

FTAA - COMMITTEE OF GOVERNMENT REPRESENTATIVES ON THE PARTICIPATION OF CIVIL SOCIETY

COVER SHEET

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Country (ies) / Region (s)	U.S.A.

Number of Pages	2	Language	English
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ISSUES ADDRESSED (Check all that apply)

Agriculture	Subsidies, Antidumping and Countervailing Duties	
Competition Policy	Civil Society	X
Dispute Settlement	Electronic Commerce	
Government Procurement	Smaller Economies	
Intellectual Property Rights	The FTAA Process	X
Investment	Other: Customs and transparency-related business facilitation measures; environment and labor objectives; trade sanctions	
Market Access		
Services		

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY – 2 pages maximum – (see Open Invitation):

The NAM strongly believes that an FTAA, as stated in the San Jose FTAA Ministerial Declaration of March 1998, will improve the well being of all people within the hemisphere. That is because international trade is the very fabric by which the FTAA countries can raise living standards, improve working conditions for their people, and better protect the hemispheric environment.

United States manufacturers support the main objectives of the exercise; to negotiate a balanced, comprehensive, WTO-consistent agreement that will be fully implemented by all contracting parties. The NAM supports the participating governments' commitment to concluding negotiations no later than 2005, and very strongly reiterates the call to achieve concrete progress toward the attainment of this objective.

The advent of a formal Civil Society committee is new to the traditional trade-negotiating framework. There is no question that society as a whole is affected by the workings of its economies, and that there are stakeholders beyond the traditional business community who are directly or indirectly affected by international commerce. To that end, there may be certain important environmental and labor objectives that have a rational relationship to international commerce and should be pursued in concert with the pursuit of trade liberalization. For that reason, the solicitation of comments by all sectors in civil society on matters of trade is of benefit.

The crux of the matter, however, is to incorporate comments and goals that fall within the scope of the undertaking at hand, which is to establish transparent and consistent rules to facilitate the conduct of

commerce between the 34 FTAA countries. It is imperative that the FTAA trade negotiations be limited to international trade policy objectives. To that end, U.S. manufacturers do not support the use of trade sanctions to enforce agreements in other areas. There can and should be meaningful intersection, where necessary and appropriate, between international agreements in differing areas such as trade, labor and the environment. But business should not be held hostage by, or penalized for, its trading partners' social domestic failures. Trade expansion benefits all sectors of all economies in a "win-win" fashion, and the purpose of the FTAA must be to tear down barriers, not create new ones.