

**Proposals for Democracy Basket, 2001 Summit of the Americas
From a hemispheric conference at The Carter Center, Oct. 16-18, 2000**

STRENGTHENING DEMOCRATIC GOVERNANCE and ACCOUNTABILITY

- I. **We propose a comprehensive definition of democracy** including areas in which we have seen an erosion in different parts of our hemisphere:
 - A. Respect for human rights.
 - B. Effective representation through elections and party systems.
 - C. Capacity to provide basic services, beginning with protection of physical safety.
 - D. Subordination of the armed forces to civilian authority.
 - E. Meaningful citizen participation and political pluralism.
 - F. Institutional checks and balances to provide public accountability, including independent judiciaries and the rule of law applied equally and consistently to all citizens.

- II. **ACTION ITEM: We propose that minimum criteria for participation in Summits of the Americas and a future FTAA should include the holding of elections with the following basic conditions:**
 - A. Absence of physical coercion or intimidation.
 - B. Major parties have the opportunity to get their messages to the voters.
 - C. A secret vote and honest count.
 - D. A meaningful appeals process.

Massive channeling of resources to one party, or the control of election authorities by one party that leads to bias in their decision, would threaten these conditions.

- III. **ACTION ITEM: Recommend a broader interpretation of Resolution 1080 such that the absence of these basic electoral conditions constitutes an “irregular interruption of the democratic process,”** thus meriting a hemispheric response.

- IV. **ACTION ITEM: Clarify OAS guidelines and criteria for election-monitoring missions** to increase consistency among its missions.

- V. **ACTION ITEM: Commitment to greater transparency in political party and campaign finance; greater internal democracy in selecting party leaders and candidates; and promoting independent, professional electoral authorities.**

PUBLIC SECURITY AND HUMAN RIGHTS

- I. **ACTION ITEM: Support the Justice Studies Center** to establish regional standards and document best-practices in comprehensive criminal justice systems, including professional public defenders offices.
- II. **ACTION ITEM: Exchange information on community policing models** to build trust between citizens and police and move from a model of social control to one of crime prevention.
- III. **ACTION ITEM: Implement the Santiago Summit commitments on pretrial sentencing.**
- IV. **ACTION ITEM: Sign and ratify the International Criminal Court accords.**
- V. **ACTION ITEM: Make civilian control of intelligence services** a criteria of so-called “democracy clauses.”

TRANSPARENCY

- I. **ACTION ITEM: Commit to more open military budgets and procurement.**
- II. **ACTION ITEM:** Commit to providing sufficient budgetary allocations for national defense and adequate social security coverage for the armed forces, while **eliminating royalties accruing from exports or from military participation in private enterprises as a financial resource for the armed forces.**
- III. **ACTION ITEM: Establish a follow-up peer review mechanism** to monitor implementation of the Inter-American Convention Against Corruption.

CIVIL SOCIETY

- I. **ACTION ITEM: Endorse the Declaration on Freedom of Expression** submitted by the OAS Special Rapporteur, and **commit to laws guaranteeing access to information to citizens** on government budgets, procurement, and decisions.

- II. **ACTION ITEM: Call on the donor community to help develop norms for greater transparency and internal democracy of civil society organizations**, including disclosure of funding and expenditure information.

- III. **ACTION ITEM: Establish follow-up mechanisms for implementation of Summit commitments** to inform citizens of the Summit process and achievements and to encourage governments to comply with their commitments.