

Second Panel: *From Regional Mandates to Implementation*

December 3rd 2002, 11:15 - 12:30 p.m.

Dr. Irene Klinger:

Welcome back everybody. Thank you very much for coming in almost on time. We are going to start with our second panel of the morning from regional mandates to implementation. I will like to introduce Ambassador Marc Lortie who is going to chair this panel before that I also will like to recognize Dr. William Richardson from W.K. Kellogg. If you are already in I will like you to stand up (applause). As you know this part of the symposium is sponsored by the Kellogg Foundation. Thank you very much. Ambassador Lortie is a career diplomat. He was born in Beauport Quebec. He obtained a degree in political science and international relations at Laval University and joined the department of external affairs in 1971 in Canada. After serving in Tunisia and Washington he was seconded to the prime minister office in 1985 where he was in charge of relations with the international media until 1987 when he was named Press Secretary.

In 1989, he returned to the diplomatic service and served in Paris as Minister Counselor of political affairs and as personal representative of the prime minister for La Francophonie. He was named Canadian Ambassador to Chile in 1993 and served in that position until 1997 when he was nominated fellow at the center for international affairs at Harvard University. Ambassador Lortie returned to Ottawa in September '98 where he was appointed Senior Coordinator for Federal Provision (sp? -3:14) Relations at the Department of Foreign Affairs in International Trade and personal representative of the prime minister also called Sherpa for the third summit of the Americas. In July 2001 Marc Lortie was appointed Assistant Deputy Minister for the Americas. He has been a crucial leader in the Summit of the America Troika and a strong force behind the mandates of the Summit of the Americas ensuring the commitment by all and for all to the Summit Follow up. Mr. Ambassador Marc Lortie.

Ambassador Marc Lortie:

Thank you very much Dr. Klinger. I believe this morning we are very privileged to have such a prestigious panel with us. Let me introduce my colleagues. First and foremost Prime Minister of St. Kitts and Nevis, Dr. Douglas. He is a medical doctor by profession and a political figure by law. I believe he has been reelected many times since 1995 and he is also one of our main participants in the Summit Process and I will talk to you briefly about Summit Process. Then we have Assistant Secretary General Luigi Einaudi who is with us this morning. We're very pleased to have Luigi Einaudi because he is giving to the OAS the relevance that this organization needed to have and therefore his presence there is giving us a great importance for all governments involved in trying to build a closer hemisphere. Then we have Dr. Anne Peterson. She is the administrator for Global Health at the USAID. She is with us this morning to inform us and brief us and relate to us what she has, what the United States have in store in terms of health challenges vis-à-vis the hemisphere. Therefore I'm going to say a few words about the

summit and then give the floor to Prime Minister Douglas and then we will go down this way and we need to be out of here Dr. Klinger? 12:30 sharp we are going to out of here.

The Summit of the Americas is not an institution. It is a new gathering of the leaders in the hemisphere. It started in 1994. The first summit in a sense in modern times, was in 1994 in Miami and the second took place in Santiago, Chile in 1998 and we hosted in Canada under the leadership of Prime Minister Jean Chretien. The third Summit of the Americas in April of 2001. And what are we trying to do in the Summit Process? We are here in the context of the PAHO the oldest institutions in the hemisphere and the newest in the sense and I repeat I should not say an institutions but a new type of forum is the Summit Process. What we have been trying to do in the Summit Process is to create more engagement from governments from the 34 governments in various fields of activities of governmental activities. What are those fields? Trade and you have heard about the FDA that we are negotiating and the negotiations are on track. Ministers of Defense that meet last week in Santiago, Chile where we discussed and launched the new process of hemispheric security.

We have our Ministers of Justice and solicitor generals from the hemisphere meeting on a regular basis addressing topical issues such as corruption but also out to develop greater cooperations between justice departments to strengthen the rule of law in the hemisphere. Then we have our Ministers of Education meeting on a regular basis to develop cooperation, program in the field of Education and the last meeting was in Uruguay. Then we have the Ministers Science and Technology, we have the Ministers of Environment, we have the Ministers of Labor, we have the Ministers of Finance and all of them including the Ministers of Health and I want to pay tribute to Dr. Alleyne who is just joining us and Dr. Klinger here who have brought the power in the Process of the Summit of the Summits of the Americas. Therefore the summit is on the near regular basis the 34 leaders meeting together and giving a sense of directions of where we should go. Since Quebec City we have been on track in implementing the Summit Agenda. First Quebec City was known with the democratic laws. The hemisphere ratify, developed a democratic charter. Luigi Einaudi is going to talk to us about it because this democratic charter is the foundation. Is little bit our magna carta to express our values about the right to democracy in the hemisphere. That is a direct result of the Summit Process. But the summit wanted to achieve one thing. A balance agenda a where to go on the hemisphere. Not only on a trade side but on the social side and that is what we have been doing with the PAHO not only with PAHO but the other organizations.

Therefore in the summit for the first time we sat at the table not only the leaders but all of our institutions working in the hemisphere. We have the World Bank, we have PAHO, we have ILAC, we have the IDB and of course the political organization, the OAS. They sit with us and they receive from leaders not their marching orders but the views of the leaders to ensure that their organization match their program with what the leaders will like to achieve in terms of hemispheric cooperation. Then this year to be more relevant in terms of financing we have added four more partners to us, the Caribbean Development Bank, the Central American Development Bank, and the CAF and finally the Agriculture Institute that was created. Therefore all the participants from PAHO to the World Bank having an impact in the hemisphere are every three years getting together with all the leaders in a Summit Process. Under the leadership of PAHO in our plan of actions we have a special chapter on health. Public health. Reform of

public sector. How the hemisphere should go about it. The dynamism and the political will start at the summit process and that's how we have been engaged.

Is the hemisphere in better shape? Well the hemisphere since Quebec City as you all know in this room faced major challenges but in our agenda we are keeping, pushing, keep tracking, as we say non-stop, to ensure that the benefits of this cooperation is directly connected to the needs of our citizens. And that was the objective of Quebec City. A balance agenda that have an impact and a positive impact on the citizens and the chapter in the book that was distributed yesterday explained what we have done in the field of health in the context of the three summit. The evolution and this in Quebec City we have done a tremendous progress to ensure that this concept is a cross cutting consideration by all government. If for those of you who will read the democratic charter you will see the public health that they mentioned in the democratic charter. We are now engaged with the government of Mexico and all the other governments in the hemispheric security and we need to approach when we look at hemispheric security the new challenges and the challenges of public health on security matters and therefore that is bringing coherence to the hemispheric cooperation and that is what we called the Summit of the Americas Process. On that note I will invite the Right Honorable Prime Minister of St. Kitts and Nevis to join me and address the floor.

The Right Honorable Denzil Douglas:

Mr. Chairman, fellow panelist, distinguish Director General of PAHO, Sir George Alleyne, distinguish Ladies and Gentleman. It is for me a distingue pleasure to be here today sharing this moment in time at PAHO's significant milestone the 100th birthday of this most noble and prestigious organization. I deem it an equally singular privileged to bring congratulations on behalf of the Caribbean community of nations whom I'm authorized to speak on matters of health and social development. This is also an opportunity for me to publically recognized and pay tribute to the current and outgoing director of PAHO, Sir George Alleyne, my own erstwhile professor of medicine, when I study Medicine at the University of the West Indies many, many years ago. Sir George is a distinguished Caribbean man who has done the Americas proud in spheres of academia and international public health. We know that such an illustrious career; such a brilliant mind will be beckoned by new and exciting challenges. We wish Sir George the very best in whatever his new pursuits may be. CARICOM at this time warmly welcomes this challenge and post of director of PAHO Dr. Mirta Roses, a dedicated public health professional with wide experience throughout this hemisphere and an intimate knowledge of and proven commitment to the organization and whose strong and sure foundation, she now has the opportunity to build. We commit our support to Dr. Roses as she prepares to take the growing mantel of hemispheric health leadership into this new and exciting but challenging century.

PAHO, it has played an unquestionably crucial role in the human development of the countries of the Americas. In fact just a few days ago in my own country Saint Kitts and Nevis which happens to be the smallest independent country in the western hemisphere, the health promotion unit of the ministry of health observed and celebrated the 100th anniversary of this organization with a highly successful health fair. It was an

occasion to highlight the impact of PAHO on the development of the health sector in our country. Our people therefore will have me express their gratitude for the leadership and for the support which we have been receiving and to wish the organization great success in all future endeavors. The countries of the Americas had an opportunity in the year 2001, at the Third Summit of the Americas in Quebec, as you heard from the Chairman, to discuss many of the current challenges that are currently confronting the development countries in our own hemisphere. We came away from that summit with a clearer understanding of some common issues before us. We address critical issues such as the threat of terrorism, matters of trade, the value of technology in development, the role of various financial institutions in assuring economic growth in the Americas.

We looked at the significance of PAHO, in the attainment and the maintenance of the health of our peoples and the significant of this goal for overall development and we also discuss in that summit issues pertinent to summit follow-up and implementation. If we are to look at the mandates that have been given to our partners there, there is ample evidence that at the hemispheric level the Pan American Health Organization has been forging ahead with fulfillment of the current summit mandate in health. If I might point out to you this very quickly, they are health sector reform, communicable disease, emphasizing HIV/AIDS, TB and Malaria, measles, non-communicable diseases, the non-chronic diseases and to ensure that there are programs in place for prevention and to identify the risk factors very early.

The connectivity was also another important area that was mandated to us as government leaders in determining the future development of the Americas. There is evidence to that in follow-up to the summit mandates many important regional and sub-regional consultations have already taken place, both at the ministerial and higher technical level. These I wish to stress this afternoon are all of great importance to our hemispheric health agenda and we must be ready at all times to work closely with PAHO. The summit implementation review group, the joint summit working group that is the OAS, the IDB, ILAC and the World Bank and other collaborating agency in ensuring that as in the past these mandates are worked to the fullest realization. We of the Caribbean community, CARICOM, continue to support the summit process but I wish to stress that we can not afford the luxury of complacency but allowing ourselves to think that somehow summitry timely and relevant as its mandates may be is a panacea for the hemispheric growth and development thru health for which we diligently strive. These mandates set benchmarks the, the attainments which are determine by diverse circumstances and sometimes by imponderables. But how realistic are this considering in many cases the lack of capacity within the Caribbean region. How realistic are these when we are confronted on a daily basis by the near necessities to keep our people alive when our economies have been shattered many times.

As a region therefore, we of CARICOM, are looking programmatically at our position in the hemispheric scheme. We are considering our own vulnerability. As small island development states, we must have you regard for global trends and for our own capacity to counter or to buffer shocks and we are examing this realities in the context of our own unique situations as small development states. For all us enough cannot be said about the need for global stability in order for economies and social infrastructure to be sound and to be further developed. But how can we realistically achieve these mandates? If every international shock, if for example, 911 events which totally devastated the

tourist economy in our countries continue one year after to be serious first for own development and stability. The reality dictates that we must all adjust our own development strategies in consonance with prevailing circumstances. While at the same time combating the forces that create uncertainties and economic hardships for ourselves as for millions of people around the world. We regard it as crucial therefore that the resolutions, the mandates of Summits of the Americas be translated into programs which recognize health as fundamental to human security as an important prerequisite to economic growth and social stability and political liability.

It is important therefore, that we have forged bold, and imaginative alliances, no longer with just donor countries but with civil societies in our own countries with private and public stakeholders and with NGOs as we seek to implement to the fullest possible these mandates which are our means of addressing many of the challenges which are countries of our hemisphere grapple each and every day. In looking at our own challenge in facing up to the epidemic of HIV/AIDS, the Caribbean community such mandate translates into goals. Centered around in improving the capacity to satisfy the aspiration of all people not only in health but thru health it most impact areas such as education and housing. It most impact poverty alleviation programs and it most provide a better safety net for the most vulnerable groups in our population particularly the children and the elderly. There is a correlation between poverty and HIV/AIDS. One could not be tackle without tackling the other.

Our general strategy therefore has to be aimed at generating short and immediate terms and development and alleviating the poverty thresh holes that we have. We presently try to do this through the diversification of real economic sectors but I say this morning how can we achieve a serious threat and in fact a serious tackling of the HIV/AIDS epidemic if many of the resources that are to be made available to us are not available. I wish to stress that we in the Caribbean have created what is called Pan Caribbean Partnership of the Americas, the PANCAB and we have sort thru this Pan Caribbean Partnership in the Caribbean to tackle the problem of HIV/AIDS. In February of 2001, in Barbados we created this Pan Caribbean Partnership and since then we have invited a number of our donor countries and also we had very strong support of PAHO and WHO and UNAIDS in our fight against HIV/AIDS epidemic. We journey only a few months ago to Barcelona in Spain and we were successful in negotiating an agreement with six pharmaceutical companies in order to reduce the cost of the anti-retroviral drugs, which we believe all persons who suffer from HIV/AIDS should have access to. We also of course have made an application to the Global Fund in the fight of HIV/AIDS, TB and Malaria but we lack the necessary technical support and capacity to do this alone.

That is why the partnership has become so critically important in addressing partners from around the entire global, the institutions and donor countries of this region to assist us in putting forward this very important application to the Global Fund. I believe it is important to stress also that we have been able to attain with the assistance of the World Bank to step up or own initiatives in providing drugs to all those persons who have been suffering from this disease. In fact, we have successfully negotiated with the World Bank in a number of our countries in the Caribbean an expanded program that will allow our people to have universal access to the anti-viral drugs. But the common question that continues to pose itself is this; how could we seriously expect that our

people will have access to these drugs when the basic infrastructure to determine whether our population or the extent to which our population is infected is not available, when in fact we do not have the basic drug that can prevent mother to child transmission. When we do not have the capacity to ensure that stigmatization and discrimination against those who have been infected and who have been involved are in fact secure we therefore have much to do then just negotiating with the pharmaceuticals and with the World Bank. In fact one common question that continues to raise itself is, why should we a small development countries poor as we are try to obtain loans from the World Bank to correct this problem in our various countries when in fact we know that dead people cannot repay loans and so we call for a reexamination of the type of funds that are available to us in the Caribbean region in our fight against HIV/AIDS. We call for an end to the graduation process that has taken place.

Where many of our countries because of high per capita income have been graduated out of concession borrowing from the World Bank and so we call for reexamination of all of these factors as we try our very best to put in place the necessary structures to achieve the mandates of the Summits of the Americas. In looking at the question of connectivity, we recognize that this is one of the serious drawbacks as well to our obtainment of the goals of the Summits of the Americas. We do not have the capacity to develop the necessary infrastructure in our various countries. We do not have the access to the use of information and communication technology to become educated and sensitized to the seriousness, for example, HIV/AIDS epidemic. The appropriate development and use of connectivity will permit our various caregivers to have greater access to information which could influence prevention of this terrible scourge. In our view and consistence with the summits connectivity mandate, the nations of the Caribbean community are turning, increasingly to creating an ICT revolution which we believe is necessary to assist us in achieving our summit goals.

I will like to add this short presentation by drawing to your attention, participants and delegates to this important conference that we need to have the ability to implement the various commitments of the summit these from human rights and democracy issues to those that impact social and economic development. The key here is that agencies and institutions most explore ways of building implementation capacity in our various countries. While being more intimately involved in projects that have to be funded. We need to ensure that for purposes of fast response times to problems and thus reduction in cost overran the capacity needs to be built among our people in carrying thru a number of the programs associated with the mandates of the Summits. We recognize that shortcomings on implementation issues exist at both donor and recipient ends. And further dialogue is required to reduce difficulties to mutually acceptable levels. Meanwhile, I believe that it is time for donor countries and agencies to recognize that the small economies of the Caribbean communities required increased development assistances at concessionary conditions. That efforts to transform the economies to engage the use of high technology industries should be supported as a means of spurring further growth and development and issues of our debt burden should also be addressed as an integral part of support for development of the small economies of the Caribbean. I believe that there is need for continue dialog. Dialog on many of the challenging issues that face the region and we call for genuine efforts to promote policies that are not counter productive toward development efforts. For the moment we are very optimistic

and we call on all countries of the Americas to be supportive. To be supportive of each other as we try to realize these mandates and goals. What better time to recommit ourselves to the concept of regional support than at this time when the Pan American Health Organization comes to an end, comes to the end of its Centennial year of its celebration. Let it be a mandate that we recommit ourselves to another century of doing good. Thank you.

Ambassador Marc Lortie:

Thank you very much Prime Minister for this important statement of yours. I will now call on Luigi Einaudi, Ambassador Luigi Einaudi, Assistant Secretary General of the OAS to take the floor.

Ambassador Luigi Einaudi:

Thank you very much Ambassador Lortie, Prime Minister Douglas, Dr. Peterson, Sir George Alleyne who dignifies all of our work with an extraordinary commitment to cause, distinguish ministers, delegates, friends. It is really fitting that I should get a chance to speak immediately after the Prime Minister and after we have heard Ambassador Lortie outline the basic Summit. The fact of the matter is that we international public servants and surprisingly a large number of people in our respective countries and governments most rely on the leadership and vision of our presidents and heads of government. So I am extremely please that the Prime Minister has in effect given us as broad an endorsement. The fact is there will be no Inter-American system without the support of our heads of government and the system will not have life without the process of the Summits. It is interesting governments, Bureaucracy are best moved when their ultimate leaders push them in preparation for coming together. In view of the time, I'm going to simply run thru a few of the events that are taking up our efforts in this period and then say a couple of words that concern me with some move toward the future. I think in fact it is impressive how much has been accomplished as a result of the energizing force of the Summit Process.

Just since Quebec City, which was after all the third in the modern process of Summits which began in Miami. The number of activities and achievements under way is astonishing large and I will quickly read thru a checked list for you. The first, Marc Lortie has already mentioned, the negotiation and adoption within six months of the mandate from the heads of the Inter-American Democratic Charter, which in effect compiles and brings together regional jurist prudence in the matter of democracy which proves that we in the Americas do have a special place in the progress of the world toward greater representation and fairness and freedom. The Charter is actively inspiring our work in Venezuela right now, in Haiti which is actually a second area or country specific that I wanted to mention because Prime Minister Chretien singled out the need to make progress in Haiti in his closing statement in Quebec and we are as we speak at a most critical point where I believe it is essential that people in Haiti realize that they most forego efforts to resolve problems by violence and in position that certainly goes for the opposition as well as for the state authorities and we in the international community most move effectively to provide greater assistance. I understand that Jeffery Sachs said

something to this effect yesterday and without haven't heard the specifics I will say he is quite right. And I think that any of us who have a chance to say something to President Iglesias later on today should in fact do so.

The trade negotiations committee has established methods and modalities on market access. The adoption of what use to be called fast track authority for the US President gives us some hope that these negotiations can push forward. There was extraordinary solidarity shown in the hemisphere in the wake of September 11 of last year and the activation of the committee against terrorism. The scheduling of a special conference on security in Mexico early next year and the signing of Inter-American convention, negotiation and signing today 33 of 34 countries have sign it and I dare say that the only country that has not which is Dominica has not sign it not because it is not a committed member of an opponent of terrorism but simply because world economic conditions have reflected on its society and employment levels in ways that make it literally impossible for it to participate as it would wish even in the regional family of nations. The Institute for Connectivity of the Americas is under way. The multi-lateral evaluation mechanism an extraordinary exercises in multi-lateral definition and evaluation of the drug menace has made its first full report and is beginning to reap the benefits of the mutual trust and experiences that has generated. There is continuing work against to actually follow up the American convention against corruption and start harmonizing national laws so that good principals can be turn into good practice. Justices Ministers, disaster relief there is a lot going on and I think that we can be proud of it. There are still some majors problems and let me just list two.

The first is in a sense a sign of our success and it is interesting Canada is a country that has valued a non-governmental organization almost as much as it values multi-literalism and the US and Canada both have done a great deal to push the Summit Process beyond the realm of governments and government bureaucracies. I think that there has been a lot of progress but I think that we have really a long way to go in ensuring that the Summit Process really reaches down to where our publics live and reflect there needs and possibilities and in fact, that is the second point which I will like to conclude. We have done extraordinary work I think since September 11 in focusing on the security side of things. We have not done as well in dealing with social aspects and advancing hemispheric intergration. This is I think particularly important since the most vulnerable countries are still striving to overcome the economic downturn and to find ways of facing the varies challenges pose by the inevitable forces of globalization. The Summit Process and the Inter-American system which I tried to suggest really if they are to work are mutually interrelated show that they have a basis for extraordinary breath of participation among countries and in a funny way PAHO's evolution which is marked by its current Director General from the Caribbean community and its in-coming Director General from Argentina represent this strength. We must also build on the strength of the Summitry itself which enables us to break down bureaucratic inertia, in isolationism and fragmentation within individual countries. We should think and you who are specialist in the health area should perhaps spend a few minutes thinking about how you can use the Summit Process and political organizations like the OAS and the next regularly schedule Summit which will be in Argentina in 2005 to advance your health targets. You know better than any of the rest of us outsiders that without health you can have very little well-being. Thank you very much. (applauses)

Ambassador Marc Lortie:

Thank you very much Ambassador Einaudi, I will know call on Dr. Anne Peterson, Assistant Administrator for the Bureau for Global Health at the United States Agency for International Development.

Dr. Anne Peterson:

We put me last because we hope to have slides so if you will join me in pretending that I have slides up there. I really appreciate the chance to be here today and to speak with you all about where we are going together in the future and also want to thank PAHO very much last night, for the dinner and for having Public Health Heroes and I saw many of my personal public Health heroes last night and that is a really encouragement. I've been in public health for 20 years and I am a public health physician and when I see that PAHO is celebrating their 100th Centennial, I start to feel young, that's really nice. And that the relationship between the US Government and PAHO has been going on since 1902 that really shows the depth and length of the relationship and that we are really a hemisphere together looking at where we need to go. And as you have heard, we have both great successes to built from and challenges that we need to keep on tracking because sometimes the steady, the basic s, the infrastructure need that concerted effort. That you have moved from mandate to adoption in 6 months is astonishing. I will hope that we can move to implementation.

The focus of this panel in the same very rapid and concerted fashion. I'm going to talk a little bit about that implementation and how the US government and specifically USAID hopes to be able to help fulfill the mandates of the Summit in our relationship with you. USAID like PAHO is a little bit old and a little bit new. We've been involved in foreign development for years. We build on our strengths but we just reorganized. We pull all our health efforts together and we have a new bureau for Global Health and for the first time, a health person in charge of it. That building from past experience and strength and looking forward to freshness and newness is what every agency needs to do and PAHO is doing that same, building from strength and experience, moving/looking forward to a fresh future and especially with the Summit goals before us. There are challenges. USAID works in a number of sectors and actually has many of the Summit goals very closely align with our work in the hemisphere, HIV/AIDS, infectious diseases, child survival, and a lot of reform. We actually do far more reform in this hemisphere than we do in many of the others as well as the connectivity and frankly I like that word because we have been using partnerships to death in the recent times but that connectivity I'm being able to communicate our work together is important. One of the few areas that we don't discreetly work in is non-communicable disease but within our health sector reform we hope also to be of assistance there. For HIV/AIDS you know that that's sort of front and foremost for many places including in Latin America we have commitment at the very highest level. The President has announced new initiatives, in mother to child.

We were the first country to bring forward funding to the Global fund and to the and a second contribution to the Global Fund, I will say that our commitment to that new entity which hopes to bring new resources to bear on AIDS, TB and malaria is very intensive both at the international level. I'm alternate on the board and going to those

board meetings and trying to make sure that the Global Fund are functioning entity is really, really important as well as the technical assistance but the Ambassador talked about the need for technical assistance in countries on the ground as much as we are able with our own staffing limitations, we very much want to be of assistance, take the technical expertise that our bureau, our staff in the field have and make that available so that Global Fund proposals can be very good, can be very successful, and funding come into the region. So that is a commitment that USAID has, HHS has and we look forward to being able to facilitate that.

We gather together our American Ambassadors from the Caribbean Region and talked about HIV/AIDS and frankly I was really pleased, really surprised at their commitment to take on a specific health issue. They didn't talk about what they wanted my agency to do or CDC to do. They said, what can we do as American Ambassadors in the region and really gave themselves tasks. That was follow very soon after with a meeting with many, where I met a number of you in Guyana with the Ministers of Health sponsored by Secretary Thompson where we again for the Caribbean Region got to talk about what can we do in individual countries, what can together to being to implement programs that stop the escalating trend and turn it around. We had increased resources. Our overall resources within my agency have gone up 500% in 4 years. That's really good. I will say that more of it has gone to Africa, probably quite appropriately, than Latin America Region but we have significantly increased resources to this region as well. Physical year 2000, we had 14.5 million for HIV/AIDS, physical year 2002 31 million, we are expecting, hoping, depending on the Congressional budgets being passed that it will continue to increase in 03 and 04. We have intensive focus countries that are in this hemisphere, Haiti and Brazil, as well as Caribbean regional programs that include all of the countries in the area and some sub-regional support from one country to another to deal with cross-border issues.

In each of the other countries, it is clear we have problems, they are not huge yet now is the time to contain them so as much as our funding allows us, we seek to maintain that funding to basic countries. One of USAID's specific strengths is that we are a development agency. The Summit talked about many different areas including democracy and governance. As a development agency, we tried and do multi-sector approaches, HIV/AIDS and governance, HIV/AIDS and agriculture, and micro-enterprises. Some of the very best programs that I have seen in my very first trip as a USAID person was to Brazil, Bolivia and Peru and I have worked in Haiti. Some of the very best programs, the leading edge programs have been in Latin America area. And frankly Haiti, which I see as one of the more difficult countries with many, many challenges had astounding successes in a few different places with stigma. Things that I never expected to see in Haiti. Its leading the way I get to bring those stories when I go to Africa, when I go to Asia and so being able to take your success stories and bringing them to other places has been marvelous. And I think USAID is known as a participator organization with a strong focus on NGOs, the Ambassador talked about civil sector, private sector. We are actively encouraging those partnerships and seeking actually to find ways that the American community from the region can link back to the country programs in these areas. Access to treatment which is in the Summit is clearly an issue. It is not only the drugs, it is infrastructure, and infrastructure also includes the human capacity. We are trying very hard to assist the challenges that are in front of us. And

frankly, as we are trying to scale up and bring new things, the equity issues that immediately come to the floor, you only got so much, who gets it, how do you decide, very difficult and brings us right into the human rights issues that are also a focus. Our other infectious disease programs, TB-Dots programs, I saw fantastic ones in Bolivia, the ones in Brazil were still struggling to cover the scope of that larger country. We have a new Amazon Malaria initiative, Chagas, antimicrobial resistances, Dengue, some of them are individual country programs that lead towards the Summit goals. Some of them are regional, sharing from country to country. Child survival, we are working very hard on the expanded program on immunization.

I sit on the GAVI board and that rejuvenation of basic issues is also very important. A major area is the health sector reform and I think that's key for something like the Summit mandate where we talk about policies and health sector reform is where we take those policies and turn them into action. Make them real, make them programs and we have a commitment in many sectors to increase equity, to do standards of practices, licensing, promotion of valid common indicators. We are trying to share our best efforts and that's a difficult tasks between gathering all of the success stories and flooding the internet, the email with information back and fine tuning that information so that we can bring the most appropriate and useful pieces of new information, best practices, make them available to our staff who make them available to your ministries. So I thank you very much for the opportunity to speak with you today and I thank you for the opportunity to work with you. I have enjoyed every moment that I've had as I come to visit a number of places and perhaps sometime soon I will get to spend as much time in this hemisphere as I have done in Africa and I will look forward to that in the future. Thank you. (applauses)