

CIVIL SOCIETY PARTICIPATION IN TRADE AND INTEGRATION PROCESSES

**INTEGRATION AND REGIONAL PROGRAMS
DEPARTMENT**

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Activities Related To Civil Society Participation In Trade And Integration Processes

- 1. Special initiative to support Trade and Integration**
- 2. Support to the Free Trade Area of the Americas (FTAA)**
- 3. Biannual Regional Policy Dialog for Viceministers**
- 4. INTAL programs**
- 5. Financial products: Trade Facility Loans, Lending Program for Integration, Trade and Competitiveness and MIF**

Special initiative to Support Trade and Integration

Designed to help countries to prepare for deepening integration, and to negotiate the trade liberalization agreements. It includes policy analysis, direct support to governments and public education forums.

- ✓ **Lima, Peru:** *“Establishing Consultation Mechanisms with Civil Society on Trade and Integration Initiatives”*, in 2003 with EU and Andean Community Secretariat. Another one in a MERCOSUR country in 2004.
- ✓ **Central America:** explaining the FTAA to the sub region’s communication media
- ✓ **Wilson Center meetings on the FTAA with LAC legislators (2203/04)**
- ✓ **Brazil:** A survey of attitudes to the FTAA.
- ✓ **World Affairs Council meetings on the FTAA in 14 US cities.**

Support to the Free Trade Area of the Americas (FTAA)

The IDB provides support to FTAA entities and negotiating groups, individually and as a member of the Tripartite Committee (which includes OAS and ECLAC).

✓ The Bank gives direct support to the Committee of Government Representatives on the Participation of Civil Society. Activities includes assistance to the Chair, and preparation of background documents.

✓ The Bank also supported the implementation of two issue meetings, organized by the Committee, with civil society from the hemisphere .

- Brazil, on Agriculture Negotiations (June 2003)
- Chile, on Services Negotiations (September 2003)

✓ The Bank also provided support for a subregional meeting, organized by CAN, of Andean Community civil society on the FTAA negotiations.

Biannual Regional Policy Dialog for Viceministers

- ✓ **Designed to bring together senior officials from the LAC to exchange ideas, share information about best practices and facilitate regional cooperation and support to integration processes .**
- ✓ **Meetings are held twice a year.**
- ✓ **Civil Society Consultation in Trade Negotiations was in the agenda of ViceMinisters in 2003. They analyzed the experiences of United States, Canada and the European Union**

INTAL' Programs

The Institute for the Integration of Latin America and the Caribbean is actively involved in research activities, technical cooperation for governments and institutions in the academic and business field, and training in support of the integration and regional cooperation processes.

Subject Area: Social issues in the Subregional Framework:

Seminars: “Participation of Civil society in the Making of Trade Policy”
will be held Mexico, Colombia, Brazil, Panama and Central America countries in 2004.

Policy Studies: National Process of Consultation on Trade Negotiations with Civil Society (USA, Canada, EU, Chile)

Financial products

Trade Facility Loans

An expedited loan approval process for up to \$5 million to support capacity building needs in the entire area of negotiations and implementation of agreements. Eight loans have been approved and being implemented -- Guatemala, Honduras, Nicaragua, Trinidad, Peru, Ecuador, Bolivia and Dominican Republic-- that include activities related to consultations with civil society.

The type of activities include, among others.

- Training to civil society on a variety of issues.
- Publication of materials
- Organizations of regular consultation fora through seminars, conferences and open dialogue fora, events organized within regions.
- Specialized training for journalists and congressmen.
- Definition of agenda for public consultation.

Financial Products

Lending Program for Integration, Trade and Competitiveness. It is a comprehensive and flexible lending instrument which combines policy based loans, investment loans and technical assistance in a single umbrella operation to support all the principal types of sectoral adjustments that countries will have to undertake as they open their economies to the world.

(MIF) Multilateral Investment Fund 's programs It is a non-reimbursable program to help the business sector and labor unions understand the obligations emanating from integration and trade initiatives and to prepare companies (especially small and mid-sized businesses) and labor markets for the adjustments, behavior changes and demands for competitiveness improvements they will have to contend with as economies open up to the global marketplace.