

Fact Sheet

Bureau of Western Hemisphere Affairs
Washington, DC
January 2, 2004

U.S. Engagement in the Western Hemisphere

The [April 2001 Quebec City Summit of the Americas](#) resolved to promote democracy, prosperity, and security. The United States, as an active Summit partner, is committed to realizing the objectives of the Summit of the Americas, and will participate in the upcoming Special Summit of the Americas in Mexico in January 2004.

Following is a listing of the administration's fresh initiatives and activities that have had a major impact on the Western Hemisphere.

- Secured [Trade Promotion Authority \(TPA\)](#) shortly after taking office.
- Enhanced U.S. defense by establishing with Canada a [military planning group](#) to develop bi-national maritime, land and civil support contingency plans.
- Expanded the [Andean Trade Promotion and Drug Eradication Act \(ATPDEA\)](#) and held an [Andean Regional Trade and Investment Seminar](#), October 3-4, 2002 in Lima, Peru.
- Announced the [Millennium Challenge Account](#).
- Bolstered the Summit of the Americas process and talks to form a [Free Trade Area of the Americas \(FTAA\)](#).
- Rolled out the [Andean Regional Initiative](#); the [Partnership for Prosperity](#) with Mexico; the [Third Border Initiative](#) with the Caribbean; the [Opportunity Alliance](#) in Central America and Mexico.
- Announced creation of the [Commission for Assistance to a Free Cuba](#).
- Concluded a free trade agreement with Chile and secured its Congressional approval, and concluded negotiations for a free trade agreement with Central America.
- Worked with other Organization of American States (OAS) members to draft the [Inter-American Democratic Charter](#) along with 33 other states, supporting OAS initiatives to effectively implement the provisions of the Charter.
- Signed the [Inter-American Convention against Terrorism](#) and actively participated in its drafting. Also, U.S. financed OAS legislative drafting seminars in member states to encourage ratification and implementation.
- Improved U.S. security by signing and implementing bilateral border partnership agreements with [Mexico](#) and [Canada](#).
- Increased U.S. support for the Government of Colombia's unified campaign against terrorism and narcotics trafficking.
- Announced the [Emergency Plan for AIDS Relief](#), a five-year, \$15 billion initiative to turn the tide in combating the global HIV/AIDS pandemic. This commitment of resources will help the most afflicted countries in Africa and the Caribbean wage and win the war against HIV/AIDS, extending and saving lives.

- Engaged with OAS member states in the elaboration of an [inter-American strategy](#) to combat threats to cyber security and provided support for cyber security meeting of experts hosted by Argentina in July 2003.
- Hosted the [Miami Experts Meeting on Confidence and Security Building Measures](#) in February 2003 that forged a practical roadmap for resolving interstate border tensions, lowering pressure for arms spending, promoting democratic norms, and fostering a climate of trust, transparency, and cooperation in Hemisphere over the next decade.
- Participated in the October 2003 [Special Conference on Security](#) where the [“Declaration on Security in the Americas.”](#) was finalized.
- Received support from neighbors in Iraq: the Dominican Republic, Costa Rica, El Salvador, Honduras, Nicaragua, Panama all joined the Coalition of the Willing. The Dominican Republic, El Salvador, Honduras and Nicaragua have also deployed troops to post-conflict duty in Iraq.
- Secured 10 [Article 98 agreements](#) with Honduras, Nicaragua, Panama, Colombia, Antigua and Barbuda, Belize, Bolivia, the Dominican Republic, El Salvador, and Guyana.
- Contributed along with Canada to defense of North America through close collaboration with North American Aerospace Defense Command, [NORAD](#), in particular, the year-old Binational Planning Group that focuses on continental defense.

Bilateral and Regional Trade Engagement

- Hosted [Miami FTAA Ministerial in Miami November 20-21, 2003](#). Ministerial produced agreement to adhere to January 2005 date for concluding negotiations on an FTAA and to structure agreement to include a comprehensive and balanced set of common obligations as well as a series of ambitious plurilateral agreements.
- Meetings of trade and investment mechanisms were held with Argentina, Brazil, Uruguay, Paraguay, and [MERCOSUR](#). (MERCOSUR is a customs union with a common external tariff (CET) covering over 85% of traded goods. Argentina, Brazil, Paraguay, and Uruguay signed the Treaty of Asuncion on March 26, 1991, which created MERCOSUR. Chile and Bolivia became associate members in 1996 and 1997, respectively, but do not participate in the CET.)
- The U.S. and Chile completed negotiations for a [U.S.-Chile Free Trade Agreement](#) on December 2-6, 2002 in Washington, DC. In July 2003, both houses of [Congress](#) approved the agreement. President Bush signed implementing legislation in September 3, 2003 and the pact takes effect January 1, 2004.
- Negotiations for [U.S.-CAFTA](#) (U.S.-Central America Free Trade Agreement) commenced in January 2003 with Costa Rica, El Salvador, Guatemala, Honduras, and Nicaragua. Negotiations with all but Costa Rica concluded in December 2003.
- President Bush and Brazilian President Luiz Inacio Lula da Silva agreed to launch a bilateral [energy partnership](#) to strengthen bilateral cooperation on energy modernization and new technologies required to promote economic growth and energy security. The presidents also welcomed the formation of the bilateral Group for Growth, which will explore mechanisms to promote economic growth in both countries. The Group held its first meeting in Washington in August.

- The U.S. Small Business Administration and the Brazilian Micro & Small Business Support Service have signed a letter of intent to cooperate on programs to help [Small- and Medium-Sized Enterprises \(SMEs\)](#).
- Bush administration announced on August 4, 2003, its intention to negotiate a FTA with the [Dominican Republic](#) with talks set to begin in January 2004.
- On November 18, 2003, the Bush administration also notified Congress its intention to negotiate a FTA with [Panama](#) and with the [Andean](#) countries (Colombia, Peru, Ecuador, Bolivia.)
- The U.S. invited Peru to become the first Latin American country in the Digital Freedom Initiative, a program designed to promote economic growth through the transfer of information and communication technology to small businesses; announced at the APEC Leaders Meeting in October 2003.

Summit of the Americas Initiatives

- Mexico will host the upcoming [Special Summit of the Americas](#) in Monterrey, Mexico, January 12-13, to reinforce and strengthen the commitments made at the Quebec Summit.
- Twenty-eight countries have ratified the [Inter-American Convention against Corruption](#), the first internationally binding convention to focus on corruption. Many of these countries are also participating in a [Follow Up Mechanism](#) that seeks to ensure compliance with the Convention.
- In late March 2002, the U.S. and Central American countries reached final agreement on the six action plans of the [Central America-United States Joint Accord](#) (CONCAUSA).
- Since the Quebec Summit of the Americas, the U.S. has concluded agreements with El Salvador, Belize, and [Peru](#) under [the Tropical Forest Conservation Act](#).
- The U.S. launched [Inter-American E-Business Fellowship Program](#) at the Quebec Summit to train Latin American and Caribbean information technology leaders on how to use e-business. The program recently completed its second year of training.
- The U.S. established regional [Centers of Excellence for Teacher Training](#), which provide training in reading instruction and school administration. USAID has been working with the Department of Education and regional education experts to develop three centers in the Caribbean, Central America, and the Andean region, which will be operational by the end of 2003.
- In September 2002, the first hemisphere-wide [Conference on Corporate Social Responsibility](#) in Miami brought together hundreds of government officials, business leaders and civil society organizations to explore ways to improve cooperation and stimulate corporate activity in support of social development.
- The U.S. co-sponsored a major hemispheric conference on [disaster risk reduction](#) in December 2001 that brought together disaster relief experts, members of civil society, insurance companies, and government agencies and donors. In this unprecedented meeting, participants created a plan for mitigating the impacts of natural hazards and improving reconstruction efforts.

President George W. Bush announced the [American Fellows Program](#) at the Quebec Summit, in order to promote excellence in government through the exchange of government personnel. Some [exchanges](#) have already begun, and 20 fellows are expected for fiscal year 2003.

- **Participation by President Bush and Secretary Powell in Inter-American System Activities**
President Bush:

- 3/14/02: [Inter-American Development Bank](#), announced U.S. commitment to fighting poverty with the Millennium Challenge Account, Washington, DC
- 1/16/02: [World Affairs Council National Conference](#), Washington, DC
- 4/20-22/01: [Summit of the Americas](#), Quebec City, Quebec
- 4/17/01: [OAS Protocolary Session](#), presented vision for addressing Western Hemisphere issues, Washington, DC

Secretary Powell:

- 6/09/03 [33rd Annual OAS General Assembly](#) in Santiago, Chile
- 9/30/02 [Ceremony to celebrate the proposals on the Belize Guatemala](#) Differendum draft proposals on border dispute.
- 6/3/02 [32nd OAS General Assembly](#) and [follow-up session](#), Barbados.
- 4/18/02 [OAS Special General Assembly on Venezuela](#), Washington, DC.
- 1/28/02 Reception at the Department of State, Washington, DC, (hosted by the Secretary) during the ministerial meeting of OAS 2nd Regular session of Inter-American Committee Against Terrorism (CICTE).
- 9/21/01 [24th Meeting of Consultation of Foreign Ministers](#) a formal acknowledgement of reciprocal assistance to maintain hemispheric peace and security, OAS, Washington, DC.
- 9/21/01 [23rd Meeting of Consultation of Foreign Ministers](#) which called for solidarity regarding 9/11 attacks and the need for an Inter-American Committee Against Terrorism, OAS in Washington, DC. Secretary Powell [Remarks to the Special Session of the Organization of American States](#).
- 9/11/01 [OAS Special General Assembly on Inter-American Democratic Charter](#) Lima, Peru. [Additional remarks](#).

2003 Travel to the Western Hemisphere by Senior Administration Officials and Visits by Western Hemisphere Heads of State to the White House

- 12/03: Mexico - Attorney General John Ashcroft to Merida for signing of UN Convention on Corruption
- 12/03: Dominican Republic – Assistant Secretary for Western Hemisphere Affairs, Roger F. Noriega
- 12/03: Colombia – Under Secretary for Global Affairs Paula Dobriansky
- 12/03: Ecuador - Special Envoy for Western Hemisphere Initiatives Otto J. Reich

- 11/03: Mexico - OPM Director Kay Coles James for 5th Global Forum on Reinventing Government
- 11/03: Colombia – Special Envoy for Western Hemisphere Initiatives Otto J. Reich
- 11/03: Peru – Assistant Secretary Stephen Rademaker
- 11/03 Panama - Under Secretary for Global Affairs Paula Dobriansky
- 11/03: Costa Rica, El Salvador, Nicaragua - United States Trade Representative Robert Zoellick
- 11/03: Honduras, Nicaragua and Panama – Secretary of State Colin Powell, Assistant Secretary for Western Hemisphere Affairs, Roger F. Noriega and U.S. Permanent Representative to the OAS John Maisto
- 11/03: Brazil- Deputy United States Trade Representative Peter Allgeier
- 10/03: Canada - Secretary of Energy Spencer Abraham
- 10/03: Canada - Homeland Security Secretary Thomas Ridge
- 10/03: Mexico – Under Secretary for Political Affairs Marc Grossman and Assistant Secretary for Western Hemisphere Affairs Roger Noriega attend the Special Conference on Security
- 10/03 Mexico – Secretary of the Treasury John Snow visits for G-20 financial ministers meeting
- 10/03: Brazil, Argentina and Uruguay - Deputy United States Trade Representative Peter Allgeier
- 9/26: Paraguay – President Bush welcomed Paraguayan President Nicanor Duarte Frutos in Washington, D.C.
- 9/03: Canada - Assistant Secretary for Western Hemisphere Affairs Roger F. Noriega
- 9/03: Canada - Under Secretary John Bolton
- 9/03 Mexico - Director of White House of Intergovernmental Affairs, Ruben Barrales, visits for conference on Decentralization and Local Government
- 9/03: Mexico - Chairman of the Joint Chiefs, General Meyers
- 9/03: Bolivia – Special Envoy for Western Hemisphere Initiatives Otto J. Reich and USAID Assistant Administrator for Latin America and the Caribbean Adolfo Franco
- 9/03: Colombia – Assistant Secretary Stephen Rademaker

- 8/03: Argentina, Uruguay and Paraguay – Assistant Secretary for Western Hemisphere Affairs Roger F. Noriega
- 8/03 Nicaragua – Assistant Secretary for the Bureau of Political-Military Affairs Lincoln P. Bloomfield visited Managua to participate in a Central American regional disarmament summit
- 8/03: Brazil – Deputy United States Trade Representative Peter Allgeier
- 8/03: Colombia – Secretary of Housing and Urban Development Mel Martinez
- 8/03: Colombia – State Department Coordinator for Counterterrorism Cofer Black
- 8/03: Colombia and Honduras - Secretary of Defense Donald Rumsfeld
- 8/03: Colombia – United States Trade Representative Robert Zoellick to Colombia
- 8/03: Mexico – Secretary of Education Rod Paige attends Inter-American Education Ministerial
- 7/03-8/03: Colombia, Nicaragua, El Salvador, Honduras and the Dominican Republic –Chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff General Myers
- 7/03: Colombia – Under Secretary for Political Affairs Marc Grossman
- 7/03: Jamaica – United States Trade Representative Robert Zoellick
- 7/03: Argentina – President Bush welcomed President Nestor Kirchner in Washington D.C.
- 7/03: Panama – President Bush welcomed President Mireya Moscoso of Panama in Washington, D.C.
- 7/03: Canada – Office of National Drug Control Policy Deputy Director Barry Crane
- 7/03: Canada - Commissioner U.S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission Jeffrey Merryfield
- 7/03: Canada - Assistant Secretary (DOE) Vickey Bailey
- 7/03: Canada - Associate Justice Stephen Breyer
- 7/03: Canada - Secretary of the Department of Energy Spencer Abraham
- 7/03: Canada - USAID Administrator Andrew Natsios
- 7/03: Argentina - Assistant Secretary for Economic and Business Affairs Tony Wayne
- 6/03: Canada - GSA Administrator Stephen Perry;
- 6/03: Canada - Assistant Secretary for Economic and Business Affairs E. Anthony Wayne
- 6/03: Brazil – Under Secretary for Farm and Foreign Agricultural Services J.B. Penn;

- 6/03: Brazil – Under Secretary for Technology Philip Bond (Commerce)
- 6/03: Chile – United States Trade Representative Robert Zoellick (U.S.-Chile FTA Agreement signing in Miami, FL)
- 6/03: Brazil – [Lula-Bush Summit](#), Washington, DC
- 6/03: Chile/Argentina – Secretary of State Colin Powell and Acting Assistant Secretary for WHA J. Curtis Struble (OAS General Assembly and meeting with President Nestor Kirchner)
- 6/03: Chile – Paula Dobriansky, Under Secretary for Global Affairs
- 6/03 Mexico – Secretary of the Treasury John Snow
- 5/03: Canada- NOAA Administrator Adm. Conrad Lautenbacher
- 6/03: Canada - Office of National Drug Control Policy Director General Walters headed U.S. delegation to 34th Regular Session of the Inter-American Drug Abuse Control Commission in Montreal
- 5/03 Venezuela – Acting Assistant Secretary J. Curtis Struble
- 5/03: Dominican Republic – President Bush welcomed President Mejia in Washington D.C.
- 5/03: Brazil – United States Trade Representative Robert Zoellick
- 5/03: Colombia – President Bush welcomed President Alvaro Uribe in Washington, D.C.
- 5/03: Argentina – Secretary for United States Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD) Mel Martinez
- 5/03: Caribbean – Assistant Secretary for Arms Control Stephen Rademaker visits Kingstown, St. Vincent and the Grenadines, to meet with CARICOM Foreign Ministers
- 4/03: Honduras – Secretary of State Colin Powell welcomed President Ricardo Maduro in Washington, DC
- 4/03: Central America – President Bush welcomed the 5 CAFTA Presidents Abel Pacheco (Costa Rica), Francisco Flores (El Salvador) Alfonso Portillo (Guatemala), Ricardo Maduro (Honduras) and Enrique Bolanos (Nicaragua) in Washington, DC
- 4/03: Brazil, Ecuador, and Colombia – Secretary of the Treasury John Snow
- 4/03: Caribbean – Special Envoy for Western Hemisphere Initiatives Otto J. Reich visited St. John's, Antigua, and Bridgetown, Barbados

- 3/03: Colombia – Under Secretary for Political Affairs Marc Grossman
- 3/03: Haiti – Special Envoy for Western Hemisphere Initiatives Otto J. Reich to Port-au-Prince with OAS/CARICOM high-level delegation for follow-up on OAS Resolution 822
- 2/03: Nicaragua – President Bush welcomed President Enrique Bolanos in Washington, DC
- 02/03: Trinidad and Tobago/Caribbean – Special Envoy for Western Hemisphere Initiatives Otto J. Reich visited Port of Spain to meet with regional leaders
- 2/03: Ecuador – President Bush welcomed President Lucio Gutierrez in Washington, DC
- 1/03: Chile – Paula Dobriansky, Under Secretary for Global Affairs
- 1/03: Venezuela - Acting Assistant Secretary J. Curtis Struble attended inaugural meeting of the Group of Friends Senior Representatives
- 1/03: Brazil – United States Trade Representative Robert Zoellick attended inauguration of President Luiz Inacio Lula da Silva
- 1/03: El Salvador – Commissioner Robert Bonner of the U.S. Customs Service headed the U.S. delegation to the Third Regular Session of the Inter-American Committee Against Terrorism (CICTE)

Travel to Western Hemisphere Region in 2002 by Senior Administration Officials

- 12/02: Canada – Under Secretary for Political Affairs Marc Grossman
- 12/02: Colombia – Secretary Colin Powell
- 12/02: Mexico – Director John Walters of the Office of National Drug Control Policy attended the proceedings of the Inter-American Drug Control Abuse Commission
- 12/02: Chile, Ecuador, Colombia and Peru – Secretary of Commerce Don Evans
- 12/02: Argentina/Tri-border Area – State Department Coordinator for Counterterrorism Cofer Black and Assistant Secretary for the Bureau of Diplomatic Security and Director of the Office of Foreign Missions Francis Taylor both went to Argentina and the Triborder area
- 11/02: Bolivia and Ecuador – United States Trade Representative Robert Zoellick, with The Cairns Group (15 agricultural-exporting countries formed in 1986) and FTAA Ministerial (Free Trade Area of the Americas)
- 11/02: Canada – Secretary Colin Powell

- 11/02: Mexico – Secretary Colin Powell led U.S. delegation including Attorney General Richard Ashcroft; Secretary of Education Dr. Roderick Paige; Secretary of Housing and Urban Development Mel Martinez; Secretary of the Interior Gale Norton and Environmental Protection Administration Administrator Christine Todd Whitman (Annual U.S.-Mexico Bi-National Commission meeting)
- 11/02: Mexico – President Bush participated in the inauguration of the Binational Committee meeting with President Vicente Fox via a video tape appearance
- 11/02: Brazil – Under Secretary for Economic, Business and Agricultural Affairs Alan Larson Deputy United States Trade Representative Peter Allegier; Deputy Secretary of the Treasury Kenneth Dam; and Assistant Secretary for Western Hemisphere Affairs Otto Reich
- 11/02: Chile – Secretary of Defense Donald Rumsfeld regarding Defense Ministerial of the Americas
- 10/02: Chile and Bolivia – Assistant Secretary for Western Hemisphere Affairs Otto Reich
- 10/02: Mexico – President Bush, Secretary Colin Powell, Assistant Secretary for Western Hemisphere Affairs Otto Reich, and United States Trade Representative Robert Zoellick (Asia-Pacific Economic Corporation, APEC)
- 9/02: Canada – President Bush and Homeland Security Advisor Governor Tom Ridge met with Canadian Prime Minister Jean Chretien and Deputy Prime Minister John Manley in Detroit on border issues
- 9/02: Venezuela – Under Secretary for Economic, Business and Agricultural Affairs Alan Larson
- 8/02: Brazil and Chile – Department of State Policy Planning Director Richard Haass
- 8/02: Assistant Secretary for Western Hemisphere Affairs Otto Reich in Honduras and Nicaragua supporting governments' efforts to combat corruption
- 8/02: United States Trade Representative Robert Zoellick; Assistant Secretary for Western Hemisphere Affairs Otto Reich in Colombia for inauguration of President Alvaro Uribe
- 8/02: Colombia – Under Secretary for Political Affairs Marc Grossman
- 8/02: Bolivia – Director, Office of National Drug Control Policy John Walters attends inauguration of President Gonzalo Sanchez de Lozada
- 7/02: Brazil, Argentina, and Uruguay – Assistant Secretary for Western Hemisphere Affairs Otto Reich
- 7/02: Brazil, Argentina, and Uruguay – Secretary of the Treasury Paul O'Neill

- 6/02: Canada – President Bush and Secretary Colin Powell attend the G-8 Summit
- 6/02: Barbados – Secretary Colin Powell attends the OAS General Assembly
- 3/02: Mexico – President Bush and Secretary Powell attend UN Financing Development Conference in Monterrey, CA. Millennium Fund announced
- 3/02: Peru – President Bush, Secretary Colin Powell, and Assistant Secretary for Western Hemisphere Affairs Otto Reich promote trade initiatives in Peru and throughout region
- 3/02: Brazil – Under Secretary for Political Affairs Grossman
- 3/02: Brazil – United States Trade Representative Robert Zoellick
- 3/02: El Salvador – President Bush, Secretary Colin Powell, Assistant Secretary for Western Hemisphere Affairs Reich, and National Security Advisor Condoleezza Rice announced CAFTA (Central America Free Trade Agreement) negotiations
- 2/02: Bahamas – Secretary of State Colin Powell attends Caribbean Common Market (CARICOM) Bridgetown Summit follow-on; regarding the Third Border Initiative, Haiti, and U.S.-Caribbean after 9/11/01
- 1/02: Colombia – Under Secretary for Political Affairs Marc Grossman
- 1/02: Honduras – Secretary of the Interior Gale Norton and Assistant Secretary for Western Hemisphere Affairs Otto Reich attend inauguration of President Ricardo Maduro

[End]