

**Public**

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14 April 1999

Sirs,

Tripartite Committee (Ref.: Civil Society)  
Economic Commission for Latin America and the Caribbean (ECLAT)

Dear Sirs:

As a result of my academic work at the National University of Costa Rica and in the working context of a Network of European and Latin American integrationist academicians, I prepared the attached paper. This is an analysis of FTAA's official documents and related issues. CIEDLA's Argentine journal "Inputs" from Buenos Aires will publish it in her 1-99 issue. While I am certain that by its particular features it does not conform to the guidelines provided in your announcement for the civil society to give their inputs to the FTAA process, I am positive that it does contribute elements for that participation.

Following is a summary of the paper:

During the development process of the Free Trade Area of the Americas, trade has been the main issue of deliberations in the ruling circles and in the private sector. However, the presidential rhetoric at summit meetings is fraught with non-commercial issues. In the letter of declarations of principles and presidential action plans, the issues of sustainability, democracy, peace, international organized crime, poverty and education. The difference of tone between the Presidents and the Trade Ministers in dealing with these issues generated suspicion on whether the social, economic and political asymmetries of the continent, imposed the need to include social and political issues on the agenda of this strategic project for hemispheric unity as a way to legitimize it. This task was undertaken by the Presidents. Ministers would be entrusted the task of building the economic block.

I would like this paper to be circulated among the various participants of the civil society in hopes that it will be of use to them.

Jaime Delgado Rojas (Costa Rican)