



Special Summit of the Americas

Monterrey, Mexico

January 12-13, 2004

Background Information

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General Information

Themes of the Special Summit of the Americas, 2004

Since the third Summit of the Americas in Quebec City in April 2001, the Americas have encountered new and complex challenges. There are 14 new leaders and conditions are difficult in many countries. For this reason, Canada proposed holding the January 2004 Special Summit of the Americas in Monterrey, Mexico.

The Special Summit will focus on three main themes: economic growth with equity; social development; and democratic governance. These themes reflect a recognition by the hemispheric community of the link between effective government, social development, and economic growth. Leaders will consider a declaration to address challenges and build upon the Quebec City Plan of Action. The Special Summit will help show the leaders' commitment to ensuring that the people of the Americas benefit from the summit process and will set the groundwork for the fourth Summit of the Americas, in Argentina in 2005.

Economic growth with equity for reducing poverty

Canada recognizes that a specific effort is needed to ensure that all of society has access to the benefits of growth. In Monterrey, the theme of growth with equity focuses on reducing poverty and covers a wide range of issues, including remittances (the practice of sending money to another country, usually to family members), small and medium-size business, and the inability of poor people to register their property.

The broader issues of governance, including the effective delivery of government services and the fight against corruption, are priorities for leaders at the Special Summit. The Americas must build on the Monterrey Consensus development commitments adopted at the United Nations International Conference on Financing for Development in Monterrey, Mexico, in 2002. This means establishing conditions that contribute to good governance, sound fiscal and monetary policies, and improved transparency in public institutions, through such means as a professional public service and an efficient and equitable tax-collecting system. Leaders must ensure that reforms benefit all sectors of society and reduce social and economic inequalities. Investing in education and health, through better use of local resources and with added bilateral and multilateral assistance, is essential for the region's future growth.

Social development

Although a region of great potential, Latin America and the Caribbean nations face income and social inequalities. While health, education, and social security systems exist in most countries, they need to be adequately funded and widely accessible.

Initiatives are needed to address hunger, poverty, and the threat of HIV/AIDS. The Americas must renew commitments to protect human rights, particularly the rights of indigenous peoples, and to ensure gender equality. Labour standards and decentralization remain at the forefront of fostering social justice and ensuring the full realization of human potential. In order to tackle poverty and promote social development, governments must better distribute income through fair and effective tax systems, effective delivery of programs, and by reducing corruption in their societies.

Information and communications technologies are rapidly transforming the Americas and the world. Canada believes that the governments of the Americas, in partnership with the private sector, citizens, multilateral development banks, and other regional and international organizations, must work together to ensure more equitable sharing of the potential benefits of information and communications technologies. These technologies bridge vast distances, expand access to knowledge, and increase economic productivity. At the third Summit of the Americas in Quebec City in 2001, Canada showed its commitments to the concept by creating the Institute for Connectivity in the Americas. The Special Summit of the Americas will build on the success of these initiatives — further enabling the people of the Americas to participate more fully in the political, social and economic development of their societies.

Democratic governance

Democratic governance entails developing an agenda that includes strengthening the credibility of, and public trust in, democratic institutions. The wide participation of civil society is essential, so that democratic governance can respond to the expressed needs of the people.

The democratic governance agenda also includes making government and public administration more effective. Increasing the accountability and transparency of governments and fighting corruption are key objectives. The 1996 Inter-American Convention Against Corruption was a major step. The impact of the Convention will be increased by strengthening its peer review process. Universal access to impartial, independent judicial systems is essential to confidence in hemispheric and national institutions charged with upholding the rule of law. Improved co-operation in promoting the civil, cultural, economic, political, and social rights of indigenous peoples remains a hemispheric priority.

Canada and the Summit of the Americas Process: Miami — Santiago — Quebec City — Monterrey

In December 1994, the 34 democratically elected heads of state and government of the Americas met to discuss common challenges and to seek mutually beneficial solutions. The first Summit of the Americas, in Miami, set in motion a dynamic process of collaborative action that has brought increased political, economic and social stability to the people of the Americas.

The summit process has contributed significantly to revitalized multilateralism in the region. The leaders of Americas' democracies have agreed to meet on a regular basis to refine and develop further co-operative action in support of fundamental objectives. As the process continues, the leaders are sharing accumulated experiences, forging a common understanding, and agreeing on mandates for collective action.

In the decade since the Summit of the Americas in Miami, the process has been characterized by a deeper commitment to shared principles. These principles dictate that summit participants include nations with democratically elected governments, operating with free market economies.

One of the fundamental objectives of the first Summit of the Americas was to reorganize inter-American relations in light of new political, economic and social conditions transforming the hemisphere. This was made possible by an unprecedented spirit of co-operation. Leaders believed that strong partnerships would encourage the advancement of mutual interests, including democracy, economic integration, and social justice. Their aim was to channel the momentum created by the convergence of political and economic values in the region.

Leaders endorsed a declaration that focused on four major themes: preserving and strengthening the community of democracies of the Americas; promoting prosperity through economic integration and free trade; eradicating poverty and discrimination in the hemisphere; and guaranteeing sustainable development and conserving the natural environment for future generations. Sustainable development was addressed at the Summit on Sustainable Development, held in Santa Cruz, Bolivia, in 1996. Leaders have endorsed an action plan containing a program of 23 initiatives covering the four themes.

After the first summit, the Summit Implementation Review Group was created to monitor and manage followup and implementation on action items. It meets several times a year. Implementation of the 23 initiatives contained in the plan of action was co-ordinated by a specific country, a regional organization, or a multilateral development bank. The review group, co-chaired at that time by the United States and Chile, carried out the substantial preparations for the second Summit of the Americas, in Santiago, Chile, in 1998.

The agenda for the 1998 summit was first considered by foreign ministers at the Organization of American States General Assembly in Lima, Peru, in 1997. It included the following themes: education — the key to progress; preserving and strengthening democracy; justice and human rights; economic integration and free trade; and eradication of poverty and discrimination.

In preparing for the summit in Santiago, Canada identified a number of priorities and carefully considered the views expressed by Canadians during consultations that took place in six Canadian cities in 1997. The theme of human rights and democracy continued to be a priority for Canada. During the summit process, Canada presented specific proposals to improve key aspects of the administration of justice in the Americas. Canada also made indigenous issues a distinct item on the agenda and stressed a need to ensure particular attention on gender equality and the human rights of women and people with disabilities.

In April 1998, the leaders of the 34 countries that had participated in Miami in 1994 met in Santiago to continue their dialogue and strengthen their co-operation. Canada's expanding leadership in the hemisphere was reflected in an invitation to host the third Summit of the Americas, which was held in Quebec City in April 2001.

Canada was active in all areas of discussion at the 1998 Summit of the Americas in Santiago. Among the issues addressed was how to combat the illicit drug trade. Leaders endorsed the creation of the Multilateral Evaluation Mechanism, which was developed by an intergovernmental working group chaired by Canada. This mechanism allows countries to review their progress in the fight against drugs. As part of the evaluation initiative, the reports of OAS member states were presented at the third Summit of the Americas, in Quebec City.

Also at the summit in Santiago, Canada's leadership role in trade liberalization was recognized when it was announced that Canada would chair negotiations for the Free Trade Area of the Americas for the first 18 months. Canada believes that the creation of the FTAA is important both to the economic prosperity of the hemisphere and to the consolidation of democracy in the region.

As host of the summit in Quebec City, Canada struck a balanced agenda that addressed three main themes: strengthening democracy, creating prosperity, and realizing human potential. In addition, Canada focused on the opportunities provided by new information technologies and "connectivity." The summit's Declaration on Connectivity noted the tremendous potential of information and communications technology. The Institute for Connectivity in the Americas is housed in the International Development Research Centre, a public corporation based in Ottawa. The institute received \$20 million in seed capital. In partnership with the Canadian government, the institute promotes innovative uses of

information and communications technologies for development in Latin America and the Caribbean. Its efforts include providing wireless Internet access for poorer neighbourhoods.

Recognizing that the Summit of the Americas process must remain relevant and responsive to the real concerns of the citizens of the region, the summit in Quebec City focused on people and how they can be given greater opportunities to participate in the political, economic, social and cultural mainstream of their societies and the region.

In preparing for the 2001 summit, Canada engaged civil society organizations at both the national and hemispheric level. Meetings were held with representatives of over 1,000 civil society groups and networks, such as non-governmental organizations, business people, unions, and academics. Financial support was given to the Youth Summit and the People's Summit. Canada also supported the Indigenous Summit which was held prior to the Quebec City summit.

Since 1994, Canada has been putting summit proposals into action at home and elsewhere in the hemisphere and has monitored the implementation of summit mandates through the Summit Implementation Review Group. As chair of the review group and host of the summit in 2001, Canada worked with its partners throughout the Americas to prepare a declaration and plan of action that defined the road to democratic, economic and social progress at the beginning of the 21st century. With Canada as chair, regular meetings of the review group were opened to civil society for the first time in April 2003.

In Quebec City, leaders laid out a vision for the community of the Americas based on strengthening democracy, renewing a commitment to the protection of human rights, creating prosperity, and fostering social justice and the full realization of human potential. That agenda is enshrined in the Quebec City Declaration and Plan of Action.

The democracy clause in the Quebec City Declaration was a key achievement of the summit. The clause is a powerful statement that democracy is a necessary condition for participation in the summit process. Leaders also mandated foreign ministers to develop an Inter-American Democratic Charter, which gave effect to the clause and was adopted on Sept. 11, 2001. The charter has been tested several times since its adoption and has quickly become a key feature of the inter-American architecture. In Haiti, the charter has reinforced ongoing OAS efforts to help resolve a political stalemate resulting from the May 2000 elections.

The first formal invocation of the charter was in April 2002 when it was used to restore constitutional order following a coup in Venezuela. That invocation signalled the hemisphere's zero tolerance for coups and opened a dialogue, led by the OAS Secretary-General, during the tensions in that country. The charter was called on in 2002 by the Nicaraguan government in its fight against corruption,

and it served as a guiding force in the peaceful resolution of tensions in Bolivia in early 2003. Each incident has demonstrated that the framework is a sturdy one.

Notable advances in implementing the Quebec Plan of Action include formalizing consultations with civil society on the summit process and engaging partner institutions, such as the Inter-American Development Bank and the World Bank, in the summit process. The leaders have agreed to provide regular public reports on the Plan of Action. They are available at <http://www.summit-americas.org>.

In the lead up to the Special Summit of the Americas, Canada consulted with civil society, the provinces and territories, and Aboriginal groups. Senior officials, in collaboration with Canadian universities, led round-table discussions across Canada on each of the Special Summit themes. Further information on these activities can be found at <http://www.dfait-maeci.gc.ca/latinamerica/outreach-activities-en.asp>.

In addition, substantive progress has been made through the regular hemispheric meetings of sectoral ministers and experts, including those responsible for corporate social responsibility, defence, education, labour, health, environment, cultural diversity, hemispheric security, the advancement of women, science and technology, terrorism, justice, agriculture, transport, trade, and combatting corruption and the trade in illegal drugs.

The Special Summit will affirm hemispheric co-operation, democracy, good governance, and social and economic development through specific commitments that reinforce the Quebec City Plan of Action.

Canada and the Americas

The consolidation of democracy and the growth of free markets have transformed the Americas during the past 15 years. At the same time, Canada's relations with the Americas have developed in new and exciting ways.

Canada has played a strong role in producing positive change in the hemisphere. It has diversified and deepened relations with its neighbours and has itself been changed in the process — forging new alliances and making new commitments.

In 2000, Canada celebrated the 10th anniversary of its full membership in the Organization of American States by hosting the OAS general assembly in Windsor, Ontario. Together with the OAS, Canada took the lead in a high-level mission to Peru, which helped restore democracy in that country.

At the Summit of the Americas in Quebec City in April 2001, Canada again undertook a leadership role and the hemisphere demonstrated its collective will in this area with the inclusion of a democracy clause in the Quebec City Declaration. This action led to the subsequent creation and adoption of the Inter-American Democratic Charter on Sept. 11, 2001.

Canada played a key role in creating the Unit for Promotion of Democracy, which helps strengthen fledgling democracies by providing technical support; and in designing the Trade Unit, which assists states in matters of trade policy and economic integration. Canada was part of the Committee on Hemispheric Security, which developed an updated, multidimensional approach to traditional and new security concerns. Canada has also been involved in institutionalizing the link between the OAS and the Summit of the Americas process.

Canada's engagement with other nations of the Americas has brought a significant new dimension and perspective to its foreign policy — a realization that all partners must confront the question of how to foster the region in which they wish to live and the legacy that they wish to leave to future generations.

Together the partners have embraced a commitment to community and to a unity of purpose based on shared values and common goals — to strengthening democracy, to protecting human rights and enhancing human security, to creating prosperity, and to giving all citizens the opportunity to realize their full potential.

All partners recognize that the Americas are connected by much more than geography. Canada is working with other governments on a range of sectoral interests that would have seemed unimaginable in the past. Ministers responsible for trade, transport, energy, gender equality, education, labour, justice, finance, environment, sustainable development, health, development, and agriculture now meet regularly.

Ongoing Canadian support to the Americas includes development assistance and co-operation that addresses poverty, supports education, and enhances economic sustainability.

Canada is also involved in various efforts to bring peace and stability to the region. From peacekeeping in Haiti to humanitarian assistance in Honduras after Hurricane Mitch, Canada has assisted the Americas in responding to natural disasters and threats to peace and security.

Mexico — Summit Host

Canada-Mexico Relations

- In 2004, Canada and Mexico are marking the 60th anniversary of the establishment of diplomatic relations.
- Canada and Mexico have developed a closer relationship over the past decade due to the North American Free Trade Agreement, signed in 1993, which led to a rapid expansion in bilateral trade and investment. The relationship continues to expand beyond trade, particularly because of greater co-operation on governance and in hemispheric and foreign affairs.
- Canada maintains an embassy in Mexico City; consulates in Monterrey and Guadalajara; and honorary consuls in Acapulco, Cancún, Mazatlán, Oaxaca, Puerto Vallarta, Tijuana and San José del Cabo. Mexico has an embassy in Ottawa; consulates general in Montreal, Toronto, and Vancouver; a consular office in Calgary and honorary consuls in Quebec City, Dartmouth, St. John's and Regina.
- Canada and Mexico co-operate increasingly in multilateral forums, including the Organization of American States (OAS), the United Nations (UN), Asia-Pacific Economic Cooperation (APEC), and the Summit of the Americas process in a broad range of areas that include trade facilitation, landmines, and illicit drug trafficking.
- Frequent contact between the two governments is maintained at the highest level.
- During President Fox's visit to Canada in April 2001, he and then Prime Minister Jean Chrétien issued a joint statement outlining a new agenda for relations: promoting democracy and good government; strengthening civil society; protecting the environment; defending human rights; and building peace and prosperity within the hemisphere and around the world.
- In the past few years, significant co-operation has been achieved in the area of good governance. Canadian and Mexican senior officials have shared experiences on efforts to increase accountability and transparency and are working on a program to modernize Mexico's highly centralized federal system. In January 2003, the two countries signed a memorandum of understanding for co-operation on matters relating to federalism. The two countries are also working on ways to exchange information on federalism issues, program review, budgeting and access to information legislation, indigenous issues, social programming, and sustainable development.

- The modernization of Mexico's public service is also an area of co-operation. A Mexican delegation visited Ottawa in January 2003 to discuss modernizing the public service as an element of good governance. The delegation examined development of an "e-campus" project for training and upgrading the skills of their government officials.
- Ministerial contact has also been frequent. Since January 2001, Canadian ministers of Foreign Affairs, International Trade, Finance, Justice, Defence, Agriculture, Health, Intergovernmental Affairs, Natural Resources, Environment, and Labour have each met with their Mexican counterparts.
- There is also strong co-operation between independent institutions, such as human rights commissions, and between Elections Canada and the Mexican Federal Electoral Institute.
- A highlight in the Canada-Mexico relationship has been the expansion of Canada's Seasonal Agricultural Workers Program, which provides a way to meet the labour demands of Canadian farm employers when there is a shortage of Canadian workers. Mexico, which supplied nearly 11,000 workers in 2002, has become the principal source. Mexicans make up over 50 per cent of Canada's recruitment of temporary farm workers.
- Contact between Canadian and Mexican citizens has increased in recent years. About a million Canadians visit Mexico annually and about 160,000 Mexican tourists visit Canada.
- Cultural and academic exchanges have expanded. There are 15 Canadian studies programs at Mexican universities and over 10,000 Mexican students studying full time in Canada. Canadian Film Week is a major annual film festival in Mexico City, and in October 2002, Canada's Foreign Affairs Minister attended the International Cervantino Festival in Guanajuato, Mexico, at which Canada was the country of honour. The festival showcased Canadian culture through music, theatre, dance, art, literature, and film.

Trade and investment

- Mexico is Canada's largest trading partner in Latin America. With a gross domestic product of about \$1 trillion and over 100 million people, Mexico is the world's 10th ranked economy and 11th most populated country.
- Canada-Mexico trade in 2002 was worth \$15.1 billion.

- Canadian exports to Mexico have more than doubled since the 1994 North American Free Trade Agreement, reaching \$2.4 billion in 2002. Canadian exports included motor vehicles and parts, grains, seeds, fruit and cereals, machinery, chemical products, dairy products, eggs, honey, salt, sulphur, wood pulp, fabrics, rubber, plastic, and iron and steel.
- Canadian imports from Mexico were valued at \$12.7 billion in 2002. Imports included electrical machinery, motor vehicles, furniture and bedding, oil, optical equipment, vegetables, fruit and nuts, iron and steel, woven apparel, glass and glassware, knit apparel, beverages, and textile floor coverings.
- Mexico ranks sixth as a market for Canadian exports. Canada ranks second as a market for Mexican exports. (Only the United States buys more from Mexico than Canada buys.)
- Canada has a full-time border clearance representative at the Nuevo Laredo border crossing to help Canadian products move more smoothly across the border. The representative's role is to ensure that Canadian agri-food products meet Mexican import requirements.
- Export Development Canada is increasingly active in the Mexican market. It established a presence in Monterrey in 2002 after opening an office at the Canadian embassy in Mexico City in 2000.
- Mexico is also a priority market for Canadian provinces. In September 2002, the Alberta government opened a trade office at the Canadian embassy in Mexico City. Quebec has had a delegation office in Mexico City since 1980.
- Canadian companies are increasingly active in Mexico, both in exports and in investment. Active sectors include energy, agri-food, automotive (and auto-related industries), environmental technologies and services, and information and communication technologies.
- By 2002, Canadian investment in Mexico had more than tripled from 1994 levels, reaching over \$3.3 billion. Mexican foreign direct investment in Canada was \$83 million in 2002.

Monterrey

Monterrey is the capital of the state of Nuevo León. Founded in 1596, it is situated in a valley near the Sierra Madre Oriental mountains, adjacent to a famous peak, the Cerro de la Silla.

Considered the industrial hub of Mexico, Monterrey is home to a large concentration of industries producing a variety of goods, including food, beer, tobacco, glass, cement, steel, chemical products, equipment, and machinery. Monterrey's industries produce close to 25 per cent of all manufactured products in Mexico and contribute 15 per cent to Mexico's gross domestic product.

The state of Nuevo León is noted for its commercial development; in Monterrey, there are 25,000 businesses.

Mexico's major education centre, Monterrey is the site of an internationally renowned technology institute and three universities.

Fact Sheets

ANTIGUA AND BARBUDA

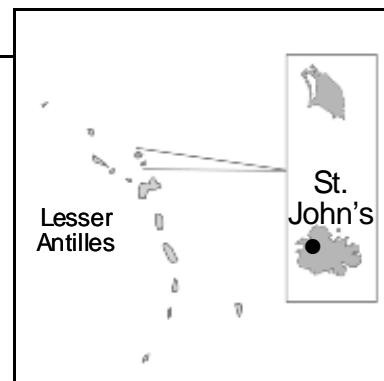
Capital: St. John's

GEODATA

Area 440 km ²	Population 74,100 (2002 est.)
Major language English (official)	Population growth rate 1.5% (2002 est.)

Major religious groups
Anglican, Protestant, Roman Catholic

Surrounding countries
Guadeloupe (France), Montserrat (U.K.),
St. Kitts-Nevis



POLITICAL DATA

Type of government
Constitutional monarchy

National legislature
Upper chamber: Senate
Lower chamber: House of Representatives;
multiparty

Leaders
Governor General James Beethoven Carlisle
Prime Minister Lester Bryant Bird

Minister of Foreign Affairs
Lester Bryant Bird

**Minister of Trade, Industry and Business
Development**
Gaston Browne

UN Human Development Index (2003)
Antigua and Barbuda rank 56th among 175 countries

Canadian official development assistance
\$590,000 (2001-2)

ECONOMIC DATA

GDP
\$1.1 billion (2002)

Real GDP growth rate
2.7% (2002 est.)

GDP per capita
\$15,222 (2002)

Main exports
Petroleum products, bedding, handicrafts, electronic components, machinery and transport equipment, food, live animals

Main imports
Food, live animals, machinery and transport equipment, manufactured goods, chemicals, oil

Canadian imports from Antigua and Barbuda
\$1 million (2002), including sailboats, electrical switches, machines, ignition and brake parts

Canadian exports to Antigua and Barbuda
\$9 million (2002), including dairy products, turbines, computers and peripherals, preserved fish, aircraft parts

ARGENTINA

Capital: Buenos Aires

GEODATA

Area

2,766,880 km²

Population

36.6 million (2002)

Major language

Spanish (official)

Population growth rate

1.1 % (2002)

Major religious groups

Roman Catholic (92%), Protestant (2%), Jewish (2%)

Surrounding countries

Bolivia, Brazil, Chile, Paraguay, Uruguay



POLITICAL DATA

Type of government

Republic

Minister of Foreign Affairs, International Trade and Worship

Rafael Bielsa

National legislature

Upper chamber: Senate

Lower chamber: Chamber of Deputies; multiparty

Minister of Economy

Roberto Lavagna

Leader

President Néstor Kirchner

UN Human Development Index (2003)

Argentina ranks 34th among 175 countries

Canadian official development assistance

\$3.52 million (2001-2)

ECONOMIC DATA

GDP

\$155.6 billion (2002)

Inflation rate

25.9% (2002)

Real GDP growth rate

-10.9% (2002 est.)

Unemployment rate

17.8% (October 2002)

GDP per capita

\$4,250 (2002)

Main exports

Edible oils, fuels, cereals, animal feed, motor vehicles

Main imports

Machinery and equipment, motor vehicles, chemicals, metal products, plastics

Canadian imports from Argentina

\$322.8 million (2002), including iron and steel products, copper, crude oil, honey

Canadian exports to Argentina

\$43.9 million (2002), including rubber or plastic moulds, vaccines, potassium chloride, textile fabrics, gas turbine parts

BAHAMAS

Capital: Nassau

GEODATA

Area

13,939 km²

Major language

English (official)

Major religious groups

Baptist (32%), Anglican (20%),
Roman Catholic (19%)

Surrounding countries

Cuba, Haiti, United States

Population

311,000 (2002)

Population growth rate

1% (2002)



POLITICAL DATA

Type of government

Constitutional monarchy

National legislature

Upper chamber: Senate

Lower chamber: House of Assembly; multiparty

Leaders

Governor General Ivy Dumont

Prime Minister Perry Christie

Minister of Foreign Affairs

Fred Mitchell

Minister of Trade and Industry

Leslie Miller

Minister of Finance

Perry Christie

UN Human Development Index (2003)

Bahamas ranks 49th among 175 countries

ECONOMIC DATA

GDP

\$7.9 billion (2002)

Real GDP growth rate

0.7% (2002)

GDP per capita

\$25,540 (2002)

Main exports

Crayfish, salt, other fisheries products, rum, citrus products, aragonite, pharmaceuticals, refined petroleum products, cement

Main imports

Machinery and transport equipment, food, beverages, tobacco, manufactured goods, crude oil, vehicles, electronics

Canadian imports from Bahamas

\$16.5 million (2002), including lobster and crayfish, organic chemicals, ornamental flowers, citrus fruit, medicine

Canadian exports to Bahamas

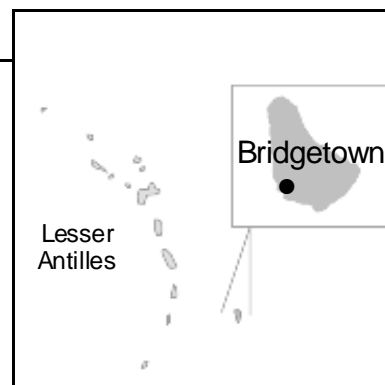
\$40.8 million (2002), including cigarettes, computers and peripherals, dairy products, wheat and meslin flour, natural sands

BARBADOS

Capital: Bridgetown

GEODATA

Area 431 km ²	Population 271,800 (2002)
Major language English (official)	Population growth rate 1.3% (2002)
Major religious groups Anglican (40%), Protestant (27%)	
Surrounding countries St. Lucia, St. Vincent and the Grenadines	



POLITICAL DATA

Type of government Constitutional monarchy	Minister of Foreign Affairs and Foreign Trade Billie Miller
National legislature Upper chamber: Senate Lower chamber: House of Assembly; multiparty	UN Human Development Index (2003) Barbados ranks 27th among 175 countries
Leaders Governor General Clifford Husbands Prime Minister Owen Seymour Arthur	Canadian official development assistance \$640,000 (2001-2)

ECONOMIC DATA

GDP \$4 billion (2002)	Inflation rate 0.5% (2002)
Real GDP growth rate -0.6% (2002)	Unemployment rate 10.3% (2002)
GDP per capita \$14,713 (2002)	
Main exports Sugar and molasses, rum, other foods and beverages, chemicals, electrical components, clothing	
Main imports Consumer goods, machinery, foodstuffs, construction materials, chemicals, fuel, electrical components	
Canadian imports from Barbados \$7.5 million (2002), including rum and tafia, turbine parts, wrenches, live primates, medical and veterinary instruments and parts	
Canadian exports to Barbados \$38.5 million (2002), including newsprint, turbines, computers and peripherals, frozen pork, frozen potatoes	

BELIZE

Capital: Belmopan

GEODATA

Area

22,923 km²

Major language

English (official)

Major religious groups

Roman Catholic (62%),
Protestant (30%)

Surrounding countries

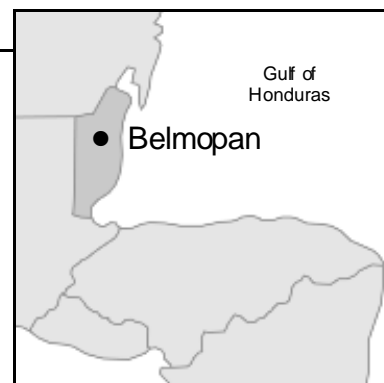
Guatemala, Honduras, Mexico

Population

250,000 (2002)

Population growth rate

0% (2002)



POLITICAL DATA

Type of government

Constitutional monarchy

National legislature

Upper chamber: Senate

Lower chamber: House of Representatives;
multiparty

Leaders

Governor General Colville Norbert Young

Prime Minister Said Musa

Minister of Foreign Affairs

Godfrey Smith

Minister of Investment and Foreign Trade

Eamon Courtenay

UN Human Development Index (2003)

Belize ranks 67th among 175 countries

Canadian official development assistance

\$2.72 million (2001-2)

ECONOMIC DATA

GDP

\$1.4 billion (2002)

Real GDP growth rate

3.7% (2002)

GDP per capita

\$5,490 (2002)

Main exports

Sugar and molasses, bananas, citrus fruit, clothing, fish products, wood

Main imports

Machinery and transport equipment, manufactured goods, food, fuels, chemicals, pharmaceuticals

Canadian imports from Belize

\$6.4 million (2002), including papayas, herbicides, frozen orange juice, lumber, essential orange oils

Canadian exports to Belize

\$5.2 million (2002), including dairy products, iron and steel structures and parts, machines and mechanical appliances, cured pork, metal safes and lockers and cash boxes

BOLIVIA

Capital: La Paz

GEODATA

Area

1,098,580 km²

Major languages

Spanish, Quechua,
Aymará (all official)

Major religious group

Roman Catholic (95%)

Surrounding countries

Argentina, Brazil, Chile, Paraguay, Peru

Population

8.8 million (2002)

Population growth rate

2.3% (2002)



POLITICAL DATA

Type of government

Republic

National legislature

Upper chamber: Senate

Lower chamber: Chamber of Deputies; multiparty

Leader

President Carlos Diego Mesa Gisbert

Minister of Foreign Affairs

Juan Ignacio Siles del Valle

Minister of Economic Development

Javier Nogales Iturri

Minister of Sustainable Development

Jorge Cortés Rodríguez

UN Human Development Index (2003)

Bolivia ranks 114th among 175 countries

Canadian official development assistance

\$32.96 million (2001-2)

ECONOMIC DATA

GDP

\$12.3 billion (2002)

Real GDP growth rate

2.8% (2002)

GDP per capita

\$1,390 (2002)

Main exports

Soybeans, natural gas, zinc, gold, wood

Main imports

Capital goods, raw and semi-manufactured materials, chemicals, petroleum, food

Canadian imports from Bolivia

\$14.3 million (2002), including tin, silver, shelled brazil nuts, tropical wood lumber

Canadian exports to Bolivia

\$7.1 million (2002), including radio, television, and radar parts; boring or sinking machinery parts; meslin and wheat; printed notes, (stamps, cheques, banknotes; bond certificates, etc.), filtering and purifying machinery parts; apparatus for liquids or gases

BRAZIL

Capital: Brasilia

GEODATA

Area

8,512,000 km²

Major languages

Portuguese (official)

Major religious group

Roman Catholic (80%)

Surrounding countries

Argentina, Bolivia, Colombia, French Guyana, Guyana, Paraguay, Peru, Suriname, Uruguay, Venezuela

Population

174.6 million (2002)

Population growth rate

1.3% (2002)



POLITICAL DATA

Type of government

Republic

National legislature

Upper chamber: Senate

Lower chamber: Chamber of Deputies; multiparty

Leader

President Luis Inácio Lula da Silva

Minister of External Relations

Luiz Nunes Amorim

Minister of Development, Industry and Commerce

Luiz Fernando Furlan

UN Human Development Index (2003)

Brazil ranks 65th among 175 countries

Canadian official development assistance

\$23.80 million (2001-2)

ECONOMIC DATA

GDP

\$735.8 billion (2002)

Real GDP growth rate

1.5% (2002)

GDP per capita

\$4,210 (2002)

Main exports

Transport equipment, iron ore, soybeans, footwear, coffee, automobiles

Main imports

Machinery, electrical and transport equipment, chemical products, oil

Canadian imports from Brazil

\$1.9 billion (2002), including raw cane sugar, motor vehicles, semi-finished iron and steel products, frozen orange juice, coffee

Canadian exports to Brazil

\$766.4 million (2002), including potassium chloride, newsprint, coal, sulphur, canary seed

CANADA

Capital: Ottawa

GEODATA

Area

9,970,610 km²

Population

31.4 million (2002)

Major languages

English, French (both official)

Population growth rate

1.1% (2002)

Major religious groups

Roman Catholic (45%),
United Church (12%), Anglican (8%)

Surrounding countries

United States, Greenland (Denmark)



POLITICAL DATA

Type of government

Constitutional monarchy

Minister of Foreign Affairs

Bill Graham

National legislature

Upper chamber: Senate

Lower chamber: House of Commons; multiparty

Minister for International Trade

Jim Peterson

Leaders

Governor General Adrienne Clarkson

Prime Minister Paul Martin

Minister of Finance

Ralph Goodale

UN Human Development Index (2003)

Canada ranks 8th among 175 countries

ECONOMIC DATA

GDP

\$1.2 trillion (2002)

Inflation rate

2.2% (2002)

Real GDP growth rate

3.3% (2002)

Unemployment rate

7.7% (2002)

GDP per capita

\$36,830 (2002)

Exports of goods and services

\$396.3 billion (2002), including motor vehicles, natural gas, crude oil, trucks, softwood lumber

Imports of goods and services

\$348.7 billion (2002), including motor vehicles, crude oil, motor vehicle parts and accessories

CHILE

Capital: Santiago

GEODATA

Area

756,946 km²

Major language

Spanish

Major religious groups

Roman Catholic (89%)

Protestant (11%)

Surrounding countries

Argentina, Bolivia, Peru

Population

15.12 million (2002)

Population growth rate

1.2% (2002 est.)



POLITICAL DATA

Type of government

Republic

National legislature

Upper chamber: Senate

Lower chamber: Chamber of Deputies; multiparty

Leader

President Ricardo Lagos Escobar

Minister of Foreign Relations and International Trade

Mariá Soledad Alvear Valenzuela

Minister of the Economy

Jorge Rodríguez Grossi

UN Human Development Index (2003)

Chile ranks 43rd among 175 countries

Canadian official development assistance

\$3.52 million (2001-2)

ECONOMIC DATA

GDP

\$104.5 billion (2002)

Real GDP growth rate

2.1% (2002)

GDP per capita

\$6,910 (2002)

Main exports

Copper, wood products, fish and fish meal, fruit and nuts, raw materials, textiles, industrial products

Main imports

Capital goods, spare parts, raw materials, petroleum, foodstuffs

Canadian imports from Chile

\$668.5 million (2002), including copper, grapes, unrefined copper, copper anodes for electrolytic refining, wine, softwood lumber

Canadian exports to Chile

\$282.7 million (2002), including durum wheat, coal, kraft paper, sulphur

COLOMBIA

Capital: Bogotá

GEODATA

Area

1,141,568 km²

Major language

Spanish (official)

Major religious group

Roman Catholic (90%)

Surrounding countries

Brazil, Ecuador, Panama, Venezuela

Population

43.8 million (2002)

Population growth rate

1.8% (2002)



POLITICAL DATA

Type of government

Republic

National legislature

Upper chamber: Senate

Lower chamber: House of Representatives;
multiparty

Leader

President Alvaro Uribe Velez

Minister of Foreign Affairs

Carolina Barco Isakson

Minister of International Trade

Jorge Humberto Botero

Minister of Finance

Alberto Carrasquilla Barrera

Minister of Energy and Mines

Luis Ernesto Mejia Castro

UN Human Development Index (2003)

Colombia ranks 64th among 175 countries

Canadian official development assistance

\$9.29 million (2001-2)

ECONOMIC DATA

GDP

\$128.1 billion (2002)

Real GDP growth rate

1.6% (2002)

GDP per capita

\$2,920 (2002)

Main exports

Petroleum, coffee, coal, bananas, cut flowers

Main imports

Industrial equipment, transportation equipment, consumer goods, chemicals, paper products

Canadian imports from Colombia

\$392.4 million (2002), including coffee, bananas and plantains, coal, fresh cut flowers

Canadian exports to Colombia

\$343.5 million (2002), including meslin and wheat, newsprint, dried and shelled lentils, motor vehicle parts and accessories, dried and shelled peas

Inflation rate

16.1% (2002)

Unemployment rate

17.6% (2002)

COSTA RICA

Capital: San José

GEODATA

Area

51,100 km²

Major languages

Spanish (official)

Major religious groups

Roman Catholic (76%),

Evangelical (14%)

Surrounding countries

Nicaragua, Panama

Population

4.1 million (2002)

Population growth rate

2% (2002)



POLITICAL DATA

Type of government

Republic

Minister of Foreign Trade

Alberto Trejos

National legislature

Single chamber: Legislative Assembly, multiparty

UN Human Development Index (2003)

Costa Rica ranks 42nd among 175 countries

Leader

President Abel Pacheco

Canadian official development assistance

\$7.15 million (2001-2)

Minister of Foreign Affairs

Roberto Tovar

ECONOMIC DATA

GDP

\$26.4 billion (2002)

Inflation rate

9.2% (2002)

Real GDP growth rate

3% (2002)

Unemployment rate

6.4% (2002)

GDP per capita

\$6,470 (2002)

Main exports

Coffee, bananas, sugar, pineapples, textiles, electronic components, medical equipment

Main imports

Raw materials, consumer goods, capital equipment, petroleum

Canadian imports from Costa Rica

\$246.9 million (2002), including bananas and plantains, pineapples, digital monolithic integrated circuits, raw cane sugar, fresh melons

Canadian exports to Costa Rica

\$76.8 million (2002), including newsprint, potassium chloride, unbleached kraft paper, rubber or plastic moulding machines, fine writing and printing paper

DOMINICA

Capital: Roseau

GEODATA

Area

750 km²

Major language

English (official)

Major religious groups

Roman Catholic (77%),
Protestant (15%)

Surrounding countries

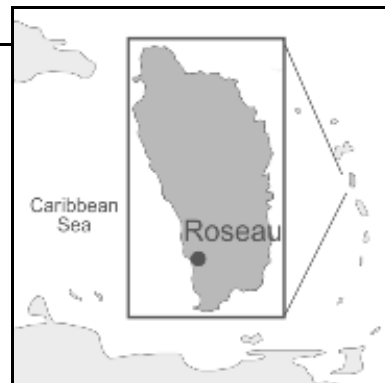
Guadeloupe (France), Martinique (France)

Population

71,600 (2002 est.)

Population growth rate

0.6% (2002 est.)



POLITICAL DATA

Type of government

Republic

National legislature

Single chamber: House of Assembly; multiparty

Leaders

President Vernon Shaw

Prime Minister Pierre Charles

Minister of Foreign Affairs

Pierre Charles

Minister of Trade, Industry and Marketing

Osborne Riviere

Minister of Finance

Ambrose George

UN Human Development Index (2003)

Dominica ranks 68th among 175 countries

Canadian official development assistance

\$3.68 million (2001-2)

ECONOMIC DATA

GDP

\$419.8 million (2002)

Real GDP growth rate

-0.5% (2002 est.)

GDP per capita

\$5,863 (2002)

Main exports

Bananas, soap, essential oils, vegetables, citrus fruit, manufactured goods

Main imports

Machinery, basic manufactured goods, foodstuffs, chemicals

Canadian imports from Dominica

\$944,000 (2002), including engines and motors; men's and boys' woven cotton apparel; lifting, handling, loading, unloading machinery parts; melons; integrated circuits

Canadian exports to Dominica

\$2.7 million (2002), including dairy products, furnace and mechanical stoker parts, smoked herring, lumber, cured pork

DOMINICAN REPUBLIC

Capital: Santo Domingo

GEODATA

Area

48,734 km²

Major language

Spanish (official)

Major religious group

Roman Catholic (95%)

Surrounding countries

Haiti, Puerto Rico (U.S.)

Population

9 million (2002 est.)

Population growth rate

2.3% (2002)



POLITICAL DATA

Type of government

Republic

National legislature

Upper chamber: Senate

Lower chamber: Chamber of Deputies; multiparty

Leader

President Hipólito Mejía

Minister of Foreign Relations

Francisco Guerrero Prats

Minister of Industry and Commerce

Sonia Guzmán

UN Human Development Index (2003)

Dominican Republic ranks 94th among 175 countries

Canadian official development assistance

2.41 million (2001-2)

ECONOMIC DATA

GDP

\$33.4 billion (2002 est.)

Real GDP growth rate

4.1% (2002 est.)

GDP per capita

\$3,730 (2002)

Main exports

Ferronickel, sugar, gold, silver, coffee, cocoa, tobacco, meats, consumer goods

Main imports

Food products, oil, cotton and cotton fabric, chemicals, pharmaceuticals

Canadian imports from Dominican Republic

\$117.7 million (2002), including cocoa beans, automatic circuit breakers, men's/boys' woven cotton trousers, cotton sacks and bags for packing goods, miscellaneous electrical switches

Canadian exports to Dominican Republic

\$128.7 million (2002), including newsprint, smoked herring, malt, electrical boards and panels, milk and cream powder

ECUADOR

Capital: Quito

GEODATA

Area

256,370 km²

Major language

Spanish (official)

Major religious group

Roman Catholic (95%)

Surrounding countries

Colombia, Peru

Population

12.4 million (2002)

Population growth rate

1.8% (2002)



POLITICAL DATA

Type of government

Republic

National legislature

Single chamber: Legislature; multiparty

Leader

President Lucio Gutiérrez

Minister of Foreign Affairs

Patricio Zuquilanda

Minister for Trade

Ivonne Baki

UN Human Development Index (2003)

Ecuador ranks 97th among 175 countries

Canadian official development assistance

\$7 million (2000-2 average)

ECONOMIC DATA

GDP

\$38.2 billion (2002)

Real GDP growth rate

3.4% (2002)

GDP per capita

\$3,080 (2002)

Main exports

Petroleum, bananas, shrimp, coffee, cocoa, cut flowers, fish

Main imports

Machinery and equipment, raw materials, fuels, consumer goods

Canadian imports from Ecuador

\$160.1 million (2002), including bananas and plantains, fresh cut flowers, frozen shrimp and prawns, cocoa beans, crude oil

Canadian exports to Ecuador

\$133.8 million (2002), including meslin and wheat, unbleached kraft paper, newsprint, boring or sinking machinery parts, potassium chloride

Inflation rate

12.5% (2002)

Unemployment rate

9.2% (2002)

EL SALVADOR

Capital: San Salvador

GEODATA

Area

21,893 km²

Major language

Spanish (official)

Major religious group

Roman Catholic (86%)

Surrounding countries

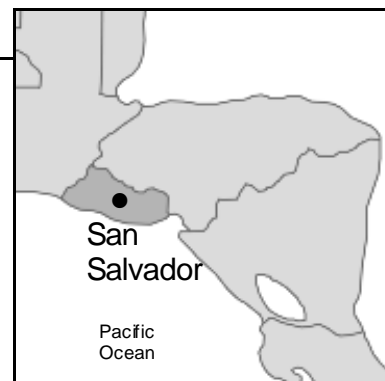
Guatemala, Honduras

Population

6.5 million (2002)

Population growth rate

1.9% (2002)



POLITICAL DATA

Type of government

Republic

National legislature

Single chamber: Legislative Assembly; multiparty

Leader

President Francisco Flores

Minister of Foreign Relations

María Eugenia Brizuela de Avila

Minister of Economy

Miguel Ernesto Lacayo

Minister of Finance

Juan José Daboub

UN Human Development Index (2003)

El Salvador ranks 105th among 175 countries

Canadian official development assistance

\$6.34 million (2001-2)

ECONOMIC DATA

GDP

\$22.4 billion (2002)

Real GDP growth rate

2.1% (2002)

GDP per capita

\$3,440 (2002)

Main exports

Offshore assembly products, coffee, sugar, shrimp, textiles, chemicals, electricity

Main imports

Raw materials, consumer products, capital goods, fuel, foodstuffs, petroleum, electricity

Canadian imports from El Salvador

\$54.9 million (2002), including knitted cotton apparel, coffee, electrical fixed capacitors

Canadian exports to El Salvador

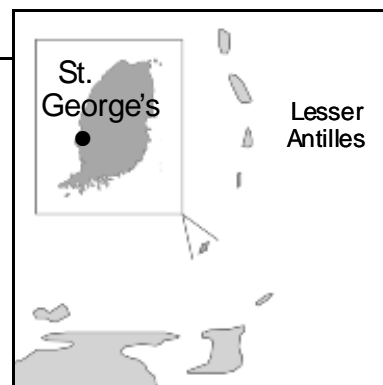
\$40.8 million (2002), including newsprint, durum wheat, heavy petroleum oils, asbestos, milk and cream powder

GRENADA

Capital: St. George's

GEODATA

Area 340 km ²	Population 102,100 (2002)
Major language English (official)	Population growth rate 0.2% (2002)
Major religious groups Roman Catholic (53%), Protestant (47%)	
Surrounding countries St. Vincent and the Grenadines, Trinidad and Tobago, Venezuela	



POLITICAL DATA

Type of government Constitutional monarchy	Minister of Foreign Affairs Elvin Nimrod
National legislature Upper chamber: Senate Lower chamber: House of Representatives; multiparty	Minister of Finance, Trade, Industry and Planning Anthony Boatman
Leaders Governor General Daniel Williams Prime Minister Keith Mitchell	UN Human Development Index (2003) Grenada ranks 93rd among 175 countries
	Canadian official development assistance \$1.86 million (2001-2)

ECONOMIC DATA

GDP \$645 million (2002 est.)	Inflation rate 3.4% (2002 est.)
Real GDP growth rate 0.6% (2002 est.)	Unemployment rate Not available
GDP per capita \$6,316 (2002)	
Main exports Nutmeg, cocoa beans, bananas, mace, textiles, computer components	
Main imports Machinery, food, manufactured goods, chemicals, fuel	
Canadian imports from Grenada \$1.5 million (2002), including medicine, nutmeg, cocoa beans, mace, olive oil	
Canadian exports to Grenada \$4.5 million (2002), including dairy products, cured pork, printed matter, telephonic parts, metal mountings and fittings for buildings	

GUATEMALA

Capital: Guatemala City

GEODATA

Area

108,900 km²

Major language

Spanish (official)

Major religious groups

Roman Catholic, Protestant

Surrounding countries

Belize, El Salvador, Honduras, Mexico

Population

12 million (2002)

Population growth rate

2.6% (2002)



POLITICAL DATA

Type of government

Republic

National legislature

Single chamber: Legislative Assembly; multiparty

Leader

President Alfonso Portillo/

President Oscar Berger (after Jan. 14, 2004)

Minister of Foreign Relations

Edgar Gutiérrez/Jorge Briz (after Jan. 14, 2004)

Minister of Finance

Eduardo Weymann Fuentes/

Antonieta Bonilla (after Jan. 14, 2004)

UN Human Development Index (2003)

Guatemala ranks 119th among 175 countries

Canadian official development assistance

\$17.96 million (2001-2)

ECONOMIC DATA

GDP

\$36.5 billion (2002)

Real GDP growth rate

2.2% (2002)

GDP per capita

\$3,050 (2002)

Main exports

Coffee, sugar, bananas, fruit and vegetables, cardamom, meat, apparel, petroleum, electricity

Main imports

Fuels, machinery, transportation equipment, construction materials, grain, fertilizers, electricity

Canadian imports from Guatemala

\$144.1 million (2002), including coffee, raw cane sugar, bananas and plantains, fresh melons, peas

Canadian exports to Guatemala

\$129.8 million (2002), including wheat and meslin, heavy petroleum oils, newsprint, potassium chloride, durum wheat

GUYANA

Capital: Georgetown

GEODATA

Area

214,970 km²

Major language

English (official)

Major religious groups

Christian (50%), Hindu (33%)

Surrounding countries

Brazil, Suriname, Venezuela

Population

771,970 (2002)

Population growth rate

0.7% (2002)



POLITICAL DATA

Type of government

Republic

National legislature

Single chamber: National Assembly; multiparty

Leaders

President Bharrat Jagdeo

Prime Minister Samuel Hinds

Minister of Foreign Affairs

Samuel Rudolf Insanally

Minister of Foreign Trade and International Co-operation

Clement Rohee

Minister of Industry, Tourism and Commerce

Manzoor Nadir

UN Human Development Index (2003)

Guyana ranks 92nd among 175 countries

Canadian official development assistance

\$9.96 million (2001-2)

ECONOMIC DATA

GDP

\$1.1 billion (2002)

Real GDP growth rate

1.1% (2002)

GDP per capita

\$1,477 (2002)

Main exports

Sugar and molasses, gold, bauxite and alumina, rice, shrimp, rum, timber

Main imports

Manufactured goods, machinery, petroleum, food

Canadian imports from Guyana

\$225.4 million (2002), including gold, rum and tafia, aluminum ores and concentrates, frozen fish, men's and boys' woven apparel (synthetic fibres)

Canadian exports to Guyana

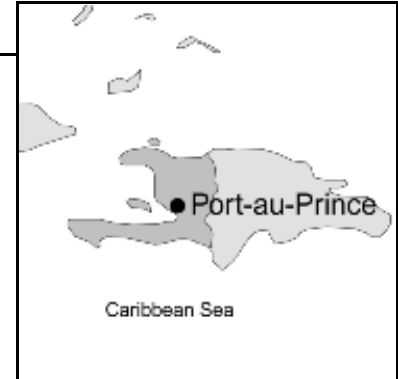
\$11 million (2002), including dried peas; newsprint; paper and paperboard; taps, cocks and valves and similar articles; dairy products

HAITI

Capital: Port-au-Prince

GEODATA

Area 27,797 km ²	Population 8.3 million (2002 est.)
Major languages French and Creole (official)	Population growth rate 2.1% (2002)
Major religious groups Roman Catholic (80%), Protestant (16%)	
Surrounding countries Bahamas, Cuba, Dominican Republic, Jamaica	



POLITICAL DATA

Type of government Republic	Minister of Foreign Affairs Joseph Philippe Antonio
National legislature Upper chamber: Senate Lower chamber: Chamber of Deputies; multiparty	Minister of Commerce and Industry Leslie Goutier
Leaders President Jean-Bertrand Aristide Prime Minister Yvon Neptune	UN Human Development Index (2003) Haiti ranks 150th among 175 countries
	Canadian official development assistance \$20.43 million (2001-2)

ECONOMIC DATA

GDP \$4.9 billion (2002 est.)	Inflation rate 9.9% (2002)
Real GDP growth rate -0.9% (2002 est.)	Unemployment rate Not available
GDP per capita \$600 (2002 est.)	
Main exports Manufactured goods, coffee, oils, cocoa	
Main imports Food, manufactured goods, machinery and transportation equipment, fuels, raw materials	
Canadian imports from Haiti \$10.6 million (2002), including frozen rock lobster and crawfish, knitted cotton apparel, cotton sacks and bags, binder or baler twine, copper waste and scrap	
Canadian exports to Haiti \$30.7 million (2002), including concentrated milk and cream, frozen edible offal of swine, meslin and wheat, iron and steel products, fish (salted or in brine)	

HONDURAS

Capital: Tegucigalpa

GEODATA

Area

112,087 km²

Major language

Spanish (official)

Major religious group

Roman Catholic (97%)

Surrounding countries

Belize, El Salvador, Guatemala, Nicaragua

Population

6.7 million (2002)

Population growth rate

2.5% (2002)



POLITICAL DATA

Type of government

Republic

National legislature

Single chamber: National Congress; multiparty

Leader

President Ricardo Maduro

Minister of Foreign Affairs

Leonidas Rosa-Bautista

Minister of Industry and Commerce

Norman García

Minister of Finance

Arturo Alvarado

UN Human Development Index (2003)

Honduras ranks 115th among 175 countries

Canadian official development assistance

\$16.71 million (2001-2)

ECONOMIC DATA

GDP

\$10.3 billion (2002)

Real GDP growth rate

2.5% (2002 est.)

GDP per capita

\$1,540 (2002)

Main exports

Coffee, bananas, shrimp, lobster, meat, lumber

Main imports

Machinery and transport equipment, industrial raw materials, chemical products, fuels, foodstuffs

Canadian imports from Honduras

128.5 million (2002), including knitted cotton apparel, bananas and plantains, raw cane sugar, fresh melons

Canadian exports to Honduras

\$16.6 million (2002), including milk and cream powder, potassium chloride, newsprint, frozen potatoes

JAMAICA

Capital: Kingston

GEODATA

Area

10,991 km²

Major language

English (official)

Major religious group

Protestant (61%)

Surrounding countries

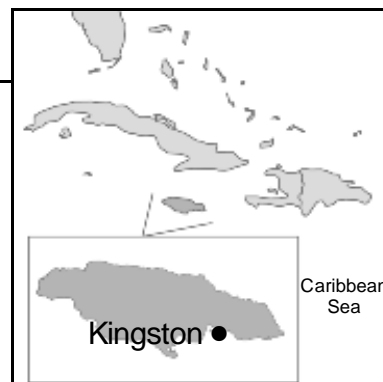
Cuba, Haiti

Population

2.6 million (2002)

Population growth rate

0.5% (2002)



POLITICAL DATA

Type of government

Constitutional monarchy

National legislature

Upper chamber: Senate

Lower chamber: House of Representatives;
multiparty

Leaders

Governor General Howard Cooke

Prime Minister Percival James Patterson

Minister of Foreign Affairs and Foreign Trade

K. D. Knight

Minister of Commerce, Science and Technology

Phillip Paulwell

UN Human Development Index (2003)

Jamaica ranks 78th among 175 countries

Canadian official development assistance

\$34.75 million (2001-2)

ECONOMIC DATA

GDP

\$12 billion (2001)

Real GDP growth rate

1.2% (2001)

GDP per capita

\$4,627 (2001)

Main exports

Alumina and bauxite, sugar, bananas, rum

Main imports

Machinery and transport equipment, construction materials, fuel, food, chemicals, fertilizers

Canadian imports from Jamaica

\$270.9 million (2002), including aluminum oxides, rum and tafia, liqueurs and cordials, roots and tubers, gold

Canadian exports to Jamaica

\$167.2 million (2002), including wheat and meslin, telephonic equipment parts, durum wheat, dairy products, preserved fish

MEXICO

Capital: Mexico City

GEODATA

Area

1,972,550 km²

Major language

Spanish (official)

Major religious groups

Roman Catholic (89%),
Protestant (6%)

Surrounding countries

Belize, Guatemala, United States

Population

105 million (2003 est.)

Population growth rate

1.43% (2003 est.)



POLITICAL DATA

Type of government

Republic

National legislature

Upper chamber: Senate

Lower chamber: Chamber of Deputies; multiparty

Leader

President Vicente Fox

Minister of Foreign Affairs

Luís Ernesto Derbez

Minister of the Economy

Fernando Canales Clariond

UN Human Development Index (2003)

Mexico ranks 55th among 175 countries

Canadian official development assistance

\$7.70 million (2001-2)

ECONOMIC DATA

GDP

\$1 trillion (2002)

Real GDP growth rate

0.9% (2002)

GDP per capita

\$10,030 (2002)

Main exports

Electrical machinery and components, passenger vehicles, automotive parts, trucks, machinery, computers and components, oil and oil products, vegetables

Main imports

Electrical machinery, computers and components, automotive parts for assembly and repair, motor vehicles, plastics

Canadian imports from Mexico

\$12.7 billion (2002), including electrical machinery, motor vehicles, furniture and bedding, oil, optical equipment, vegetables, fruit and nuts, iron and steel, woven apparel, glass and glassware, knit apparel, beverages, textile floor coverings

Canadian exports to Mexico

\$2.4 billion (2002), including motor vehicles and parts, grains, seeds, fruit, cereal, machinery, chemical products, dairy products, eggs, honey, salt, sulphur, wood pulp, fabrics, rubber, plastic, iron and steel

NICARAGUA

Capital: Managua

GEODATA

Area

130,000 km²

Major language

Spanish (official)

Major religious group

Roman Catholic (85%)

Surrounding countries

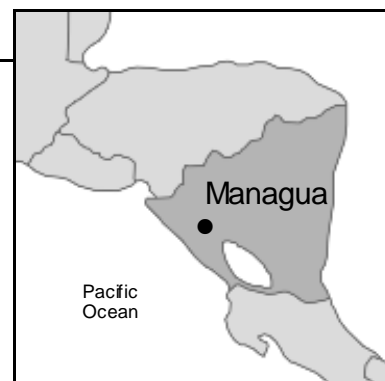
Costa Rica, Honduras

Population

5.3 million (2002)

Population growth rate

2.6% (2002)



POLITICAL DATA

Type of government

Republic

National legislature

Single chamber: National Assembly; multiparty

Leader

President Enrico José Bolaños

Minister of Foreign Affairs

Norman Caldera

Minister of Industry and Commerce

Mario Arana

Minister of Finance

Eduardo Montealegre Rivas

UN Human Development Index (2003)

Nicaragua ranks 121st among 175 countries

Canadian official development assistance

17.06 million (2001-2)

ECONOMIC DATA

GDP

\$6.3 billion (2002 est.)

Real GDP growth rate

1% (2002)

GDP per capita

\$1,180 (2002)

Main exports

Coffee, shrimp and lobster, cotton, tobacco, bananas, beef, sugar, gold

Main imports

Machinery and equipment, raw materials, petroleum products, consumer goods

Canadian imports from Nicaragua

\$45.4 million (2002), including gold, raw groundnuts, coffee, woven cotton apparel

Canadian exports to Nicaragua

\$10.5 million (2002), including plastic sheets, rendered animal fats, malt, newsprint, coloured printing ink

PANAMA

Capital: Panama City

GEODATA

Area

77,082 km²

Major language

Spanish (official)

Major religious groups

Roman Catholic (85%),
Protestant (15%)

Surrounding countries

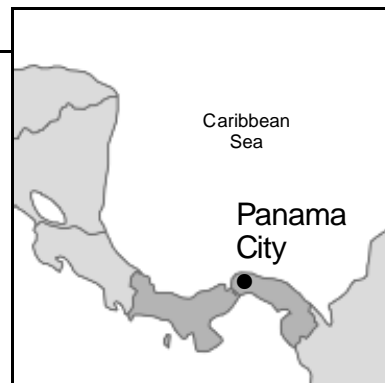
Colombia, Costa Rica

Population

2.9 million (2002 est.)

Population growth rate

1% (2002)



POLITICAL DATA

Type of government

Republic

National legislature

Single chamber: Legislative Assembly; multiparty

Leader

President Mireya Moscoso

Minister of Foreign Relations

Harmodio Arias

Minister of Economy and Finance

Norberto Delgado

UN Human Development Index (2003)

Panama ranks 59th among 175 countries

Canadian official development assistance

\$2.28 million (2001-2)

ECONOMIC DATA

GDP

\$19.3 billion (2002 est.)

Real GDP growth rate

0.8% (2002 est.)

GDP per capita

\$6,680 (2002 est.)

Main exports

Bananas, shrimp, sugar, coffee, clothing

Main imports

Capital equipment and machinery, crude oil, foodstuffs, consumer goods, chemicals

Canadian imports from Panama

\$12.2 million (2002), including fish fats and oils, coffee, frozen shrimp and prawns, mechanical floor sweepers, cargo vessels

Canadian exports to Panama

\$37.1 million (2002), including medicines, frozen pork, cured pork, fine writing and printing paper, frozen edible offal of swine

PARAGUAY

Capital: Asunción

GEODATA

Area 406,752 km ²	Population 5.8 million (2002)
Major language Spanish (official)	Population growth rate 2.5% (2002)
Major religious group Roman Catholic (90%)	
Surrounding countries Argentina, Bolivia, Brazil	



POLITICAL DATA

Type of government Republic	Minister of Industry and Commerce Ernst Ferdinand Bergen
National legislature Upper chamber: Senate Lower chamber: Chamber of Deputies; multiparty	Minister of the Economy Dionisio Borda
Leader President Nicanos Duarte Frutos	Minister of the Interior Cesar Orlando Fiorotto Sanchez
Minister of Foreign Affairs Leila Rachid de Cowles	UN Human Development Index (2003) Paraguay ranks 84th among 175 countries
	Canadian official development assistance \$1.39 million (2001-2)

ECONOMIC DATA

GDP \$8.8 billion (2002)	Inflation rate 10.5% (2002)
Real GDP growth rate -2.3% (2002)	Unemployment rate 16.8% (2001)
GDP per capita \$1,520 (2002)	
Main exports Soybeans, feed, cotton, meat, edible oils, electricity	
Main imports Vehicles, consumer goods, tobacco, petroleum products, electrical machinery	
Canadian imports from Paraguay \$10.5 million (2002), including hardwood lumber, refined sugar, hydraulic turbine and water wheel parts, wood parquet panels	
Canadian exports to Paraguay \$9.2 million (2002), including moulding machines, rubber and plastic moulds, video games, electric inductors, regulating instruments	

PERU

Capital: Lima

GEODATA

Area

1,285,215 km²

Population

26.75 million (mid-year 2002)

Major languages

Spanish and Quechua (both official),
Aymará

Population growth rate

1.5% (2002)

Major religious group

Roman Catholic (90%)

Surrounding countries

Bolivia, Brazil, Chile, Colombia, Ecuador



POLITICAL DATA

Type of government

Republic

Minister of Commerce and Tourism

Alfredo Ferrero Diez-Canseco

National legislature

Single chamber: Democratic Constituent Congress;
multiparty

UN Human Development Index (2003)

Peru ranks 82nd among 175 countries

Leader

President Alejandro Toledo Manrique

Canadian official development assistance

\$18.33 million (2001-2)

Minister of Foreign Relations

Manuel Rodríguez Cuadros

ECONOMIC DATA

GDP

\$88.6 billion (2002)

Inflation rate

0.2% (2002, Lima)

GDP growth rate

5.4% (2002)

Unemployment rate

8.9% (2002 est.)

GDP per capita

\$3,310 (2002)

Main exports

Fish and fish products, gold, copper, zinc, crude petroleum and byproducts, lead, coffee, sugar, cotton

Main imports

Machinery, transportation equipment, foodstuffs, petroleum, iron and steel, chemicals, pharmaceuticals

Canadian imports from Peru

\$293.1 million (2002), including lead; copper; fish and seafood flours, meals and pellets; zinc; coffee

Canadian exports to Peru

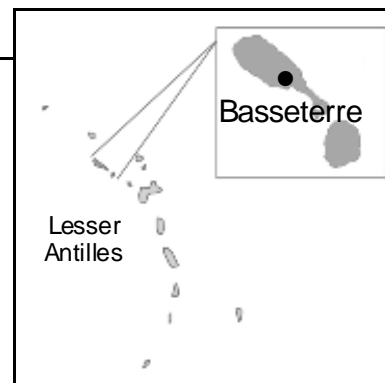
\$169.1 million (2002), including meslin and wheat, durum wheat, surveying instrument parts and accessories, potassium chloride, zinc

ST. KITTS-NEVIS

Capital: Basseterre

GEODATA

Area 269 km ²	Population 50,400 (2002)
Major language English (official)	Population growth rate 5% (2002)
Major religious groups Anglican, Protestant, Roman Catholic	
Surrounding countries Anguilla (U.K.), Antigua and Barbuda, Montserrat (U.K.)	



POLITICAL DATA

Type of government Constitutional monarchy	Minister of Foreign Affairs Timothy Harris
National legislature Single chamber: House of Assembly; multiparty	UN Human Development Index (2003) St. Kitts-Nevis rank 51st among 175 countries
Leaders Governor General Cuthbert Sebastian Prime Minister Denzil Douglas	Canadian official development assistance \$1.2 million (2001-2)

ECONOMIC DATA

GDP \$546 million (2002)	Inflation rate 2.3% (2002)
Real GDP growth rate -1.9% (2002)	Unemployment rate Not available
GDP per capita \$10,834 (2002)	
Main exports Machinery, food, electronics, beverages, tobacco	
Main imports Machinery, manufactured goods, food, fuel	
Canadian imports from St. Kitts-Nevis \$7.5 million (2002), including electrical equipment and parts (boards, panels, etc.)	
Canadian exports to St. Kitts-Nevis \$28.6 million (2002), including iron and steel structures and parts, plastic articles, laminated wood products for construction use, metal mountings and fittings, chandeliers and light fixtures	

ST. LUCIA

Capital: Castries

GEODATA

Area

616 km²

Population

159,133 (2002)

Major languages

English (official), Creole

Population growth rate

0.7% (2002)

Major religious group

Roman Catholic (90%)

Surrounding countries

Barbados, Martinique (France), St. Vincent and the Grenadines



POLITICAL DATA

Type of government

Constitutional monarchy

Minister of External Affairs and International Trade

Julian Hunte

National legislature

Upper chamber: Senate

Lower chamber: House of Assembly; multiparty

UN Human Development Index (2003)

St. Lucia ranks 71st among 175 countries

Leaders

Governor General Calliopa Pearlette Louisy

Prime Minister Kenneth Anthony

Canadian official development assistance

\$1.35 million (2001-2)

ECONOMIC DATA

GDP

\$1.1 billion (2002)

Inflation rate

-0.2% (2002)

Real GDP growth rate

0.1% (2002)

Unemployment rate

Not available

GDP per capita

\$6,633 (2002)

Main exports

Bananas, clothing, cocoa, fruit and vegetables, coconut oil

Main imports

Food, manufactured goods, machinery and transportation equipment, chemicals, fuels

Canadian imports from St. Lucia

\$400,000 (2002), including electrical resistors, green tea, food preparations, peppers

Canadian exports to St. Lucia

\$9.7 million (2002), including dairy products, computers and peripherals, telephonic equipment parts, rubber tires, metal mountings and fittings

ST. VINCENT AND THE GRENADINES

Capital: Kingstown

GEODATA

Area

340 km²

Major language

English (official)

Major religious groups

Anglican (47%), Methodist (28%),
Roman Catholic (13%)

Surrounding countries

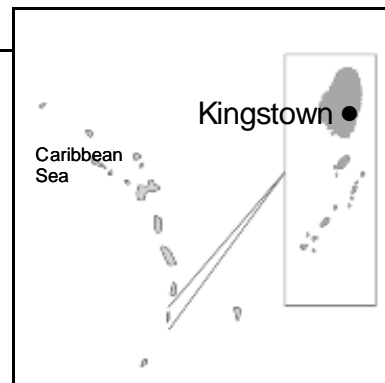
Grenada, St. Lucia, Trinidad and Tobago

Population

112,100 (2002 est.)

Population growth rate

0.1% (2002 est.)



POLITICAL DATA

Type of government

Constitutional monarchy

National legislature

Upper chamber: Senate

Lower chamber: House of Assembly; multiparty

Leaders

Governor General Charles Antrobus

Prime Minister Ralph Gonsalves

Minister of Foreign Affairs, Commerce and Trade

Louis Straker

Minister of Tourism and Culture

Rene Baptiste

UN Human Development Index (2003)

St. Vincent and the Grenadines rank 80th among
175 countries

Canadian official development assistance

\$1.43 million (2001-2)

ECONOMIC DATA

GDP

\$535 million (2002)

Real GDP growth rate

0.7% (2002 est.)

GDP per capita

\$4,776 (2002)

Main exports

Bananas, eddoes and dasheen (taro), arrowroot starch, tennis rackets

Main imports

Foodstuffs, machinery and equipment, chemicals and fertilizers, minerals and fuels

Canadian imports from St. Vincent and the Grenadines

\$600,000 (2002), including frozen tuna, nutmeg, frozen fish, fruit mixtures, food preparations

Canadian exports to St. Vincent and the Grenadines

\$4 million (2002), including dairy products, wheat and meslin flour, metal office furniture, zinc compounds, printed matter

SURINAME

Capital: Paramaribo

GEODATA

Area

163,265 km²

Major language

Dutch (official)

Major religious groups

Hindu (27.4%), Protestant (25.2%),
Roman Catholic (22.8%),
Muslim (19.6%)

Surrounding countries

Brazil, Guyana, French Guiana (France)

Population

433,700 (2002 est.)

Population growth rate

0.5% (2002 est.)



POLITICAL DATA

Type of government

Republic

National legislature

Single chamber: National Assembly; multiparty

Leader

President Runaldo Ronald Venetiaan

Minister of Foreign Affairs

Maria Levens

Minister of Trade and Industry

Michael Jong Tjen Fa

UN Human Development Index (2003)

Suriname ranks 77th among 175 countries

Canadian official development assistance

\$0.52 million (2001-2)

ECONOMIC DATA

GDP

\$1.3 billion (2002 est.)

Real GDP growth rate

1.2% (2002 est.)

GDP per capita

\$3,060 (2002 est.)

Main exports

Alumina, crude oil, lumber, shrimp and fish, rice, bananas

Main imports

Capital equipment, petroleum, foodstuffs, cotton, consumer goods

Canadian imports from Suriname

\$46.8 million (2002), including gold, aluminium oxides, frozen shrimp and prawns, frozen fish, live reptiles

Canadian exports to Suriname

\$4.1 million (2002), including cured beef, digital processing units, portable computers, computers and peripheral equipment, dried and shelled peas

TRINIDAD AND TOBAGO

Capital: Port-of-Spain

GEODATA

Area

5,130 km²

Population

1.3 million (2002)

Major language

English (official)

Population growth rate

0.7% (2002)

Major religious groups

Christian (44%), Hindu (24%)

Surrounding countries

Grenada, Venezuela



POLITICAL DATA

Type of government

Republic

Minister of Foreign Affairs

Knowlson Gift

National legislature

Upper chamber: Senate

Lower chamber: House of Representatives;
multiparty

Minister of Planning and Development

Camille Robinson-Regis

Leaders

President George Maxwell Richards

Prime Minister and Minister of Finance Patrick
Manning

Minister of Trade and Industry

Kenneth Valley

UN Human Development Index (2003)

Trinidad and Tobago ranks 54th among 175 countries

Canadian official development assistance

\$1.79 million (2001-2)

ECONOMIC DATA

GDP

\$15 billion (2002)

Inflation rate

4.15% (2002)

Real GDP growth rate

3.2% (2002)

Unemployment rate

10.4% (2002)

GDP per capita

\$11,371 (2002)

Main exports

Petroleum and petroleum products, chemicals, steel products, fertilizers, sugar, cocoa, coffee, citrus, flowers

Main imports

Machinery, transportation equipment, manufactured goods, foodstuffs, live animals

Canadian imports from Trinidad and Tobago

\$166.7 million (2002), including iron products, iron and steel bars and rods, methanol, urea, fresh fish

Canadian exports to Trinidad and Tobago

\$146.6 million (2002), including iron ores and concentrates, newsprint, turbines, computers and peripherals, medicine

UNITED STATES

Capital: Washington

GEODATA

Area

9,629,091 km²

Major languages

English, Spanish

Major religious groups

Protestant (56%),
Roman Catholic (28%), Jewish (2%)

Surrounding countries

Canada, Mexico

Population

288.4 million (July 2002)

Population growth rate

1.1% (2002)



POLITICAL DATA

Type of government

Republic

National legislature

Upper chamber: Senate
Lower chamber: House of Representatives;
multiparty

Leader

President George W. Bush

Secretary of State

Colin L. Powell

Secretary of the Treasury

John Snow

UN Human Development Index (2003)

The United States ranks 7th among 175 countries

ECONOMIC DATA

GDP

\$16.4 trillion (2002)

GDP growth rate

2.4% (2002)

GDP per capita

\$56,890 (2002)

Inflation rate

1.3% (2002)

Unemployment rate

5.8% (2002)

Main exports

Machinery and equipment, motor vehicles, aircraft, wheat, chemicals, plastic resins, plastic materials, plastic manufactured products, agricultural products, military supplies

Main imports

Petroleum and petroleum products, non-ferrous base metals, fertilizer, agricultural products, machinery and equipment, motor vehicles, raw materials

Canadian imports from the United States

\$218.3 billion (2002), including motor vehicles and parts, miscellaneous medicaments, computers, precision instruments, aluminum, iron and steel articles

Canadian exports to the United States

\$345.4 billion (2002), including motor vehicles, natural gas, crude petroleum, trucks, softwood lumber

URUGUAY

Capital: Montevideo

GEODATA

Area

176,215 km²

Major language

Spanish (official)

Major religious groups

Roman Catholic (66%), Protestant (2%), Jewish (2%)

Surrounding countries

Argentina, Brazil

Population

3.4 million (2002 est.)

Population growth rate

0.6% (2002)



POLITICAL DATA

Type of government

Republic

National legislature

Upper chamber: Senate

Lower chamber: Chamber of Deputies; multiparty

Leader

President Jorge Batlle

Minister of Foreign Affairs

Didier Operti Badán

Minister of the Economy and Finance

Isaac Alfie

UN Human Development Index (2003)

Uruguay ranks 40th among 175 countries

Canadian official development assistance

\$0.83 million (2001-2)

ECONOMIC DATA

GDP

\$19.4 billion (2002)

Real GDP growth rate

-10.8% (2002)

GDP per capita

\$5,760 (2002)

Inflation rate

14% (2002)

Unemployment rate

18.6% (October-December 2002, average)

Main exports

Meat, rice, leather products, wool, vehicles, dairy products

Main imports

Machinery, chemicals, road vehicles, crude petroleum

Canadian imports from Uruguay

\$47.9 million (2002), including tanned leathers, frozen fish fillets, fur apparel and accessories, woolen fabrics

Canadian exports to Uruguay

\$10.3 million (2002), including seed potatoes, dried and shelled lentils, rubber and plastic moulds, electrical apparatus for communications equipment, fine writing and printing paper

VENEZUELA

Capital: Caracas

GEODATA

Area

912,050 km²

Major language

Spanish (official)

Major religious groups

Roman Catholic (96%),

Protestant (2%)

Surrounding countries

Brazil, Colombia, Guyana

Population

25 million (2002)

Population growth rate

2% (2002)



POLITICAL DATA

Type of government

Republic

National legislature

Single chamber: National Assembly; multiparty

Leader

President Hugo R. Chavez Frias

Minister of Foreign Affairs

Roy Chaderton Matos

Minister of Finance

Tobías Nóbrega

Minister of Production and Commerce

Wilmar Castro Soteldo

UN Human Development Index (2003)

Venezuela ranks 69th among 175 countries

Canadian official development assistance

\$1.55 million (2001-2)

ECONOMIC DATA

GDP

\$158.5 billion (2002)

Real GDP growth rate

-8.9% (2002)

GDP per capita

\$6,340 (2002)

Main exports

Petroleum, bauxite and aluminum, steel, chemicals, agricultural products, basic manufactured products

Main imports

Raw materials, machinery and equipment, transport equipment, construction materials

Canadian imports from Venezuela

\$1.2 billion (2002), including crude petroleum oils, heavy petroleum oils, semi-finished iron and steel products, natural bitumen and asphalt, coal

Canadian exports to Venezuela

\$545.8 million (2002), including motor vehicle parts and accessories, meslin and wheat, durum wheat, newsprint, gas turbine parts

Biographies

Vicente Fox

President of Mexico

Vicente Fox Quesada was born on July 2, 1942, in Mexico City. He studied business administration at Ibero-American University and received a diploma in management from Harvard Business School.

Mr. Fox has been president of Coca-Cola Group for Mexico and Latin America, an official of the Mexican-American Chamber of Commerce, and director of a group of companies involved in agriculture and manufacturing.

After joining the National Action Party, Mr. Fox was elected to Congress in 1988. In 1995, he became Governor of the state of Guanajuato. He became President of Mexico on Dec. 1, 2000.

Mr. Fox is married to Marta Sahagún Jiménez. He has four children.

Néstor Kirchner

President of Argentina

Néstor Kirchner was born in Rio Gallegos in 1950 and studied law at the University of La Plata.

After serving as mayor of Rio Gallegos in 1987, Mr. Kirchner held the post of governor of the province of Santa Cruz from 1991 until 2003.

A member of the governing Justice Party (PJ), Néstor Kirchner was acclaimed President of Argentina on May 25, 2003.

Mr. Kirchner and his wife Cristina Fernandez have two children.

César Gaviria

Secretary-General of the Organization of American States

César Gaviria began his political career at age 23 when he was elected councillor for his hometown of Pereira, Colombia.

After serving as mayor of Pereira, Mr. Gaviria was elected to Colombia's House of Representatives in 1974. He rose to head the House in 1983. Three years later, he became co-chair of the Colombian Liberal Party.

A former Minister of Finance and Minister of the Interior, Mr. Gaviria was elected President of Colombia in 1990.

First elected Secretary-General of the Organization of American States in 1994, Mr. Gaviria was re-elected by acclamation in 1999.

Paul Martin

Prime Minister of Canada

Born on Aug. 28, 1938, in Windsor, Ontario, Paul Martin studied law at the University of Toronto and was called to the Ontario bar in 1966.

The greater part of Mr. Martin's career was in the private sector as a business executive, first with Power Corp. of Canada and later as chairman and chief executive officer of Canada Steamship Lines. He has also been a corporate director of several major Canadian companies.

Mr. Martin was first elected to the House of Commons in 1988 as the member of Parliament for the riding of La Salle-Émard in Quebec. While the Liberal Party was in Opposition, he served as associate finance critic and environment critic from 1991 to 1993.

After the Liberals were returned to power in 1993, Mr. Martin was sworn in as Minister of Finance. He also served for two years as the Minister responsible for the Federal Office of Regional Development (Quebec).

In 1999, Mr. Martin was named chair of the G20, an international group composed of G7 nations and emerging market nations. Currently he co-chairs the UN Commission on Private Sector Development.

Mr. Martin was chosen as the new leader of the Liberal Party on Nov. 15, 2003, and became Prime Minister of Canada on Dec. 12, 2003.

Mr. Martin and his wife, Sheila, have three children.

Bill Graham

Minister of Foreign Affairs

Bill Graham was born March 17, 1939, in Montreal. He received a law degree from the University of Toronto and a doctorate in law from the University of Paris.

Mr. Graham has been a partner in a Toronto law firm and director of the Centre of International Studies at the University of Toronto. He has also taught at the universities of Toronto and Montreal and at McGill University.

A former vice-president of the Parliamentary Association of the Organization for Security and Cooperation in Europe and chair of the Inter-Parliamentary Forum of the Americas, Mr. Graham has worked with PD Burma, an organization of legislators around the world concerned about democracy in Burma. He is a member of the Inter-Parliamentary Council Against Anti-Semitism.

Mr. Graham was first elected to the House of Commons in 1993 as the Liberal member for Toronto Centre-Rosedale. From 1995 to 2000, he served as Chair of the House of Commons Standing Committee on Foreign Affairs and International Trade. He was re-elected in 1997 and 2000.

Mr. Graham was appointed Minister of Foreign Affairs on Jan. 16, 2002, and was reappointed to this portfolio on Dec. 12, 2003.

Mr. Graham and his wife, Catherine, have two children.

Appendix

Declaration of Quebec City

We, the democratically elected Heads of State and Government of the Americas, have met in Quebec City at our Third Summit, to renew our commitment to hemispheric integration and national and collective responsibility for improving the economic well-being and security of our people. We have adopted a Plan of Action to strengthen representative democracy, promote good governance and protect human rights and fundamental freedoms.* We seek to create greater prosperity and expand economic opportunities while fostering social justice and the realization of human potential.

We reiterate our firm commitment and adherence to the principles and purposes of the Charters of the United Nations and of the Organization of American States (OAS).

Our rich and varied traditions provide unparalleled opportunities for growth and to share experiences and knowledge and to build a hemispheric family on the basis of a more just and democratic international order. We must meet the challenges inherent in the differences in size and levels of social, economic and institutional development in our countries and our region.

We have made progress in implementing the collective undertakings made at Miami in 1994 and continued at Santiago in 1998. We recognize the necessity to continue addressing weaknesses in our development processes and increasing human security. We are aware that there is still much to be achieved if the Summit of the Americas process is to be relevant to the daily lives of our people and contribute to their well-being.

We acknowledge that the values and practices of democracy are fundamental to the advancement of all our objectives. The maintenance and strengthening of the rule of law and strict respect for the democratic system are, at the same time, a goal and a shared commitment and are an essential condition of our presence at this and future Summits. Consequently, any unconstitutional alteration or interruption of the democratic order in a state of the Hemisphere constitutes an insurmountable obstacle to the participation of that state's government in the Summit of the Americas process. Having due regard for existing hemispheric, regional and sub-regional mechanisms, we agree to conduct consultations in the event of a disruption of the democratic system of a country that participates in the Summit process.

Threats to democracy today take many forms. To enhance our ability to respond to these threats, we instruct our Foreign Ministers to prepare, in the framework of the next General Assembly of the OAS, an Inter-American Democratic Charter to reinforce OAS instruments for the active defense of representative democracy.*

Our commitment to full respect for human rights and fundamental freedoms is based on shared principles and convictions. We support strengthening and enhancing the effectiveness of the inter American human rights system, which includes the Inter-American Commission on Human Rights and the Inter-American Court of Human Rights. We mandate the XXXI General Assembly of the OAS to consider an adequate increase in resources for the activities of the Commission and the Court in order to improve human rights mechanisms and to promote the observance of the recommendations of the Commission and compliance with the judgments of the Court.

We reaffirm our commitment to maintain peace and security through the effective use of hemispheric means for the peaceful resolution of disputes and the adoption of confidence- and security-building measures. In this regard, we support and commend the efforts of the OAS. We reiterate our full adherence to the principle that commits states to refrain from the threat or use of

force, in accordance with international law. In conformity with the principles of international humanitarian law, we strongly condemn attacks on civilian populations. We will take all feasible measures to ensure that the children of our countries do not participate in armed conflict and we condemn the use of children by irregular forces. We reaffirm that the constitutional subordination of armed forces and security forces to the legally constituted civilian authorities of our countries, as well as respect for the rule of law on the part of all national institutions and sectors of society, are fundamental to democracy. We will strive to limit military expenditures while maintaining capabilities commensurate with our legitimate security needs and will promote greater transparency in the acquisition of arms.

We reiterate our commitment to combat new, multi-dimensional threats to the security of our societies. Foremost amongst these threats are the global drug problem and related crimes, the illicit traffic in and criminal use of firearms, the growing danger posed by organized crime and the general problem of violence in our societies. Acknowledging that corruption undermines core democratic values, challenges political stability and economic growth and thus threatens vital interests in our Hemisphere, we pledge to reinvigorate our fight against corruption. We also recognize the need to improve the conditions for human security in the Hemisphere.

We renew our commitment to the full implementation of the Anti-Drug Strategy in the Hemisphere, based on the principles of shared responsibility, a comprehensive and balanced approach, and multilateral cooperation. We welcome the development of the Multilateral Evaluation Mechanism and reiterate our commitment to make this mechanism, unique in the world, one of the central pillars in effective hemispheric cooperation in the struggle against all the factors that constitute the global drug problem. We express our support for effective alternative development programs aimed at the eradication of illicit cultivation and will strive to facilitate market access for products resulting from these programs.

We acknowledge that another major threat to the security of our people is HIV/AIDS. We are united in our resolve to adopt multi-sectoral strategies and to develop our cooperation to combat this disease and its consequences.

We reaffirm the importance of an independent judiciary and our determination to ensure equal access to justice and to guarantee its timely and impartial administration. We commit ourselves to increase transparency throughout government.

Free and open economies, market access, sustained flows of investment, capital formation, financial stability, appropriate public policies, access to technology and human resources development and training are key to reducing poverty and inequalities, raising living standards and promoting sustainable development. We will work with all sectors of civil society and international organizations to ensure that economic activities contribute to the sustainable development of our societies.

We welcome the significant progress achieved to date toward the establishment of a Free Trade Area of the Americas (FTAA), including the development of a preliminary draft FTAA Agreement. As agreed at the Miami Summit, free trade, without subsidies or unfair practices, along with an increasing stream of productive investments and greater economic integration, will promote regional prosperity, thus enabling the raising of the standard of living, the improvement of working conditions of people in the Americas and better protection of the environment. The decision to make public the preliminary draft of the FTAA Agreement is a clear demonstration of our collective commitment to transparency and to increasing and sustained communication with civil society.

We direct our Ministers to ensure that negotiations of the FTAA Agreement are concluded no later than January 2005 and to seek its entry into force as soon as possible thereafter, but in any case, no later than December 2005. * This will be a key element for generating the economic growth and prosperity in the Hemisphere that will contribute to the achievement of the broad

Summit objectives. The Agreement should be balanced, comprehensive and consistent with World Trade Organization (WTO) rules and disciplines and should constitute a single undertaking. We attach great importance to the design of an Agreement that takes into account the differences in the size and levels of development of participating economies.

We acknowledge the challenge of environmental management in the Hemisphere. We commit our governments to strengthen environmental protection and sustainable use of natural resources with a view to ensuring a balance among economic development, social development and the protection of the environment, as these are interdependent and mutually reinforcing. Our goal is to achieve sustainable development throughout the Hemisphere.

We will promote compliance with internationally recognized core labor standards as embodied in the International Labor Organization (ILO) Declaration on Fundamental Principles and Rights at Work and its Follow-up adopted in 1998. We will consider the ratification of or accession to the fundamental agreements of the ILO, as appropriate. In order to advance our commitment to create greater employment opportunities, improve the skills of workers and improve working conditions throughout the Hemisphere, we recognize the need to address, in the relevant hemispheric and international fora, issues of globalization related to employment and labor. We instruct the Inter-American Conference of Ministers of Labor to continue their consideration of issues related to globalization which affect employment and labor.

Recognizing the importance of energy as one of the fundamental bases for economic development, the region's prosperity and improved quality of life, we commit to pursuing renewable energy initiatives, promoting energy integration and enhancing regulatory frameworks and their application, while promoting the principles of sustainable development.

Democracy and economic and social development are interdependent and mutually reinforcing as fundamental conditions to combat poverty and inequality. We will spare no effort to free our fellow citizens from the dehumanizing conditions of extreme poverty. We commit to further efforts to reach international development goals, especially the reduction by 50% by the year 2015 of the proportion of people living in extreme poverty.

We commit ourselves to promote programs for the improvement of agriculture and rural life and agrobusiness as an essential contribution to poverty reduction and integral development.

We commit to strengthening hemispheric cooperation and national capacities to develop a more integrated approach to the management of natural disasters. We will continue to implement policies that enhance our ability to prevent, mitigate and respond to the consequences of natural disasters. We agree to study measures to facilitate timely access to financial resources to address emergency needs.

We recognize the cultural and economic contributions made by migrants to receiving societies as well as to their communities of origin. We are committed to ensuring dignified, humane treatment with appropriate legal protections, defense of human rights, and safe and healthy labor conditions for migrants. We will strengthen mechanisms for hemispheric cooperation to address the legitimate needs of migrants and take effective measures against trafficking in human beings.

Progress towards more democratic societies, growing economies and social equity relies on an educated citizenry and a skilled labor force. We have agreed to a series of policies to improve access to quality education through teacher training, education in civic values and the use of information technologies both in our classrooms and in measuring progress toward achieving these goals. Improved education policies and increased investment in our education systems will help reduce income disparities and close the digital divide in our Hemisphere.

Our collective hemispheric efforts will be more effective through innovative uses of information and communications technologies to connect our governments and our people and to share

knowledge and ideas. Our statement, Connecting the Americas, underscores this conviction.

We emphasize that good health and equal access to medical attention, health services and affordable medicine are critical to human development and the achievement of our political, economic and social objectives.

We reaffirm our commitment to protect the human rights and fundamental freedoms of all, including those who are vulnerable, marginalized, disabled or require special protection. We are committed to the eradication of all forms of discrimination, including racism, racial discrimination, xenophobia and other related intolerance in our societies, as well as to the promotion of gender equality, and to achieving the full participation of all persons in the political, economic, social and cultural life of our countries.

We will work to ensure that the input from the Indigenous Conclave of the Americas, held in Guatemala, and the Indigenous Peoples Summit of the Americas, held in Ottawa, is reflected in the implementation of the Summit of the Americas Declaration and Plan of Action. We support efforts towards early and successful conclusion of negotiations on the Proposed American Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples, which will promote and protect their human rights and fundamental freedoms.

We consider the cultural diversity that characterizes our region to be a source of great richness for our societies. Respect for and value of our diversity must be a cohesive factor that strengthens the social fabric and the development of our nations.

The principal responsibility for the coordination and implementation of the attached Plan of Action resides with our governments. Ministerial meetings are producing significant results in support of Summit mandates. We will continue to develop this cooperation.

We value the active support of the Organization of American States and its specialized organs, particularly the Pan American Health Organization, the Inter-American Institute for Cooperation on Agriculture and the Inter-American Children's Institute, as well as the Inter-American Development Bank, the Economic Commission for Latin America and the Caribbean and the World Bank. We call upon these institutions and other regional and international organizations to establish greater coordination for support to the implementation and follow-up to the Plan of Action of this Summit.

The OAS has a central role in the implementation of the decisions of the Summits of the Americas. We instruct our Foreign Ministers, at the next General Assembly, to advance and deepen the process of reform in the OAS, supported by appropriate resources, to improve its functioning and to enable the Organization to better implement our Summit mandates.

We welcome and value the contributions of civil society, including business and labor organizations, to our Plan of Action. We affirm that openness and transparency are vital to building public awareness and legitimacy for our undertakings. We call upon all citizens of the Americas to contribute to the Summit process.

We, the Heads of State and Government of the Americas have accepted the offer of the Government of the Republic of Argentina to host the Fourth Summit of the Americas.

The Summits of the Americas exist to serve people. We must develop effective, practical and compassionate solutions for the problems that confront our societies. We do not fear globalization, nor are we blinded by its allure. We are united in our determination to leave to future generations a Hemisphere that is democratic and prosperous, more just and generous, a Hemisphere where no one is left behind. We are committed to making this the century of the Americas.

* Venezuela reserves its position