del Plata, to increase employment and lessen poverty and inequality.

Other public policies are also necessary to tackle the Hemisphere's social problems. Many of the changes of two decades ago were made for the sound purpose of creating more freedom in the marketplace and promoting private economic initiative. But distorted ideologies occasionally led to a retrenchment and disparagement of public

policy and of the role of the state and government in distributing wealth and providing essential social services to the majority of the people of the Americas.

In no way does recognizing the value of public policy signify succumbing to statist temptations that limit the capacity of enterprise and individuals to fully develop their ability to generate wealth. On the contrary, the creation of an economic and social climate conducive to investment and private enterprise through clear rules that eliminate fear, that open up markets, that cut back on bureaucracy as much as possible, and that afford private initiative the opportunity to achieve growth must be the unavoidable basis for our governments' public policy.

However, in any scenario we have to recognize that the largest number of jobs will always be created through private initiative in a stable environment. It is apparent as well that market forces alone have proven to be inadequate in generating a just distribution of wealth and in meeting the social needs of the poorest segments of the population in the areas of education, health, housing, and security. The time has come to recognize that fighting poverty and inequality also calls for clear, targeted public policies managed by governments endowed with resources and technical skills. The fundamental task for policy and politicians is to solve people's problems and not create new ones, as often happens in our countries. One of the most important challenges facing us is to considerably enhance good governance in the region. In recent years we have experienced serious problems regarding political stability and the quality of public administration.

If we are to improve public policy in the Hemisphere, we must first of all expand and strengthen freedom in the Americas. Overcoming unemployment and poverty presupposes freer societies, in which all people are fully able to speak out and participate, with more justice, transparency, greater freedom of expression and association, and full respect for gender equality, and with respect for the diversity of original peoples, compatriots of African descent, the most vulnerable groups, and the millions of migrants and displaced people. By the same token, we must ensure greater security in the face of natural disasters, AIDS and pandemics, drug trafficking and organized crime, the spread of gangs, and terrorism. Only then can we have the full support of our peoples for the objectives we have set for ourselves. In this regard we must make use of the basic instruments at our disposal.

The Inter-American Democratic Charter sets out our full commitment to forge a community of free nations, whose governments not only develop democratically but also govern with full respect for the rule of law, guaranteeing the human rights of all their citizens at all times. The Charter is not simply an agreement among governments; it is also a victory for our peoples and, as such, it must be adhered to unconditionally. In this context, all forms of diversity are always legitimate. We are very distinct nations, in terms of origin, size, wealth, and traditions. Let us share principles and policies but also recognize that there are different paths for achieving our objectives.

Distinguished Heads of State and Government:

Let us make this Summit a time for hope. Let us leave here convinced that we can live side by side, work, and move forward together. Let us see to it that the enormous efforts made by Argentina and its Government to so ably organize this meeting will bear fruit. Let us deal in a positive fashion with the considerable uncertainties besetting the peoples

of the Americas today by sending a message of unity and of commitment to their greatest problems.

The Organization of American States, together with the other institutions of the inter American system, will continue to work in the years ahead, under your direction, to implement the Summit agreements and is prepared to take on any responsibilities you may assign to it. Doubtless these will include follow-up to the process we are launching today to create decent jobs, reduce poverty, and strengthen good governance; as well as planning the activities of our system and of the next Summit of the Americas.

Speech of the Prime Minister of Canada, the Honorable Paul Martin

I am delighted to be here in beautiful Mar del Plata at the invitation of our friend President Nestor Kirchner. Nearly a decade ago our countries gathered in Miami to embrace a co-operative agenda for the Americas. In Quebec City, a little less than five years ago, we came together again and reached a ground-breaking consensus about democracy.

In Quebec City we agreed that only a democratic government – committed to equality, transparency, market principles and honest dealing – only a government like this, accountable to all of its people, could provide our citizens with the tools to foster long-term economic growth while distributing the benefits fairly.

Democracy is a work in progress. And we must work to ensure that all segments of our population can participate in the economic benefits that good governance can bring. We have made significant progress in achieving greater gender equality. But the goal of advancing the participation of women in every segment and every facet of civil society must be consciously and continually pursued. We recognize the unacceptable gap that persists between the very poor and the very rich. We must, all of us, developed and developing nations alike, ensure our public policy is responsive to the need to share our prosperity equitably.

In Canada, as in many countries, those hardest hit by poverty are our indigenous peoples, and we must do far more to address the reality of this deeply human challenge. This is why I applaud the results of the second Indigenous Peoples Summit here in Argentina, for they provide a rich menu of approaches to redress the poverty gap and integrate our indigenous peoples into the economic mainstream. Further, we, as leaders, have the responsibility to encourage and foster the growing relationship among indigenous peoples throughout the Americas. And as important as the separate summits are, I believe we need to foster an ongoing connection between the two. But perfecting democracy does not complete our task. We also need to strengthen our economies from within. That means not only investing in technology and education, but also in the rule of law.

There is a lot to do. But the work is essential, because the world within and beyond our borders is changing. Nations such as China and India have grown to become industrial powerhouses in the historical equivalent of a snap of the fingers. Their rates of growth have far outstripped our performance in the Americas for some time. We, at this summit, should embrace the challenge of generating the kind of growth that our competitors in other regions are showing – to the benefit of our producers and consumers.

The steps we are taking sub-regionally through Free Trade pacts in our various neighborhoods are improving our performance. But Free Trade on a hemispheric basis would enable us to leverage our collective size to compete globally and thereby generate jobs at home. A Free Trade Agreement of the Americas is not about making the hemisphere safe for capitalists. It is about providing opportunities for our workers, and better goods and services for our consumers, from the bottom rung of the income ladder to the top.

This is not a geopolitical agenda. It's a people's agenda. A democratic country with a stake in the global economy can grow; it can invest its wealth in essential social programs such as health and education, as well as in technology and innovation – unlocking the potential of its own people. Freer and fairer trade will lift more human beings out of poverty than all of the assistance programs in the world combined. We should make a commitment here to complete our negotiations for a Free Trade Area of the Americas: an agreement that would complement, not compete with, our ambitions for a successful completion of the Doha Round.

Fundamentally, we have to co-operate better and more urgently in the Americas. More and more, our mutual security, health and the quality of our environment depend on our willingness to work together. This is why the OAS is playing an important role in the supervision of free elections in Haiti, an effort distinguished by Brazil's leadership of the UN Stabilization Mission, as well as important contributions from many other countries in the hemisphere.

The need to co-operate more urgently is why representatives from many of our nations gathered last week in Ottawa, where Ministers of Health and senior officials from more than 30 countries met with technical experts and the leadership of multilateral organizations, to formulate a collective response to the threat of a global pandemic. None of us is immune to the threat of a virus derived from Avian Flu any more than we are from the threat of AIDS. We must work collectively to respond to this threat. Indeed, the Pan American Health Organisation can and must play a key role in this effort.

We have to work together. At the end of this month, the UN Conference on Climate Change will be held in Montreal, where representatives from our countries will gather to address an issue of critical importance to all of us. Working together, there, too, I hope, we can provide the kind of leadership urgently required to address global warming. Global warming is a fact. If the developed world is the primary cause of this, the fact is we all suffer together, and we've all got to be part of the solution.

Economic and social inequality, Avian Flu, global warming, the challenges to democracy itself; we didn't choose any of these, but they are real, and within our countries, and among them, the effort to deal with these challenges will require us to co-operate on a scale that is frankly unprecedented. But we have come a long way since Miami. We are learning every day that we can accomplish more together than we can alone.

Here, in Mar del Plata, we have an historic opportunity to advance our vision for the Americas; to reaffirm our support for the OAS; and to fashion in our hemisphere an example for the world of what can be achieved when countries set aside their differences and focus on the common aspirations of all our people. This is the long-term goal. We can get there if we work together.

Thank you.

Speech of the President of the Republic of Argentina, His Excellency Néstor Kirchner

Excelentísimos señores presidentes y señoras; señores vicepresidentes; señores enviados especiales; señores representantes de organismos internacionales; autoridades nacionales, provinciales y municipales; señoras y señores: queremos darle la más calurosa bienvenida a esta hermosa ciudad de Mar del Plata, deseando que estas jornadas de trabajo fructifiquen en la construcción de un escalón más que jalone el camino de este proceso de Cumbre de las Américas.

Si esta construcción colectiva, que quiere abarcar la geografía americana que atraviesa la última década de su historia, tiene que integrar un tema central a su agenda para producir resultados que ayuden al bienestar de nuestros pueblos, ese tema tiene que ser el lema de esta IV Cumbre, donde los señores presidentes y los representantes de los distintos países debemos dejar de hablar en voz baja para hablar en voz alta y buscar los puntos de acuerdo y resolución que nuestro hemisferio necesita.

Crear trabajo para enfrentar la pobreza y fortalecer la gobernabilidad democrática, nos remite de lleno al problema central que enfrentamos los países que pretendemos desarrollarnos. Debemos construir los consensos en cuanto a la importancia de preservar y fortalecer la comunidad de democracias en cuanto a la convicción de defender a ultranza la plena vigencia de los derechos humanos, el sostenimiento de la paz y la lucha contra la delincuencia internacional, el narcotráfico y el lavado de dinero.

Un capítulo especial merece la obtención de consenso respecto de la lucha contra el terrorismo. La Argentina considera todos los actos de terrorismo, criminales e injustificables. No hay ninguna razón racial, religiosa, ideológica o de cualquier otra naturaleza que pueda justificar el asesinato de civiles inocentes. Los argentinos tenemos un profundo sentimiento de solidaridad con las víctimas del terrorismo en el mundo y con sus familiares. Fuimos víctimas en los casos de la Embajada de Israel y la AMIA, y comprometemos apoyo permanente a la obtención de la verdad y al combate contra el terrorismo.

Debemos construir consensos para terminar con la pobreza atávica, vencer a la indigencia y a la exclusión, evitar la profundización de la brecha social, la degradación del medio ambiente, las recurrentes crisis, la necesidad de sostener a la educación como factor decisivo para el progreso individual y social, fomentar el acceso al conocimiento y promover el crecimiento económico con equidad, crear trabajo para enfrentar la pobreza y fortalecer la gobernabilidad democrática.

El lema que nos convoca nos hace percibir la necesidad y la presencia de nuevos paradigmas. Crear trabajo decente, cómo hacerlo de la mejor y más eficaz manera, está en la clave del debate sobre cuáles son los mejores caminos para lograr un desarrollo sustentable que garantice el bienestar de nuestros pueblos, vinculado con los atributos de la libertad, la justicia, la seguridad y la protección, la creación de trabajo no sólo es un fundamental vehículo de integración social, sino que puede constituirse en la verdadera clave de la construcción de la gobernabilidad.

En la obtención de esos consensos para avanzar en el diseño que las nuevas políticas que la situación exige, no puede estar ausente la discusión respecto de si aquéllas habrán de responder a recetas únicas con pretensión de universales, válidas para todo tiempo, para todo país, todo lugar. Esa uniformidad que pretendía lo que dio en llamarse el “Consenso

de Washington” hoy existe evidencia empírica respecto del fracaso de esas teorías. Nuestro continente, en general, y nuestro país, en particular, es prueba trágica del fracaso de la “teoría del derrame”.

Por supuesto, la crítica de ese modelo no implica ni desconocer ni negar la responsabilidad local, la responsabilidad de las dirigencias argentinas. Nos hacemos cargo como país de haber adoptado esas políticas, pero reclamamos que aquellos organismos internacionales, que al imponerlas, contribuyeron, alentaron y favorecieron el crecimiento de esa deuda, también asuman su cuota de responsabilidad.

Las consecuencias nefastas que las políticas de ajuste estructural y del endeudamiento externo tuvieron para el pleno ejercicio de los derechos humanos, en especial los derechos económicos, sociales y culturales, se viven y recorren trágicamente el mapa de la inestabilidad latinoamericana. No se trata de ideología, ni siquiera de política, se trata de hechos y de resultados. Son los hechos los que indican que el mercado por sí solo no reduce los niveles de pobreza y son los hechos también los que prueban que un punto de crecimiento en un país, con fuerte inequidad, reduce la pobreza en menor magnitud que en otro con una distribución del ingreso más igualitaria.

Los resultados de las recetas que criticamos son los que se vieron reflejados en la crisis argentina del 2001 y en la caída de varios gobiernos democráticos de la región, algunos de ellos transitando aún una preocupante inestabilidad institucional. Es entonces la experiencia regional y no la teoría de las burocracias de los organismos multilaterales, la que demuestra que lo aconsejable es dejar que, en un marco de racionalidad, cada país pueda elegir su mejor camino para el desarrollo con inclusión social. Esa racionalidad de la que hablamos, debe permitir su verificación en resultados cuantificables económica y socialmente.

Una nueva estrategia de desarrollo tiene que apuntar a obtener fuentes de recursos que deriven del esfuerzo y trabajo diario de nuestros ciudadanos. Necesitamos crear, producir, exportar bienes y servicios, innovaciones científico técnicas y creaciones culturales. De la fe ciega y excluyente en el mercado, el objetivo aconsejado o impuesto de reducir o minimizar el rol de los gobiernos, hacer desaparecer al Estado y avanzar en la degradación de la política, debemos pasar a la generación de una nueva estrategia de desarrollo de crecimiento sustentable, con equidad, calidad institucional, ejercicio de la representación, el control y la participación ciudadana.

La equidad es central, promueve el crecimiento y la eficacia, a través de la sustentabilidad política y social, posibilitando un mejor uso de los recursos humanos y ello revierte en viabilidad económica. Para lograr equidad es fundamental la creación de empleo digno. En nuestro país, con mucho esfuerzo compartido, pero sin ayuda alguna del Fondo Monetario Internacional, tras reducir en términos netos más de 14.900 millones de dólares nuestra deuda con organismos multilaterales de crédito, y obtener una exitosa reestructuración de la deuda, superando el default, hemos logrado importantísimos avances en esta lucha por la equidad.

Durante nuestro Gobierno la pobreza bajó del 57.5 por ciento al 37.7 por ciento y salieron de la pobreza 5.600.000 personas y abandonaron la indigencia 5.300.000 personas. Entre el primer semestre de 2003 y el primer semestre de 2005, un 33.5 por ciento de los hogares que eran pobres dejaron de serlo, es decir uno cada tres. En el mismo período un 53.4 por ciento de los hogares que eran indigentes dejaron de serlo, es decir más de uno

de cada dos. La baja del índice de la población en condiciones de indigencia fue del 27.5 al 12.6; entre junio de 2003 y agosto de 2005, el índice general de salarios creció un 28.74 ubicándose un 16.49 por encima del crecimiento de la canasta básica de alimento y un 13.85 por encima de la canasta básica local.

La tasa de desocupación descendió de tal modo que un 32 por ciento de los desocupados y el 28 por ciento de los subocupados dejaron de serlo. Los índices siguen mejorando hasta ubicarse, para esta última medición mensual, en un 10.3, luego de estar en el 24 por ciento. Aumentó el empleo genuino, mientras declinaban los planes de empleo, los empleos con cobertura de la Seguridad Social crecieron más velozmente que el nivel de empleo, alcanzando el nivel más alto de la serie 5.536.000 a razón de un 25 por ciento y un 10.7 por ciento en este último año.

Por primera vez en años disminuye la desigualdad en tanto el quintín de los ingresos más altos, pierde a favor de los quintines más bajo un 2.1 por ciento. La Argentina está logrando con grandes esfuerzos, repito, retomar la senda del desarrollo y ha alcanzado un importante y sostenido crecimiento de su economía, a la vez, ha logrado reducir, como vimos, de manera significativa los índices de desocupación, de pobreza e indigencia.

Los indicadores muestran, después de la salida de la crisis, un crecimiento sostenido de la economía, una situación superavitaría de las cuentas fiscales por tercer año consecutivo y externas, junto con una recomposición de las reservas. Argentina creció el 8.8, en 2003; el 9 en 2004 y en el primer semestre de 2005 superó el 9 por ciento. El superávit primario consolidado se ubica en un 5 por ciento del PBI y las reservas crecieron de menos de 10 mil millones de dólares a más de 26 mil millones de dólares. Las exportaciones tienen grandes posibilidades de llegar este año a 40 mil millones de dólares, estimándose su crecimiento en un 15 por ciento haciendo crecer el superávit comercial. Desde la salida del default, Argentina se consolida como una oportunidad para las inversiones productivas.

La matrícula de la enseñanza primaria y el número de alumnos que empiezan primer grado, se ubican por encima del 91.5 por ciento y el 86.9 por ciento respectivamente, y la población analfabeta no supera el 3 por ciento, llegando la alfabetización de la mujer al 97.4 por ciento. El retorno de la educación técnica y la mayor inversión en educación, que del 2 por ciento del PBI ya creció al 4, y la haremos crecer hasta el 6 por ciento, antes de 2010, juntamente con la discusión de un nuevo modelo educativo potenciarán nuestras posibilidades de construir un mejor futuro.

La tasa de mortalidad infantil ha descendido significativamente pasando del 16.8 por mil hasta ubicarse en el actual cercano de 12 por mil. La fuerte inversión en salud pública, vivienda e infraestructura nos posibilitará mejorar aún más. En estos números no hay magia ni milagro, se condensa mucho esfuerzo y trabajo. Concebimos que esta mejora contribuye a la estabilidad y al equilibrio de Sudamérica, es el resultado de haber construido sobre los pilares del trabajo, la producción, el consumo y la exportación, en un marco de sano equilibrio macroeconómico.

Lamentablemente, en ese proceso de recuperación, expansión y transformación no contamos con la ayuda del Fondo Monetario Internacional, que si apoyó y financió, en el orden de los 9 mil millones de dólares hasta semanas antes del colapso, el régimen de convertibilidad, déficit fiscal y endeudamiento. Aquella cifra, curiosamente, es casi equivalente a la deuda total que tiene mi país con ese organismo.

En síntesis, en un ejercicio que podemos calificar de perverso, sin temor a equivocarnos, se le dieron fondos frescos, dinero constante y sonante, no sólo a los que no pagaban, sino a los que seguían gastando y mantenían un déficit fiscal crónico. Hoy, lo que se le niega a la Argentina, no son ya fondos o nuevos préstamos que no hemos solicitado y que, obviamente, ni pensamos hacerlo, (aplausos) es algo mucho peor, se nos niega la refinanciación si no aceptamos determinadas condicionalidades que no son otras que las mismas políticas que nos condujeron al default.

Para la Argentina, que corría hacia el abismo, había ayuda y fondos frescos; para la Argentina que con esfuerzo y soledad se recupera, no hay refinanciación. Merecería esta situación que García Márquez le dedicara unos párrafos de su “realismo mágico”. Por si todo esto fuera poco, como en tantos países en desarrollo, continuamos siendo afectados tanto por esa visión arcaica del tema de la deuda, como por un sistema de comercio internacional injusto para los productos agrícolas, donde los subsidios y medidas paraarancelarias de los países desarrollados, continúan impidiendo que nuestros países puedan crecer plenamente con sus recursos genuinos. Es como si se pretendiera que cayesen sobre nosotros las diez plagas de Egipto.

En este punto es necesario advertir que a la hora de analizar el sistema de comercio internacional, subsidios agrícolas o barreras arancelarias, hay que tener en cuenta las asimetrías y los diferentes grados de desarrollo. Porque la igualdad es un concepto valioso y necesario, pero sólo aplicable a los que son iguales. Igual tratamiento para los diferentes; igual tratamiento entre países poderosos y débiles; igual tratamiento entre economías altamente desarrolladas y economías emergentes, no sólo es una mentira sino que, además, resulta una trampa mortal. Trampa que primero atrapa y afecta a los débiles, pero que luego de un modo u otro, también termina llegando a los poderosos.

Existe hoy un claro consenso internacional en torno a la necesidad de reformar y actualizar los organismos surgidos de Breton Wood, así como respecto a la necesidad de introducir mejoras en el funcionamiento del sistema financiero para una economía globalizada. No es capricho, es simplemente aceptar una nueva realidad mundial. Lamentablemente en lo específico de las reformas, la discusión parece haberse centrado más en el tema de las representaciones y los poderes de voto, que en los temas sustanciales. La visión de los funcionarios en relación a los países emergentes, parece agotarse en la preocupación central de sólo mejorar los sistemas de alerta temprana respecto de las crisis, evaluar el modo de resolverlas y encontrar el financiamiento de su prevención.

Pretendemos que el Fondo Monetario Internacional y el Banco Mundial cumplan el rol contracíclico para el cual fueron creados, eviten el sistema de condicionalidades cruzadas, aumenten el grado de transparencia de sus operaciones, reduzcan los costos de su funcionamiento y mejoren su capacidad de préstamo. No parece mal que trabajen activamente en cooperación con el sector financiero privado u otros sectores de la economía, pero deben cuidadosamente evitar quedar prisioneros o ser los gestores de los intereses particulares. Si estos temas se abordan correctamente, la discusión sobre la representatividad adquiere sentido; de lo contrario, el esfuerzo en la supuesta reinversión será mayor que los beneficios que genere.

En cuanto al sistema financiero en su conjunto, en materia de deuda externa debe adoptárselo de mayor justicia, dejando de pretender trato igualitario a quienes están en

situaciones distintas. Privilegiar el ahorro sobre la especulación y la participación de los ahorristas sobre la de los grandes operadores concentrados, usualmente, tenedores de información privilegiada. Exige privilegiar a los inversores minoristas, a los acreedores originales de las emisiones de deuda, a los acreedores en una etapa de precrisis. En todo caso, no puede privilegiarse a quienes resulten acreedores de la etapa poscrisis. Hemos dicho que no aconsejamos a nadie de “defaultear” su deuda, si se puede evitarlo. Decimos ahora que cumpliremos nuestros compromisos con quienes han participado de nuestro proceso de reestructuración, a quienes consideramos hoy nuestra prioridad en nuestros pagos.

El Fondo Monetario Internacional no puede pretender condicionamientos que resulten contradictorios entre sí y opuestos a nuestras posibilidades de crecimiento ni exigir la devolución de fondos que en plena crisis destinó a financiar un programa condenado al fracaso de manera inmediata. Nuestra capacidad de pago debe medirse en función de los compromisos contraídos en la reestructuración de la deuda y en nuestra capacidad de crecimiento. Si afectásemos nuestro crecimiento, afectaríamos nuestra capacidad de pago y en eso respetaremos nuestras prioridades acudiendo a los remedios que el sistema pone a nuestro alcance. Esperamos que el Fondo Monetario Internacional sepa escuchar y, sobre todo, comprender y entender. Se trata de negociar con sinceridad y buena fe.

Para el desarrollo que buscamos, nuestra pertenencia al Mercosur, como el mercado regional de lo propio y de la naciente Comunidad Sudamericana, es primordial. Hemos asumido trascendentes desafíos que sólo estaremos en condiciones de encarar con razonables posibilidades de éxito, mediante la coordinación de posiciones y acciones. Por eso, seguimos pensando que no nos servirá cualquier integración; simplemente, firmar un convenio no será un camino fácil ni directo a la prosperidad.

La integración posible será aquélla que reconozca las diversidades y permita los beneficios mutuos. Un acuerdo no puede ser un camino de una sola vía de prosperidad en una sola dirección. Un acuerdo no puede resultar de una imposición en base a las relativas posiciones de fuerza. Por el contrario, como en otras latitudes -está allí el testimonio de la Unión Europea-, los acuerdos de integración comercial deben contemplar salvaguardas y compensaciones para que los que sufren atrasos relativos, de modo que el acuerdo no potencie sus debilidades. Ese es un modo no sólo aceptable, sino fundamentalmente viable. La integración será posible en la medida que se atiendan las asimetrías existentes y si las negociaciones satisfacen los intereses fundamentales de cada país, especialmente, en materia de acceso a los mercados sin restricciones. Es que el problema del desarrollo de las economías emergentes, en un marco de equidad, no debe abordarse desde el punto de vista de los países desarrollados, como si fuera un asunto de beneficencia respecto de los que menos tienen.

En este sentido, respecto a nuestro continente, como hoy se lo decía al señor presidente de los Estados Unidos, sigo creyendo que por las cuestiones de liderazgo en la región, su Nación, su país, la Nación de los Estados Unidos, tiene una responsabilidad ineludible e inexcusable para ayudar a ir dándole el lugar y la posición definitiva y final a este marco de asimetrías que tanta inestabilidad han traído a la región. Creo que su rol de primera potencia mundial es insoslayable. No se trata de un juicio de valor, sino de un dato de la realidad. Creemos que el ejercicio responsable de ese liderazgo en relación a la región, debe considerar necesariamente que las políticas que se aplicaron no sólo provocaron miseria y pobreza, en síntesis la gran tragedia social, sino que agregaron inestabilidad institucional regional que provocaron la caída de gobiernos democráticamente elegidos

en medio de violentas reacciones populares, inestabilidad que aún transitan países hermanos.

Peor aún, no podemos ignorar datos estadísticos que dan cuenta de un creciente y preocupante desapego por el sistema democrático de los habitantes de distintos lugares de nuestra región como consecuencia de la falta de una digna calidad de vida. Llegamos así y por esa vía a un rejuntado paradójico: en nombre de la democracia tenemos menos democracia. Los países con mayor desarrollo deben asociarse a las estrategias de crecimiento sustentable de los países menos desarrollados en la inteligencia de que allí está su conveniencia, ayudando a que el mundo sea más estable, seguro y pacífico.

Nuestro país considera a la democracia un valor universal que no constituye patrimonio de ningún país o región, y nuestro Gobierno orienta sus esfuerzos a mejorar su calidad, reforzando el Estado de derecho y asegurando la imparcialidad e independencia de la Justicia, así como implementando los tratados internacionales en materia de derechos humanos que forman parte de nuestra Constitución. Sabemos que el mercado organiza económicamente, pero no articula socialmente.

Debemos hacer que el Estado ponga allí, donde el mercado fluye y abandona. Es el Estado el que debe actuar como el gran reparador de las desigualdades sociales en un trabajo permanente de inclusión y creando oportunidades a partir del fortalecimiento de la posibilidad del acceso a la educación, la salud y la vivienda, promoviendo el progreso social basado en el esfuerzo y el trabajo de cada uno. En el centro de la realidad política regional está el cambio y un lugar nodal en ese cambio, lo ocupa la creación de trabajo decente. Y en este punto, es donde adquiere especial relevancia el otro término inseparable de la ecuación, el rol de la inversión y las empresas, rol que debe ser ejercido con responsabilidad social.

Es lógico que la rentabilidad sea el valor central de cualquier emprendedor, pero también debe buscarse el equilibrio que contribuya a alimentar el círculo virtuoso de la economía. Sin enfrentar eficazmente la pobreza y la exclusión y dando trabajo, no habrá bienestar. La falta de bienestar en nuestros pueblos, es la raíz de las mayores inestabilidades. La gobernabilidad estará en riesgo si no creamos trabajo. No lo proclamamos desde ninguna teoría, invitamos a ver los sufrimientos y los logros que tuvo la Argentina, invitamos a ver la durísima experiencia que hemos tenido, invitamos a tener en cuenta la paulatina recuperación de nuestra autoestima, el fortalecimiento de nuestras instituciones y la tarea fundamental de crear trabajo decente tras el norte de la equidad y la inclusión social.

Debemos lograr que la globalización opere para todos y no para unos pocos. Por eso sostenemos que la integración económica regional y en la multilateralidad política se encuentran las llaves de un porvenir donde el mundo sea un lugar más seguro. Esperamos que estas jornadas de trabajo nos sirvan para representar mejor a nuestros pueblos, que los presidentes tengamos todo el coraje que la hora y el tiempo indican, que tengamos la fuerza y la fortaleza de plantear nuestra verdad relativa, que tengamos también la capacidad de escuchar al otro y de buscar en la verdad relativa de uno y del otro esa verdad que nos pueda sintetizar en la construcción de los nuevos tiempos que deseamos. Pero hay que hablar claro, tenemos que decir lo que pensamos.

Nuestros pobres, nuestros excluidos, nuestros países, nuestras democracias, ya no soportan más que sigamos hablando en voz baja; es fundamental hablar con mucho respeto y en voz alta, para construir un sistema que nos vuelva a contener a todos en un

marco de igualdad y nos vuelva a devolver la esperanza y la posibilidad de construir obviamente un mundo distinto y una región que esté a la altura de las circunstancias que sé que los presidentes desean y quieren.

Así que, les agradezco profundamente vuestras presencias en esta Cumbre, les agradezco profundamente la participación activa que tienen y, desde la Argentina, con absoluta responsabilidad y humildad, hemos querido dejar en claro cuál es la visión relativa que tenemos de la etapa y del tiempo que nos toca vivir.

Muchísimas gracias.

After these interventions the cultural event was presented.

PLENARY SESSIONS

The first session began after the inaugural ceremony at the Hermitage Hotel, where the Heads of State and Government addressed the topic of the creation of decent work. During this session, chaired by President Néstor Kirchner, leaders referred to the need to promote development through the generation of employment, the importance of decent work, and the protection of the rights of workers.

Bilateral meetings and media press conferences took place during the plenary session's recesses.

The host country also offered a reception on Friday night at the Yacht Club, in honor of the attending delegations, and a dinner in honor of the Heads of State and Government at the Casino Central.

The second plenary session was held on Saturday, November 5. The Heads of State and Government addressed the economic integration of the region and its effects on the creation of employment and the fight against poverty. With respect to this topic, and regarding the Free Trade Area of the Americas, two different positions were put forward. In view of the fact that consensus was not reached on either one of them, both were included in article 19 of the Declaration of Mar del Plata (see annexes).

In this session, the governments of Colombia and Trinidad and Tobago offered to host the Fifth Summit of the Americas.

Due to the length of this session, the Heads of State and Government did not have the opportunity to debate topics related to the strengthening of democratic governance.

Sessions were adjourned at 7:00 p.m., followed by a press conference with the Minister of Foreign Affairs of Argentina, Rafael Bielsa, and the Secretary of Foreign Affairs, Jorge Taiana.

CONCLUSIONS

The Summit of Mar del Plata established the foundations for a new inter-American consensus, and contributed to the strengthening of political dialogue in the search for solutions to hemispheric problems. The Government of Argentina proposed to give employment a place at the center of the hemispheric agenda, through the Fourth Summit's theme: "Creating Jobs to Fight Poverty and Strengthen Democratic Governance."

The agreements reached at the Fourth Summit constitute an important step forward in the development of policies geared towards economic growth with decent work and democratic governance. The Declaration of Mar del Plata provides the views of the 34 governments on how the greatest challenges in the creation of employment and the strengthening of democracy should be faced. The initiatives gathered in this Declaration refer to the topics of: growth with employment; jobs to fight poverty; education and training of the work force; micro, small, and medium-sized enterprises as an engine for job growth; strengthening of democratic governance and a framework for the creation of decent work.

The Plan of Action addresses each one of the areas of the Declaration from three perspectives: national commitments, hemispheric cooperation, and international institutions. The Heads of State and Government decided on concrete actions to promote development through the generation of employment, to increase citizen participation in the workplace, to promote cooperation among governments, to foster an inclusive social dialogue, and to promote investment in key areas for the creation of jobs, among others.

Some of the commitments undertaken by the Heads of State gathered in Mar del Plata included: to continue the implementation of sound macroeconomic policies, to promote the growth of income, and to protect the rights of workers. The implementation of active policies to generate decent work, and to fight gender discrimination, intolerance, and forced labor were encouraged. The promotion of equal employment opportunities for all, the need to protect migrants and minors from any form of economic exploitation, and cooperation in the fight against chronic, emerging and re-emerging diseases, were also part of the consensus reached by the region's leaders.

Micro, small and medium-sized enterprises (SMEs) were awarded a special place in the texts of the Summit. In this regard, initiatives, such as facilitating the participation of SMEs in domestic markets and international trade; fostering the development of their entrepreneurial skills and technical competence, and supporting the efforts made by multilateral banks in the strengthening of these enterprises, were adopted. In this way, the role of the entrepreneurial sector as a basic component for economic growth, and the intensification of efforts to comply with the commitments undertaken at the Millennium Summit were highlighted.

Another topic considered by the leaders of the hemisphere was the construction of a framework for the creation of decent work, which includes: fiscal policies that foster equitable growth; a business climate that attracts investment and promotes competition; the necessary regulation to incorporate the formal sector and the informal sector, and the consideration of public policies for integral and sustainable development.

In the area of strengthening democratic governance, the leaders of the hemisphere reiterated their commitment to the importance of the OAS Charter, the Inter-American Democratic Charter, and the Declaration of Florida. They also encouraged greater citizen participation, undertook a

commitment to make efforts in the fight against corruption and terrorism, and underscored the need to continue strengthening the inter-American human rights system.

The Summit Process, since its inception in 1994, has promoted dialogue and hemispheric consensus on topics of fundamental importance for the region. The agreements reached in the Fourth Summit demonstrate the importance given by the governments to collective action, in order to design programs and define the corresponding financial mechanisms to face the needs of the people in the Americas.

ANNEXES

OFFICIAL DOCUMENTS OF THE FOURTH SUMMIT OF THE AMERICAS

DECLARATION OF MAR DEL PLATA

“Creating Jobs to Fight Poverty and Strengthen Democratic Governance”

MAR DEL PLATA, ARGENTINA - NOVEMBER 5, 2005

1. *Convinced of the necessity to deepen democracy and consolidate freedom in the Americas, in accordance with the principles contained in the Charter of the Organization of American States and the Inter-American Democratic Charter and their full application as the foundation of the hemispheric community, we, the Heads of State and Government of the democratic countries of the Americas, gathered in the city of Mar del Plata, Argentina, 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, recognizing the essential role of the creation of decent work to achieve these objectives.*

2. *Taking into account the International Labour Organization (ILO) Declaration on Fundamental Principles and Rights at Work (1998), and the commitment 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, 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 of the United Nations (New York, 2000); the International Conference on Financing for Development (Monterrey, 2002); the World Summit on Sustainable Development (Johannesburg, 2002); and the High-level Plenary Meeting of the Sixtieth Session of the United Nations General Assembly (New York, 2005)¹, as a fundamental condition for the sustainable development of our countries.*

Growth with Employment

4. *In search of sustained, long-term, and equitable economic growth that creates jobs, reduces poverty, eliminates hunger, and raises the standard of living, including for the most vulnerable sectors and social groups, and in the framework of national strategies, we are committed to continuing the implementation of sound macroeconomic policies geared toward maintaining high growth rates, full employment, prudent fiscal and monetary policies, appropriate exchange rate policies, sound public debt management policies, and working to diversify economic activity and improve competitiveness. At the same time, we will stimulate income growth and better income distribution, increasing productivity, and protecting workers' rights and the environment. We recognize that the appropriate role of government in market oriented economies will vary from country to country.*

¹ Reservation by the Delegation of Venezuela

5. *We emphasize the importance of the participation of the business sector in achieving our objectives. We recognize, in particular, that micro, small, and medium-sized enterprises, providers of goods and services, constitute a fundamental component for economic growth, job creation, and reduction of poverty and social inequality in our countries.*

6. *We reaffirm our commitment to the Monterrey Consensus that each country has primary responsibility for its own economic and social development through sound policies, promotion of good governance at all levels and respect for the rule of law and that, at the same time, the international community should support national development efforts. In this context, we reiterate that trade and investment opportunities are necessary for countries in fighting poverty and in their development efforts. Also, in this context, we commit to coordinate international efforts in support of sustainable development policies, to identify secure sources of financing, and to mobilize resources for development and the fight against poverty and hunger.*

7. *We are concerned also to note that poverty is a phenomenon found in all the countries of the Hemisphere and that extreme poverty affects millions of people. In that regard, we are committed to intensifying 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.*

8. *We recognize that economic growth is a basic, indispensable, but not sufficient, condition to address the high rates of unemployment, poverty, and growth of the informal economy. We recognize that only countries that have had years of sustained economic growth have successfully reduced poverty. However, in the recent past some countries of the Hemisphere have experienced periods of economic growth that did not translate into equivalent employment gains, compounding existing problems of high income concentration, poverty, and indigence. The challenge is to sustain higher rates of growth with equity and social inclusion, and to generate expanded opportunities, social investment, and social development.*

Good economic policies and a favorable international commercial and economic framework are factors that have helped the region achieve, in 2004, rising incomes and the fastest growth rates in a quarter century, which boosted job creation.

9. *We recognize that some economies in the region have confronted negative external shocks with consequent internal adjustments, which affect their capacity to generate adequate employment. We call upon countries to continue to implement sound policies to deal with such factors. We also call for increased cooperation on the bilateral, regional, and multilateral levels to address these issues.*

10. *Recognizing the existence of external factors that hamper economic growth, we reaffirm the importance of international cooperation for medium-to-low income countries, in order to supplement those countries' efforts to implement their development programs and meet their commitments to the Millennium Development Goals. Such cooperation will contribute to employment generation and to democratic governance.*

11. *We note with concern the increased intensity of natural and man-made disasters and their devastating impact on human lives, infrastructure, and economies in the Hemisphere. We call for action at the national, regional, and international levels to strengthen disaster management programs, including through increased capacity for disaster preparedness, development of early warning systems, risk mitigation and post-disaster recovery, and reconstruction and technical and financial assistance as appropriate, particularly for disaster-prone countries, to reduce the impact of disasters. We also support efforts under way to explore private and public sector involvement in comprehensive approaches to catastrophic risk insurance.*

12. *Sustained economic growth, with equity and social inclusion, is an indispensable condition to create jobs, fight extreme poverty, and overcome inequality in the Hemisphere. To achieve these ends, it is necessary to improve transparency and the investment climate in our countries, build human capital, encourage increased incomes and improve their distribution, promote corporate social responsibility, and foster a spirit of entrepreneurship as well as strong business activity.*

13. *Recognizing that the reduction of inequality and the elimination of poverty cannot be achieved solely through welfare-oriented social policies, we commit to undertaking comprehensive government policies that institutionalize the fight against poverty. We commit to consolidating more democratic societies with opportunities for all, and will promote greater access for our people to education, health care, labor markets, and credit.*

14. *Taking into account the efforts made in the Hemisphere in the struggle against drug trafficking, we reiterate our support to ensure that alternative development projects contribute to economic growth, promote the creation of decent work, and support the sustainable economic viability of communities and families in those countries affected by the presence of illicit crops.*

15. *One of the major challenges to democratic stability is to generate productive and quality employment in the interest of ensuring that all our people benefit from economic prosperity. We support a country's legitimate right to pursue and attain its development within the framework of its political, economic, social, and cultural realities. We reiterate our commitment to achieving greater economic integration and we will adopt economic policies that promote economic growth, generate employment, and reduce poverty. To this end, we will address the problems that come about because of trade barriers and unsustainable debt, and we will continue to reform the international financial architecture.*

16. *This reform has the following objectives, among others: to contribute to the prevention and rapid resolution of financial crises, which particularly harm developing countries in the region; to enhance financing for development; to combat poverty; and to strengthen democratic governance. We stress the need for multilateral financial institutions, in providing policy advice and financial support, to work on the basis of sound, nationally owned paths of reform that the respective countries have identified with, and which take into account the needs of the poor and measures to reduce poverty. To achieve our sustainable development objectives, we need international and multilateral institutions that are more efficient, democratic, and accountable. We call upon the international and regional financial institutions to strengthen coordination of their activities so that they can respond more effectively to the long-term development needs of the countries of the region to achieve measurable results in their efforts to*

eradicate poverty through more effective use of all available development financing sources. For the poorest and least creditworthy countries, we support increased multilateral development banks (MDB) funding provided as performance-based grants.

17. We will make efforts to increase investment in infrastructure in order to create favorable conditions for employment generation and increased productivity. We will also implement policies to foster the development of our local and/or regional markets

18. We express our commitment to the progress of the negotiations on the Doha Development Agenda. We will make every effort to attain an ambitious and balanced outcome at the Sixth World Trade Organization Ministerial Conference, which will lead to a successful conclusion of the Doha Round in 2006 based, inter alia, on the principle of special and differential treatment for developing countries.

We remain committed to achieving substantial progress on all elements of the Doha Negotiations, in order to gain, in particular, greater access to markets for our exports, the elimination of all forms of agricultural export subsidies, and a substantial reduction of trade-distorting domestic support. We remain committed to achieving an ambitious outcome to the negotiations and to the full and effective implementation of the Work Program related to small economies. Our objective is to expand our trade, as a means of boosting growth and our capacity to generate more, higher quality, and better-paying jobs.

19. Recognizing the contribution that economic integration can make to the achievement of the Summit objectives of creating jobs to fight poverty and strengthening democratic governance:

- A. Some member states maintain that we take into account the difficulties that the process of the Free Trade Area of the Americas (FTAA) negotiations has encountered, and we recognize the significant contribution that the processes of economic integration and trade liberalization in the Americas can and should make to the achievement of the Summit objectives to create jobs to fight poverty and strengthen democratic governance. Therefore, we remain committed to the achievement of a balanced and comprehensive FTAA Agreement that aims at expanding trade flows and, at the global level, trade free from subsidies and trade-distorting practices, with concrete and substantive benefits for all, taking into account the differences in the size and the levels of development of the participating economies and the special needs and special and differential treatment of the smaller and vulnerable economies. We will actively participate to ensure a significant outcome of the Doha Round that will reflect the measures and proposals mentioned in the previous paragraph. We shall continue to promote the established practices and activities in the FTAA process that provide transparency and encourage participation of civil society.*

We instruct our officials responsible for trade negotiations to resume their meetings, during 2006, to examine the difficulties in the FTAA process, in order to overcome them and advance the negotiations within the framework adopted in Miami in November 2003. We also instruct our representatives in the institutions of the Tripartite Committee to continue allocating the resources necessary to support the FTAA Administrative Secretariat.

- B. *Other member states maintain that the necessary conditions are not yet in place for achieving a balanced and equitable free trade agreement with effective access to markets free from subsidies and trade-distorting practices, and that takes into account the needs and sensitivities of all partners, as well as the differences in the levels of development and size of the economies.*

In view of the above, we have agreed to explore both positions in light of the outcomes of the next World Trade Organization ministerial meeting. To that end, the Government of Colombia will undertake consultations with a view to a meeting of the officials responsible for trade negotiations.

Jobs to Fight Poverty

20. *Considering the widespread demand for dignified, decent, and productive work in the Hemisphere, the great task of our societies and governments in combating poverty and social exclusion is to adopt policies for generating more and better jobs in rural and urban areas, to contribute effectively to social inclusion and cohesion, prosperity, and democratic governance.*
21. *We commit to implementing active policies to generate decent work and create the conditions for quality 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 promote decent work, that is to say: fundamental rights at work, employment, social protection and social dialogue.*
22. *We reaffirm our respect for the rights set forth in the ILO Declaration on Fundamental Principles and Rights at Work (1998) and undertake to promote these fundamental rights. We will develop and implement policies and programs that help labor markets to function efficiently and transparently and that help workers respond to the opportunities created by economic growth and new technologies.*
23. *We will combat gender-based discrimination in the work place, promoting equal opportunities to eliminate existing disparities between men and women in the working world through an integrated approach that incorporates gender perspective in labor policies, including by promoting more opportunities for ownership of businesses by women.*
24. *We reaffirm our strong commitment to confronting the scourge of racism, discrimination, and intolerance in our societies. These problems must be fought at all levels of government and the wider society. The Inter-American System also has a vital role to play in this process by, among other activities, analyzing the social, economic, and political obstacles faced by marginalized groups and identifying practical steps, including best practices, on how to combat racism and discrimination. To this end, we support the implementation of the OAS Resolution AG/RES. 2126 (XXXV O/05) that led to the establishment of a Working Group in charge of, inter alia, the preparation of a Draft Inter-American Convention Against Racism and all Forms of Discrimination and Intolerance, and lend encouragement to that Working Group to combat racism, discrimination, and intolerance through available means as a matter of the highest priority. We also recall our commitment to fully implement our obligations under the United Nations Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Racial Discrimination.*

25. *We commit to protecting children from economic exploitation and from any tasks that may interfere with their education and integral development, according to the principle of the effective abolition of child labor, which is contained 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.*
26. *We reaffirm that all migrants, regardless of their immigration status, should be accorded the full protection of human rights and the full observance of labor laws applicable to them, including the principles and labor rights embodied in the ILO Declaration on Fundamental Principles and Rights at Work (1998).*
27. *We will promote decent work for migrant workers in the context of the Declaration of Nuevo León and encourage support for the Inter-American Program adopted by the General Assembly in resolution AG/RES. 2141 (XXXV-O/05). Likewise, the state parties to the International Convention on the Protection of the Human Rights of All Migrant Workers and Members of their Families reiterate the importance of its full implementation by the parties.*
28. *We call for an increase in inter-American cooperation and dialogue to reduce and discourage undocumented migration as well as to promote migration processes in accordance with the national legal system of each State and applicable international human rights law. We commit to dialogue in order to reduce the cost and facilitate remittances and to increase efforts to combat smuggling of migrants and trafficking in persons, in keeping with international instruments of human rights; to provide for the dignified, orderly, and safe return of migrant, and to invite states to exchange best practices on establishing bilateral programs for migrant workers.*
29. *We will spare no effort to achieve the immediate and complete abolition of forced or compulsory labor in the Americas. We are convinced that it will be a fundamental contribution to achieving the objectives of sustainable growth with social equity in our nations and the forging of a better future for all Americans.*
30. *We commit to strive to ensure equal opportunities to employment for all as well as to work to eliminate discrimination in the workplace, in access to education, training, and remuneration. In this context, we will pay special attention to gender-differentiated needs, the needs of indigenous peoples, Afro-descendants, and other groups in vulnerable situations.*
31. *We reaffirm our commitment to respect indigenous peoples rights and we commit to successfully concluding negotiations on the American Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples. The full exercise of these rights is essential for the existence, welfare, and integral development of indigenous peoples and for their full participation in national activities. For this reason, we must create the necessary conditions to facilitate their access to decent work and living conditions that allow them to overcome social exclusion*

- and inequality, and poverty.*
32. *We affirm our commitment to respect the rights of Afro-descendants and to ensuring their full access to educational opportunities at all levels, and to decent work that will help them overcome poverty and social exclusion and contribute to their increased participation in all sectors of our societies.*
 33. *We will promote integrated frameworks of public environmental, employment, health, and social security policies to protect the health and safety of all workers and foster a culture of prevention and control of occupational hazards in the Hemisphere.*
 34. *We will strengthen cooperation and exchanges of information in the struggle against chronic diseases as well as emerging and re-emerging diseases such as HIV/AIDS, SARS, malaria, tuberculosis, avian flu, and other health risks. We commit to fighting the stigma, misinformation, and discrimination against people living with HIV/AIDS in the workplace and favor their full access to employment with dignity. We propose to develop crosscutting strategies and cooperation mechanisms, principally within the framework of the World Health Organization (WHO) and the Pan American Health Organization (PAHO), to combat these diseases, including the strengthening and adequate financing of the Global Fund to Combat AIDS, Tuberculosis, and Malaria as well as the development of national preparedness plans to fight potential pandemics, such as avian flu. We urge all countries to accelerate the process of ratification of the new international health regulations and seek to enhance the cooperation mechanisms that would facilitate access to pertinent measures of prevention, diagnosis, and treatment of the population at risk.*
 35. *Recognizing the need for comprehensive social protection systems, we will examine the forms of unemployment protection most appropriate and possible for our respective countries. As part of a package of social safety nets for the unemployed, we also recognize the positive contribution of unemployment insurance systems in temporarily alleviating the socioeconomic suffering of individuals, reducing the need for workers to resort to subsistence activities through precarious jobs and facilitating their reentry into the work force.*
 36. *We consider it essential to strengthen broad, transparent, and inclusive social dialogue with all concerned sectors of society, at the local, national, regional, and hemispheric levels. Social dialogue is an important and basic instrument to promote and consolidate democracy and to build societies with inclusion and social justice.*
 37. *We recognize the fundamental and unique consultative role of employers' and workers' organizations in shaping employment and labor policies. We undertake to promote and facilitate tripartite dialogue in national, subregional, and hemispheric frameworks.*
 38. *We recognize the important link between development and culture and we agree that support for culture in its many dimensions contributes to, among other things, the preservation and protection of national heritage, the enhancement of the dignity and identity of our people, the creation of decent jobs, and the overcoming of poverty.*

39. *We underline the importance of the OAS Meeting of Ministers and High Authorities on Sustainable Development to be held in Santa Cruz de la Sierra, Bolivia, in August 2006. We encourage the participation of member states and we call upon the OAS to continue to support the preparatory work necessary to make this meeting a success.*

Training the Labor Force

40. *We recognize the essential role of life-long learning opportunities, especially technical and professional training of our population. Investing in knowledge, skills, capacities, and abilities facilitates access and re-entry to the labor force, supports personal and professional development, and maximizes economic productivity and institutional strengthening.*
41. *We recognize the importance of facilitating the integration of youth into the labor market, expanding coverage and improving the quality of information services and career counseling.*
42. *We agree that in order to improve employment opportunities we must ensure quality education for all citizens, which requires the evaluation of our efforts based on clearly defined standards and accountability for results.*
43. *We support the recommendations contained in the Declaration and Plan of Action of the Fourth Meeting of Ministers of Education, held in Scarborough, Trinidad and Tobago, August 10-12, 2005. We will strive for quality public education at all levels and promote literacy to ensure a democratic citizenry, foster decent work, fight poverty, and achieve greater social inclusion. Achieving these goals requires a substantial financial investment by our governments and international financial institutions. We note with satisfaction the suggestion of the Ministers of Education that our governments explore innovative forms of increasing financing for education with international financing institutions, such as debt swaps for investment in education.*
44. *We understand that the potential for developing the capacity of our citizenry and attaining greater productivity depends on a well-educated and well-trained labor force. In this sense, we recognize the advances made in increasing access to education and we reiterate the need to expand coverage, improve quality, strengthen the teaching profession, and improve the efficiency of our education systems. We reiterate the importance of incorporating new information and communication technologies in the training of our citizenry to increase their productivity.*
45. *We commit to support the improvement of the quality of the teaching of science and we will strive to incorporate science, technology, engineering, and innovation as principal factors in national strategies and plans for social and economic development, for the fundamental purpose of reducing poverty and generating decent work. In this vein, we support the Declaration and Plan of Action adopted at the Ministerial Meeting of Science and Technology held in Lima.*
46. *We recognize that scientific and technological research, and scientific development and progress play a fundamental role in the integral development of our societies, by building*

knowledge-based economies and contributing to economic growth and increased productivity. In this regard, we reiterate our support for the institutions established earlier in the Summits Process, such as the Inter-American Committee on Science and Technology, to create a scientific culture in the Hemisphere. We will continue to support public and private research associations and promote their interaction.

- 47. We will continue to increase investment in science and technology, with the participation of the private sector and the support of multilateral institutions. We will also intensify our efforts to encourage our universities and higher institutions of science and technology to increase their linkages and deepen basic and applied research and promote greater incorporation of workers in the agenda of innovation. We will facilitate the greatest interaction possible between scientific and technological research communities by fostering the establishment and consolidation of advanced research networks and synergies among educational institutions, research centers, the public and private sectors and civil society.*
- 48. We recognize that the protection and enforcement of intellectual property rights should contribute to the promotion of technological innovation and to the transfer and dissemination of technology, to the mutual advantage of producers and users of technological knowledge and in a manner conducive to social and economic welfare, and to a balance of rights and obligations. Therefore, we reiterate our commitment to their protection in accordance with the WTO Agreement on Trade-related Aspects of Intellectual Property Rights.*
- 49. We will do our utmost to take advantage of the possibilities offered by information and communication technologies to increase efficiency and transparency in the public sector, and to facilitate the participation of citizens in public life, thereby helping to strengthen democratic governance in the region. In that sense, we will continue promoting the adoption in the region of training programs in e-government, by sharing the experience of countries that have made headway in this field. This will help boost the skills of public sector employees through the use of innovative tools such as on-line training portals for government officials currently implemented in some countries. These actions will provide training at several levels, thereby helping to improve the skills of civil servants and strengthening education in democratic values and best practices in the region.*

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

- 50. Micro, small, and medium-sized enterprises constitute a strategic force to generate new employment, improve the quality of life, and have a positive impact on development and economic growth while promoting equity and social inclusion.*
- 51. We will promote and support actions to facilitate the participation of small and medium-sized enterprises (SMEs) in domestic markets and international trade. We will support the SME Congress of the Americas and encourage wider participation in this initiative. We stress the importance of opening new markets for SME goods and services.*
- 52. We are committed to the fight against poverty and inequality and we recognize the*

contribution to the economy and to the creation of decent work by productive organizations, in accordance with each nation's characteristics, such as cooperatives and other production units.

53. *We will foster the development of entrepreneurial skills and technical competence of SMEs, with the objective of facilitating their entry into new markets, aimed at strengthening SMEs and consequently increasing employment.*
54. *We will support the efforts that the multilateral development banks make with the micro, small and medium-sized enterprises as fundamental factors of economic growth and we will welcome the increased efforts of the World Bank, Inter-American Development Bank (IDB), and other regional development banks to create the enabling environment for strengthening such enterprises.*

Framework for Creating Decent Work

55. *We are committed to building a more solid and inclusive institutional framework, based on the coordination of economic, labor, and social public policies to contribute to the generation of decent work, which must comprise:*
- a) *A labor framework that promotes decent work and reaffirms our respect for the ILO Declaration on Fundamental Principles and Rights at Work and its follow-up. We shall continue to strengthen the application of our national labor laws and promote their effective enforcement;*
 - b) *An economic framework characterized by responsible fiscal policies fostering equitable growth that generates employment;*
 - c) *A business climate that attracts investment, fosters new enterprise creation, and promotes competition;*
 - d) *A legal framework that upholds the rule of law, transparency, and access to justice; reinforces impartiality and independence of judicial institutions; prevents and combats impunity and corruption in both the public and the private spheres; and fights international crime;*
 - e) *A public policy framework for integral and sustainable development that can reduce poverty and inequality, advance human health, and protect the environment in harmony with international environmental agreements to which we are all party, including those that address endangered and migratory species and wildlife, wetlands, desertification, ozone depleting chemicals, and climate change; we take note, with satisfaction, of the upcoming United Nations Conference on Climate Change in Montreal.*

- f) *A regulatory framework that seeks to incorporate the informal sector and unregistered work into the formal sector, recognizing the heterogeneous nature of the informal sector, in order to expand social protection and to enhance the quality and productivity of work;*
 - g) *A comprehensive framework for rural and agricultural development, to promote investment, job creation, and rural prosperity;*
 - h) *To achieve the abovementioned objectives we will promote increased cooperation and coordination between local, regional, and national governments.*
56. *We recognize the vital contributions of Ministries of Labor to the achievement of the objectives of the Fourth Summit of the Americas, “Creating Jobs to Fight Poverty and Strengthen Democratic Governance,” and to the promotion of decent work and policies that encourage investment and economic growth with equity. We are committed to strengthening them with the goal of ensuring that they have sufficient national budgetary and technical resources to carry out their duties in an efficient and effective manner. We call upon our respective Ministers of Labor, working with employers and workers, to promote professional training and lifelong learning activities so that workers may adequately insert themselves into labor markets, to facilitate the skills and the knowledge development of workers and job seekers; to implement policies and programs, such as improved employment services and access to quality labor market information, that provide for the efficient functioning of labor markets; and to effectively enforce our national labor laws and regulations.*

We encourage the ministers to continue bilateral and multilateral cooperation aimed at capacity building. We also take note of the Declaration and Plan of Action of Mexico and their role in furthering the objectives of the Summit.

Strengthening Democratic Governance

57. *We reiterate our commitment to the OAS Charter and the Inter-American Democratic Charter and we reaffirm our resolve to strengthen their full and effective implementation.*
58. *We are convinced that representative democracy is an indispensable condition for the stability, peace, and development of the region². We recognize that for democracy to prosper, governments must be responsive to the legitimate aspirations of their people and work to provide their people with the tools and opportunities to improve their lives.*
59. *In this sense, we endorse the commitments undertaken in the Declaration of Florida adopted at the thirty-fifth regular session of OAS General Assembly held in June 2005. Likewise, we take note of the importance of what was agreed by the participants of the Community of Democracies at their Third Ministerial Meeting, held in Santiago, in April 2005.*

² Reservation by Venezuela

60. *We reaffirm that the participatory nature of democracy in our countries in different aspects of public life contributes to the consolidation of democratic values and to freedom and solidarity in the Hemisphere.*
61. *Our efforts to generate decent work will contribute to promoting equity, social mobility, a better quality of life, and social inclusion for our citizens as well as to achieving social justice.*
62. *Increased participation by citizens, communities, and civil society will contribute to ensuring that the benefits of democracy are shared by society as a whole.*
63. *We recognize that the universal promotion and protection of human rights, including civil, political, economic, social, and cultural rights on the basis of the principles of universality, indivisibility, and interdependence, as well as respect for international law, including international humanitarian law, international human rights law, and international refugee law are essential to the functioning of democratic societies. Accordingly, we reaffirm the need to continue the process of strengthening and enhancing the effectiveness of the inter-American human rights system, in particular, the functioning of and access to the Inter-American Court of Human Rights and the Inter-American Commission on Human Rights.*
64. *We reaffirm that democratic governance based on respect for the rule of law and which is stable, transparent, effective, inclusive, and accountable, contributes to creating the enabling environment to attract investment, build economic prosperity, foster the creation of decent work, and achieve social justice.*
65. *In this sense, we recognize the work of the Meetings of Ministers and of High Authorities of the Inter-American High Level Network on Decentralization, Local Government, and Participation by Citizens, in particular the III RIAD, whose central theme was the role of local and regional governments, citizen participation and regional development in combating poverty, the generation of work and income, and the strengthening of democratic governance.*
66. *Accountability is a key instrument to achieve transparency and efficiency in the use of resources administered by our governments. Fighting corruption is a key aspect of strengthening democracy and economic growth. For this reason, we call upon states to implement the Inter-American Convention against Corruption and participate fully in the Follow-up Mechanism for the Implementation of the Inter-American Convention against Corruption. We stress the importance of the oversight role of legislatures, as appropriate, in the fight against corruption and the importance of promoting inter-parliamentary exchanges to encourage the development of national and international strategies to fight against corruption.*
67. *We will promote economic prosperity by ensuring that the community of democratic states remains committed to peace and to dealing with threats, concerns, and other challenges to security. We reiterate our commitment to the objectives and purposes contained in the Declaration on Security in the Americas based on a multidimensional concept of security, and will continue to strengthen cooperation among our states.*

68. *We state that terrorism affects the normal functioning of our societies and has a negative impact on our economies and labor markets and particularly the generation of jobs. To sustain an environment to promote economic prosperity and the well-being of our people, we will take all necessary steps to prevent and counter terrorism and its financing in full compliance with our obligations under international law, including international humanitarian law, international human rights law, and international refugee law.*
69. *We will strengthen the timely exchanges of information and the broadest possible mutual legal assistance in order to prevent, combat, and eliminate terrorism, prevent the international movement of terrorists and ensure their prosecution, and, as appropriate, their extradition in accordance with domestic laws and relevant treaties and conventions. We will cooperate to avoid that any individual who participates in the financing, planning, preparation and commission of terrorist acts finds safe haven in our countries.*
70. *We emphasize our concern for the criminal gang problem and its related aspects, as well as its effect on the economic and social environments that challenge the progress made by our societies in the stability, democratization, and sustainable development process: a situation that requires additional urgent action to promote the prevention of criminal acts, prosecute those who commit them, rehabilitate and reinsert them, and create opportunities to facilitate access by youth to decent work.*
71. *We offer our encouragement to the OAS in drafting the Social Charter of the Americas and its Plan of Action, whose principles and objectives will be directed towards the achievement by member states of societies that offer all of our citizens more opportunities to benefit from sustainable development with equity and social inclusion.*
72. *National efforts to generate decent jobs and good employment must be supported by international cooperation and solidarity. In this context, we will strengthen hemispheric cooperation mechanisms among our countries within the OAS framework and with other multilateral organizations and financial institutions, to ensure an effective use of instruments and resources needed to promote sustainable growth and development. In this regard, we take note with interest of the international efforts, contributions and discussions, such as the Action Against Hunger and Poverty, aimed at identifying innovative and additional sources of financing for development on a public, private, domestic or external basis, according to each country's national development strategies, to increase and supplement traditional sources of financing in support of the achievement of internationally agreed development goals, including the Millennium Development Goals (MDG's) and reflecting the global partnership of the Monterrey Consensus.*
73. *Taking into account the results of this Summit and the Fourteenth IACML, we request that the ILO address, at its Sixteenth Americas Regional Meeting in 2006, the central topic of the Fourteenth IACML, "People and their Work at the Heart of Globalization," with special emphasis on decent work, and consider government and tripartite actions to implement the Declaration and Plan of Action of Mar del Plata.*
74. *We recognize the pivotal role that the OAS plays in the implementation and follow-up of Summit mandates, and we instruct the General Secretariat to continue to act as technical secretariat; provide support for meetings of the Summit Implementation Review Group*

- (SIRG), ministerial meetings, and specialized conferences; coordinate the participation of civil society; and ensure the dissemination of information on the Summits Process and the commitments adopted by the countries.*
75. *We instruct the members of the Joint Summit Working Group, comprised of the OAS, IDB, Economic Commission for Latin América and the Caribbean (ECLAC), PAHO, Inter-American Institute for Cooperation on Agriculture (IICA), Central American Bank for Economic Integration (CABEI), the World Bank, ILO, International Organization for Migration (OIM), Institute for Connectivity in the Americas (ICA), Caribbean Development Bank (CDB), and the Andean Development Corporation (CAF), under the coordination of the OAS, to continue, through their respective activities and programs, to support the follow-up and implementation of the Declarations and Plans of Action of the Summits of the Americas, and of the Declaration and Plan of Action of Mar del Plata, as well as to assist in the preparations for future summits.*
76. *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 work, in order to meet our commitments to fight poverty and strengthen democratic governance. We recognize once again the value of work as an activity that dignifies and structures the lives of our peoples, as an effective instrument for social interaction, and as a means of participation in the achievements of society: the primary objective of our governments' actions for the Americas.*

**FOURTH SUMMIT OF THE AMERICAS
PLAN OF ACTION**

“Creating Jobs to Fight Poverty and Strengthen Democratic Governance”

MAR DEL PLATA, ARGENTINA - NOVEMBER 5, 2005

I. CREATING DECENT WORK

A. NATIONAL COMMITMENTS

1. *To eliminate forced labor before 2010 by strengthening measures and policies, to enable those countries that have not already done so to achieve this goal. To this end, promote the creation of national plans of action with the support of the International Labour Organization (ILO).*
2. *To eradicate by 2020, at the latest, the worst forms of child labor and reduce the number of children that work in violation of national laws. We shall continue strengthening national policies that enable achievement of these goals. In addition to providing quality basic education, we undertake to build bridges between child labor eradication programs and other support programs, such as income support programs, extracurricular activities and training. To meet this objective, countries shall set national goals and deadlines based on the local situation.*
3. *To reduce youth unemployment and significantly lower the percentage of young people that neither study nor work. We shall strengthen our efforts in the development of specific policies for training, vocational training, reinsertion into the educational system and promotion of access of young people of either gender to their first job. In this respect, some countries promote youth employment in non traditional sectors such as in the conservation and rehabilitation of the environment and in areas of public-private partnerships to enable access to formal education and introductory professional courses in the workplace. We shall promote targeting these programs, in particular, towards youths that are most vulnerable, whether because of low levels of education or low income.*
4. *To eliminate discrimination against women at work through, among other measures, the implementation of a range of policies that will increase women’s access to decent, dignified, and productive work, including policies addressing training and education and protection of the rights of women, as well as proactive policies to ensure that men and women enjoy equality in the workplace.*
5. *To ensure equal access for men and women to the benefits of social protection and ensure attention to gender issues in labor and social policies.*

6. *To develop and strengthen policies to increase opportunities for decent, dignified, and productive work for senior citizens and persons with disabilities, and ensure compliance with national labor laws in this area, including eliminating discrimination against them in the workplace.*
7. *To implement policies that provide equal pay for equal work or, as appropriate, for work of equal value.*
8. *To significantly reduce the levels of unregistered work by implementing or strengthening mechanisms that ensure enforcement of national labor laws in the workplace.*
9. *To promote goals for the gradual registration of workers who are wage earners but not covered by social protection, especially domestic workers.*
10. *To provide, improve or widen, as appropriate, comprehensive social protection systems so that all workers have access to relevant social safety net mechanisms.*
11. *To promote tripartite and inclusive social dialogue and cooperation among social partners and governments and call on the ILO for support as needed.*
12. *To encourage, as appropriate, with the corresponding educational authorities, the inclusion in educational curricula the study of the Fundamental Principles and Rights at Work and the dimensions of decent work, bearing in mind the approach of the ILO.*
13. *To carry out actions towards the promotion of the fundamental principles and rights at work and develop, together with the ILO, cooperation strategies to be complied with by member countries.*
14. *To increase the proportion of the active population, both employed and unemployed, that participates in occupational training activities to acquire or update their skills, including those required in the knowledge-based economy, making use of the good practices developed by CINTERFOR/ILO in various countries in the region.*
15. *In addition to public efforts in this area, to promote the development of business services that support occupational training that facilitates the entry into the formal labor market and the upgrading of the skills of the labor force.*
16. *To promote occupational health and safety conditions and facilitate healthy work environments for all workers, and, to that end, ensure effective labor inspection systems. For this purpose, it is essential to foster strategic alliances between the labor, health, environment and education sectors.*

17. *To criminalize migrant smuggling and trafficking in persons, effectively enforce national laws and regulations to confront migrant smuggling and trafficking in persons, and strengthen institutions and the training of professional staff to be better positioned to investigate and prosecute the responsible parties, undertake prevention initiatives, as well as protect and assist the victims of these crimes.*
18. *To adopt measures to encourage the full and effective exercise of the rights of all workers, including migrant workers, as well as application of core labor standards, such as those contained in the ILO Declaration on Fundamental Principles and Rights at Work and its follow-up, adopted in 1998. Explore ways for the ILO to provide technical advisory services to member states to help them accomplish that objective.³*

B. HEMISPHERIC COOPERATION

19. *To continue strengthening the capacity of the Ministries of Labor to effectively enforce our national labor laws and regulations. We will continue to promote cooperation among the Ministries of Labor, within the context of the Inter-American Conference of Ministers of Labor (IACML).*
20. *To strengthen constructive dialogue on international migration, with a view to full recognition of human rights of migrant workers, reduce their vulnerable conditions at work, as well as advocate effective compliance of the principle of equality and non-discrimination at work in accordance with international instruments in this area and, thereby, ensure that migration is an orderly process that benefits all parties and boosts productivity at the global level.**
21. *To strengthen and establish collaboration mechanisms among countries of transit, origin and reception of migrant workers in the Hemisphere so as to disseminate information on labor rights of migrant workers.*

³ Paragraph 18: The United States reserves on this paragraph and prefers instead the following text: “Protect and promote the rights of all workers, including migrant workers in accordance with the legal framework of each country, and applicable international law, and promote respect for the ILO Declaration on Fundamental Principles and Rights at Work and its follow-up. Explore ways for the ILO to provide technical advisory services to Member States to help them accomplish that objective.”

* Paragraph 20: The United States notes that this language was discussed in connection with the declaration and consensus was achieved, including the United States, on the basis of the following language: “increase Inter-American cooperation and dialogue to reduce and discourage undocumented migration as well as to promote migration processes in accordance with the legal system of each state and applicable international human rights law.”

C. INTERNATIONAL ORGANIZATIONS

22. *To strengthen, in cooperation with the Inter-American Commission of Women (CIM), ILO, and the Economic Commission for Latin America and the Caribbean (ECLAC), national capacities to produce statistics particularly focused on labor matters broken down by gender and race.*
23. *To request that the Organization of American States (OAS) continue its technical support in the implementation of the Inter-American program adopted by resolution AG/RES. 2141 (XXXV-O/05) of the thirty-fifth period of regular sessions of the General Assembly. .*

II. GROWTH WITH EMPLOYMENT

A. NATIONAL COMMITMENTS

24. *To promote an inclusive social tripartite and transparent dialogue as an instrument for the proposition of policies and resolution of labor conflicts in order to strengthen the representation and stimulate the participation of unions and of employer organizations in the formulation and implementation of national policies for the promotion of decent work.*
25. *To undertake, when pertinent, an analysis of the structure of employment at the national, regional, and local level and of the sectors and sub-sectors that might have a higher potential impact on increases of income, employment and poverty reduction.*
26. *To make efforts aimed at facilitating the incorporation and/or enlargement, as appropriate, to our national statistics systems, of the information on the contribution to the generation of added value, reduction of poverty, fostering of social welfare by productive cooperatives and other independent labor categories.*
27. *To promote increased communication between ministries responsible for economic, social, and labor policies at the national level with the objective of coordinating policies centered on job creation and poverty reduction.*
28. *To encourage investment in basic infrastructure having a high positive impact on employment in order to promote growth and productive employment.*
29. *To promote and encourage, when pertinent, the creation of agencies and fora for the identification and feasibility assessment of investment projects in basic infrastructure.*
30. *To promote training and technical and credit assistance services, and professional training, and to strengthen the development of business,*

technological, and management skills for micro, small, and medium-sized companies, facilitating their inclusion as local suppliers.

31. *To create and/or strengthen, as appropriate, agencies specialized in development services, and improve the business climate for micro, small, and medium-sized companies facilitating access to markets, including foreign markets, by requesting from multilateral institutions technical, and financial assistance for the achievement of this goal.*
32. *To stimulate the design or strengthening of mechanisms or initiatives for access to credit by, among other measures, the fostering of the property registry and cadastre, in which legal certainty is expressed, among other means, through the verification of the title and the use of it, ensuring that the property rights benefit all people without discrimination.*
33. *To favor the research, development, and adoption of renewable and efficient energy sources and the deployment of technology for cleaner and more efficient energy sources, including among them, those that foster the intensive use of labor, which, together with the promotion of sustainable development, and addressing climate change concerns, permit the reduction of poverty.*
34. *To stimulate policies that improve income distribution.*
35. *To support the implementation of the Ministerial Agreement of Guayaquil in 2005, Agriculture and Rural Life in the Americas. (AGRO 2003-2015 Plan)*

B. HEMISPHERIC COOPERATION

36. *To encourage the exchange of experience with regard to the role of micro, small, and medium-sized enterprises and access to procurement programs, in the creation of productive jobs, development of competitive skills, reduction of the informal sector, and the fight against poverty.*
37. *To establish mechanisms to exchange good practices and innovative approaches for the development of micro, small, and medium-sized companies, such as the Small and Medium-sized Enterprise Congress of the Americas, and foster greater public and private participation in this Congress.*
38. *To develop a hemispheric virtual network for the exchange of business opportunities.*
39. *To substantially improve the capacity at the national, regional, and hemispheric levels for risk mitigation; to implement cost-effective and robust early warning systems, and to enhance disaster recovery and reconstruction capabilities in collaboration with relevant international and regional institutions. To explore with relevant international and regional institutions the coordinated development of effective public-private catastrophic risk insurance systems.*

C. INTERNATIONAL ORGANIZATIONS

40. *To foster multilateral cooperation from development banks in order to identify and provide financing for national and regional infrastructure projects, in particular those designed to promote sustainable development, generate employment, and fight poverty.*
41. *To promote increased funding and investment in science and technology, engineering and innovation. To request the appropriate multilateral organizations to strengthen technical and financial cooperation activities aimed at pursuing this goal and at the development of national innovation systems.*
42. *To request the ILO to extend its technical assistance and support to countries (governments, organizations of employers, and workers) in their efforts to promote the creation of more and better jobs, especially through the strengthening and development of micro, small, and medium-sized companies.*
43. *To request Inter-American Institute for Cooperation on Agriculture (IICA) and ECLAC to continue with their efforts to develop an information system for the follow-up and evaluation of the AGRO 2003-2015 Plan, and the other members of the Joint Summit Working Group to join in those efforts as a contribution to defining goals and indicators for the mandates of the Summit of the Americas.*
44. *To explore ways for the multilateral development banks to provide more assistance to the poorest and least creditworthy countries as performance-based grants, and expand the multilateral development banks role in catalyzing private sector investment.*

III. SOCIAL DEVELOPMENT

A. NATIONAL COMMITMENTS

45. *To foster the development of comprehensive economic and social policies at the national level, principally aimed at employment growth; reduction of poverty, exclusion and inequality; personal skills development; and access to opportunities for integral development.*
46. *To implement – with the support of the PanAmerican Health Organization (PAHO) – the “Three Ones Initiative: one HIV/AIDS action framework, one national AIDS coordinating authority, and one country-level surveillance and evaluation system” developing primary prevention of HIV/AIDS and strengthening health services for young people and other vulnerable groups, with special attention to the problem of stigma and discrimination in the labor environment, taking into account the ILO Code of Conduct on HIV/AIDS in the workplace. To promote efforts to provide integral prevention, treatment, and care to*

HIV/AIDS carriers with the aim of providing as close as possible universal access to treatment for all those who need it as soon as possible.

47. *To initiate immediately, with the support of PAHO, and finalize by June 2006, national plans on the preparation of influenza and avian flu pandemics in countries that do not have plans. In countries that already have plans, these should be implemented immediately according to the January 2005 decision of the Executive Committee of the World Health Organization (WHO).*
48. *To strengthen at the national level the strategy of supervised treatment of tuberculosis, with all of its components, and extend the coverage of the population at risk; in the same manner, coordinate efforts to reduce malaria in endemic countries and strengthen the fight against classic and hemorrhagic dengue.*
49. *To promote efforts to ensure, by 2010, completion of quality primary school education for all children, and promote the setting of goals, before 2007, for the completion of quality middle-school education.*
50. *To strengthen, within national health systems, primary health care actions as a step to prevent diseases and their consequences and reduce morbidity with the purpose of ensuring equal access to health services for all people in the hemisphere.*
51. *To promote an ongoing, respectful, and constructive dialogue with indigenous peoples and develop policies to create the necessary conditions to facilitate their integral and sustainable development, access to decent work, and living conditions, enabling them to overcome poverty with full respect of their rights.*

B. HEMISPHERIC COOPERATION

52. *To identify and exchange, within the framework of the OAS, practices in the region regarding policies and programs to confront poverty.*
53. *To continue to strengthen regional cooperation and the mobilization of resources to advance in the fight against the production, trafficking and consumption of illicit drugs and psychotropic substances, calling upon the countries of the hemisphere, in cooperation with the Inter-American Drug Abuse Control Commission (CICAD), to: develop, implement, and evaluate substance abuse prevention programs, in particular for children and young people, such as “Life Skills”, among others; expand the “Program to Estimate the Human, Social, and Economic Cost of Drugs in the Americas”; and promote support for the integral and sustainable development strategies carried out by the countries affected by cultivation and production of illicit drugs.*

C. INTERNATIONAL ORGANIZATIONS

54. *We recognize the positive results of the Global Fund for HIV/AIDS, tuberculosis, and malaria (GFATM) and we reaffirm our support to their activities and goals. We recommend the continued important participation of civil society in the fulfillment of these goals, and we urge the Global Fund Board to evaluate the eligibility criteria with the intent of addressing middle income countries in the hemisphere.*
55. *To develop, within the framework of the OAS, before 2008, the study of a literacy program, taking into account successful experiences in order to advance towards the eradication of illiteracy in our countries.*
56. *To promote, within the framework of the OAS, the exchange of experiences for the implementation of electronic education programs articulating means, resources, and tools aimed at strengthening and enriching the educational processes in schools, including the use of new information and communication technologies.*
57. *To encourage the work now under way in the OAS, to conclude successfully the negotiation of the Social Charter of the Americas and its Plan of Action.*
58. *To call upon the First Inter-American Meeting of Social Development Ministers to be held in El Salvador, in agreement with resolution AG/RES. 1984 (XXXIV-O/04) of the thirty-fourth period of regular sessions of the OAS General Assembly, to consider, among others, the progress as regards the commitments included in this Plan of Action that pertain to the scope of their competencies.*
59. *To consider at the next OAS period of regular sessions of the General Assembly to be held in the Dominican Republic, a Declaration on the Decade of the Americas for Persons with Disabilities (2006-2016), together with a program of action.*
60. *To intensify negotiations for the quick adoption of the American Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples and ensure the continuity and transparency of their effective participation in the ongoing dialogue at the OAS.*

IV. STRENGTHEN DEMOCRATIC GOVERNANCE

A. NATIONAL COMMITMENTS

61. *Taking into account the theme of the Mar del Plata Summit and bearing in mind that our concept of security is multidimensional, to promote through concrete actions, at the national, sub-regional, hemispheric, and global levels, the implementation of the commitments identified in the Declaration on Security in the Americas.*

62. *To continue supporting and strengthening the functioning of the bodies of the Inter-American System of Human Rights, promoting within the political bodies of the OAS, in the framework of the ongoing reflection process, concrete actions to achieve, among other objectives, greater adhesion to the legal instruments, an effective observance of the decisions by the Inter-American Court of Human Rights and due consideration of the recommendations of the Inter-American Commission of Human Rights, and the improvement of access of the victims to the mechanisms of the system, and the adequate financing of the bodies of the System, including the fostering of voluntary contributions.*
63. *To urge member states, as necessary, to consider signing and ratifying, or adhering to the additional Protocol of the Inter-American Convention on Human Rights in the Area of Economic, Social, and Cultural Rights, “Protocol of San Salvador” and to collaborate in the development of progress indicators in the area of economic, social, and cultural rights, in accordance with resolution AG/RES. 2074 (XXXV-O/05) of the thirty-fifth period of regular sessions of the General Assembly.*

B. HEMISPHERIC COOPERATION

64. *To identify, before December 2006, specific initiatives for cooperation, and the exchange of experiences in the development of technical skills in our countries that contribute to the full application of the provisions of the Inter-American Convention Against Corruption, and the strengthening of its Implementation Follow-up Mechanism (MESICIC), giving special consideration to the recommendations to that effect arising from the first round of said Mechanism.*
65. *To consolidate the Hemispheric Information Exchange Network for Mutual Legal Assistance in Criminal Matters and Extradition, support the actions for the implementation of a strategic plan for the Justice Studies Center of the Americas (JSCA), and strengthen the institutional development of the General Secretariat of the OAS in these issues, in accordance with the framework of the Meetings of Ministers of Justice or of Ministers or Attorneys General of the Americas (REMJA).*
66. *To cooperate with solidarity with the Haitian people in their efforts to revitalize the democratic institutions, fight poverty, and foster equitable socio-economic development, including, the creation of decent work through, among others, greater support from the international financial institutions and cooperation agencies, and implement disarmament, demobilization, and reinsertion programs (DDR), with the support of MINUSTAH and the Special Mission of the OAS for the Strengthening of Democracy in Haiti.*

C. INTERNATIONAL ORGANIZATIONS

67. *Recognizing the interconnection between democratic governance and the economic and social development of our peoples and the theme of the*

Mar del Plata Summit, we request the political bodies and the General Secretariat of the OAS to continue to advance in the effective implementation of the Declaration of Florida, “Delivering the Benefits of Democracy.”

68. *To request the General Secretariat of the OAS to present for the consideration of the political bodies of the Organization, before 2007, an inter-American program including the exchange of experiences and best practices to strengthen in our countries mechanisms for the participation and collaboration in governance by civil society organizations, the private sector, and the citizenry at large, specifically in the development of public policy for the generation of employment and the fight against poverty, including local governments, in a framework of inclusive social dialogue that takes into account the vulnerability of the most excluded sectors of our societies.*
69. *To encourage, through the OAS, regional training programs in e-government, and promote the exchange of experiences with the countries that have made progress in this field.*
70. *To ensure that the OAS and other hemispheric organizations have the financial and institutional capacity to implement Summits commitments.*

FOURTH SUMMIT OF THE AMERICAS

MAR DEL PLATA, ARGENTINA – NOVEMBER 5 2005

COMMUNIQUE'S OF MEMBER STATES

COMMUNIQUE ON THE SITUATION OF HAITI

WE, THE HEADS OF STATE AND GOVERNMENT OF THE DEMOCRATIC COUNTRIES OF THE AMERICAS, gathered in the city of Mar del Plata, Argentina, on November 4 and 5, 2005 on the occasion of the Fourth Summit of the Americas, declare our firm support for the successful completion of a free and fair electoral process and the election of a stable, constitutional government in Haiti, to be inaugurated on Feb 7, 2006. We call on all parties to redouble their efforts in a spirit of openness and conciliation;

WE ACKNOWLEDGE the challenges to public security and the democratic, political, economic and social development of Haiti, and will continue to support the steps taken by the transitional Government of Haiti with the assistance of the international community to hold transparent elections, and to achieve the political transition. In the same manner, we praise and fully support the efforts made by the Organization of American States (OAS), the United Nations, and countries of the region to assist Haiti in overcoming its recurrent crisis. In particular, we applaud the active engagement of countries of the region in the United Nations Stabilization Mission in Haiti (MINUSTAH) and its critical role in the restoration of stability and the establishment of peaceful democratic governance in Haiti;

BEARING IN MIND the priorities established by the transitional Government of Haiti, we offer our continued assistance in key issue areas such as security sector reform -- including the rebuilding of the Haitian National Police--, social and economic reconstruction, and reconciliation and resumption of democratic processes, and to the full restoration of the judicial system. Respect for the rule of law and human rights is critical in obtaining these objectives;

WE WELCOME the support of the international donor community and acknowledge the financial cooperation pledged at the International Donors Pledging Conference, hosted by the World Bank, the European Union, the Inter-American Development Bank, and the United Nations in July 2004. We stress the need for the resulting US\$1 billion in pledges to be disbursed in a timely manner in order to have a measurable impact on the lives of Haitians, and on the ability of the new government to address both immediate and long-term needs of the Haitian people;

WE PLEDGE our on-going support for the Interim Cooperation Framework (ICF), prepared jointly by the Government of Haiti and civil society with the collaboration of the international community, and its accompanying two-year reconstruction plan from July 2004 to September 2006. We commit to working with the new constitutional government to design and implement a long-term strategy for the development of Haiti, and

WE UNDERLINE the importance of the political processes under way leading to the establishment of a democratic and stable government in Haiti, based on respect for the rule of law, the growth of strong democratic institutions, and enabling the re-establishment of lasting peace and stability, key ingredients in the pursuit of prosperity.

COMMUNIQUÉ ON NICARAGUA

WE, THE HEADS OF STATE AND GOVERNMENT OF THE DEMOCRATIC COUNTRIES OF THE AMERICAS, gathered in the city of Mar del Plata, Argentina, on November 4 and 5, 2005, on the occasion of the Fourth Summit of the Americas,

AWARE of the political developments that have been unfolding in Nicaragua, and appreciating the recently concluded political agreements, which reaffirm the necessity of the rule of law and the separation and independence of the branches of government, as essential elements of representative democracy;

RECOGNIZING the leading role and active commitment of the Organization of American States (OAS) and of its Secretary General, José Miguel Insulza, in devoting particular attention to the situation in that country with a view to ensuring full respect for the democratic regime;

WE CALL UPON the authorities and political leaders to devote their best efforts and energy to the search for solutions to the principal problems facing the nation through broad and open dialogue; and

WE URGE the OAS General Secretariat to continue lending its support to the process of dialogue and holding free and fair elections in Nicaragua.

COMMUNIQUÉ ON COLOMBIA

WE, THE HEADS OF STATE AND GOVERNMENT OF THE DEMOCRATIC COUNTRIES OF THE AMERICAS, gathered in the city of Mar del Plata, Argentina, on November 4 and 5, 2005 on the occasion of the Fourth Summit of the Americas, express our recognition and support of peace-making efforts being undertaken in Colombia;

URGE members of the illegal armed groups to comply fully with the terms agreed upon for the demobilization, disarmament, and both individual and collective reintegration currently under way in that country, and

UNDERSCORE the contribution of the Organization of American States (OAS), through the OAS Mission to Support the Peace Process in Colombia (MAPP/OEA), and recognize the efforts made by the Secretary General of that Organization, José Miguel Insulza.

COMMUNIQUÉ ON BOLIVIA

WE, THE HEADS OF STATE AND GOVERNMENT OF THE DEMOCRATIC COUNTRIES OF THE AMERICAS, gathered in the city of Mar del Plata, Argentina, on November 4 and 5, 2005, on the occasion for the Fourth Summit of the Americas, trust in the ability of the Bolivian society and political leaders to find institutional mechanisms for appropriate political solutions while respecting the rule of law and democratic legitimacy. We urge social and political actors to continue searching for the points of consensus needed to consolidate democracy with full respect for its institutions and for human rights;

WE SUPPORT the actions undertaken by the United Nations and the Organization of American States (OAS), as well as the declarations issued earlier by the Río Group, the Iberoamerican Summit, the Andean Community, and the Bolivia Support Group; and

WE PLEDGE the full support of the countries of the region for the efforts of the Government of President Eduardo Rodríguez Veltzé to hold free, sovereign, and transparent elections in December 2005 fully in accordance with existing constitutional provisions.

COMMUNIQUÉ REGARDING THE DOHA DEVELOPMENT ROUND

WE, THE HEADS OF STATE AND GOVERNMENT OF THE DEMOCRATIC COUNTRIES OF THE AMERICAS, gathered on November 4 and 5, 2005, in the city of Mar del Plata, Argentina, take this opportunity to recognize the importance of the successful conclusion of the World Trade Organization Doha Development Round. Successful conclusion is an important step toward our larger goal: to give our citizens greater access to the world economy, creating prosperity, and boosting standards of living;

WE ACKNOWLEDGE that the greatest obstacles to achieving these goals are the subsidies, tariffs, and other barriers that limit our possibilities for growth and development;

WE KNOW that a successful and ambitious Doha Round will reduce or eliminate tariffs and other barriers. It will end unfair agricultural subsidies and will open up global markets for services;

WE RECOGNIZE the potential to lift the burden of poverty, create decent jobs and to promote prosperity and opportunity for all of our citizens, and we will work to eliminate agricultural subsidies that distort trade and stunt development, and to eliminate tariffs and other barriers to open markets for farmers around the world, and

WE ACKNOWLEDGE that expanding trade spreads hope and opportunity to all of our nations, and we are determined to work together to bring the World Trade Organization Doha Development Round to a successful conclusion.

WE TRUST that the other participants in the Round will join us in ensuring the successful conclusion of the Doha negotiations.

OFFICIAL DELEGATIONS

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BARBADOS	Primer Ministro Hon. Owen S. ARTHUR		Ministro de Estado del Ministerio de Asuntos Exteriores D. Kerrie SYMMONDS	Emb. ante la OEA D. Michael KING
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TRINIDAD AND TOBAGO	Primer Ministro D. Patrick MANNING		Ministro de RR. EE. D. Knowlson GIFT	Sra Da. Laura MARIE WEST
URUGUAY	Presidente Dr. D. Tabaré VAZQUEZ		Ministro de RR. EE. D. Reynaldo GARGANO	Director Gral. de As. Políticos Ext. Emb. D. Bruno FARAONE
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FOURTH SUMMIT OF THE AMERICAS - MAR DEL PLATA 2005

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