

SUMMARY OF ACTIVITIES
WORKING GROUP 1

OBJECTIVE

The next meeting of Working Group 1 will be held in Montevideo, Uruguay on March 31 and April 1st, 2003. The Group will discuss and approve a draft of the conclusions of the report that will be presented to the next Ministerial Conference in October 2003.

MANDATE

The Ottawa Plan of Action mandates Working Group 1 to:

1. *Examine the labour dimensions of the Summit of the Americas process, including the questions of globalization related to employment and labour, to identify areas of agreement and issues where further work needs to be done, and prepare a report containing recommendations for consideration at the XIII IACML.*
2. *Examine the implications of the ILO report 'Labour Standards and the Integration Process in the Americas' and consider discussion papers from member states."*
3. *Create a process for improved collaboration and coordination on the labour dimensions of the Summit of the Americas process between Labor Ministries and other appropriate ministries and key international institutions within the Americas that have a critical role to play in the improvement of labor conditions, in particular the OAS, ILO, IDB, ECLAC, PAHO as well as the CDB and the World Bank.*

STATUS

1. At the first meeting (Santo Domingo, April 2002), Working Group 1 began to explore the labour dimensions of the Summit of the Americas process from different regional perspectives. The Group needs now to identify the areas of agreement and the issues where further work is required.

The Seventh Meeting of Ministers of Trade of the Hemisphere, in the Quito Declaration (November 2002), acknowledged the Group's work and asked to receive a copy of the final report.

2. The ILO Regional Office in Lima is preparing a report following up on the theme "*labour standards and integration*", in collaboration with a number of governments belonging to different integration agreements in the hemisphere.

In Santo Domingo, all participants were invited to present discussion papers on this theme. This represents a good opportunity for governments, business and labour groups to present their perspectives. The papers need not involve a major research. It can, if you chose, be brief (less than five-pages long), and may consist of suggestions for topics or questions articulating specific concerns or issues that you wish to see discussed at the meeting. Discussion papers will make a major contribution to the agenda for the second meeting.

3. The Group encourages the participation of trade officials from countries, as observers or as panelists, at the Montevideo meeting.