WE CALL ON PEOPLE throughout the Americas to join us in Miami to participate in a peaceful and permitted mobilization to demonstrate the growing opposition to the FTAA. The mobilization will include a parade, cultural events and educational activities that will show the strength of popular opposition to the FTAA. Leading up to the events in Miami, we will work together to mobilize a grassroots education and outreach campaign here in the United States to build awareness about the FTAA and to educate our elected officials and candidates in preparation for the 2004 elections.

As part of the outreach campaign, we will work with our brothers and sisters throughout the Americas to give a voice to millions of workers on the FTAA. Ballots signed by millions of workers will be delivered to the trade ministers when they meet in Miami to negotiate the FTAA. This campaign is part of a larger campaign supported by a diverse coalition throughout the Americas united in their opposition to the FTAA.

Nine years ago, the North American Free Trade Agreement (NAFTA) was put into place, linking the economies of the United States, Canada and Mexico. Despite promises of job growth and an improvement in living conditions for the poor, NAFTA has resulted in increased poverty, stagnant or falling wages, an erosion of consumer protections, growing inequality and a decrease in the number of good jobs. Violations of the fundamental rights of workers, including the right to organize and bargain collectively, have continued, unaffected by the weak labor-side agreement. Environmental quality has deteriorated in the absence of enforceable regulations. Farmers and rural communities in Mexico, Canada and the United States have been devastated by the low commodity-price policies imposed by trade agreements and the increasing control of our food systems by multinational agribusinesses. The new investor rights protected by NAFTA have provided corporations the power to challenge democratic public-interest laws in secret trade tribunals.

Despite this dismal record, the U.S. government is moving ahead with negotiations to create the FTAA, an expanded NAFTA that would include all countries in Latin America, North America and the Caribbean, except for Cuba. The FTAA negotiations, which have been going on for several years without substantive input from civil society organizations, are scheduled to finish in 2005. If the vote comes up in the U.S. Congress under Fast Track rules, no amendments can be made to the agreement and only an up or down vote will be allowed. The race to finish the FTAA and to enforce another flawed trade model will lead to further devastating results.

There is a better way. We support trade models that include responsibilities—not just rights—for corporations; protect workers’ rights, health, safety, family farmers, women, consumers and the environment; and promote sustainable, equitable and democratic development. We join with people
throughout the Americas in opposing the failed NAFTA model being proposed for the FTAA. We propose an alternative, fair, sustainable model that ensures the protection of people’s livelihoods.

Join us in our campaign to defeat the FTAA. Make your voice heard in Miami Nov. 19–22, 2003! For more information check the AFL-CIO’s website at www.aflcio.org/stopftaa or contact Cathy Feingold at 202-639-6263 or cfeingol@aflcio.org.

The Stop FTAA campaign is endorsed by these organizations:

ActionAid USA
AFL-CIO
Africa Action
AFSCME
Agricultural Missions
Alliance for Retired Americans
Alliance for Responsible Trade
Alliance for Sustainable Jobs and the Environment
American Federation of Teachers
American Friends Service Committee, Democratizing the Global Economy Project
American Lands Alliance
Americans for Democratic Action
Association of Flight Attendants
Bakery, Confectionery, Tobacco Workers and Grain Millers International Union
Brotherhood of Maintenance of Way Employees
Campaign for Labor Rights
Campus Greens
Center of Concern/U.S. Gender and Trade Network
Citizens Trade Campaign
Coalition for Justice in the Maquiladoras
Communications Workers of America
Community Voices Heard
Development GAP
Ecumenical Program on Central America and the Caribbean
Environmental Health Coalition
50 Years Is Enough: U.S. Network for Global Economic Justice
Florida Fair Trade Coalition
Friends of the Earth-USA
Global Exchange
Grantmakers Without Borders
Graphic Communications International Union
Green Party of the United States
Institute for Policy Studies, Global Economy Project
International Association of Machinists and Aerospace Workers
International Brotherhood of Teamsters
International Brotherhood of Electrical Workers
International Jesuit Network for Development
International Union of Operating Engineers
Jobs with Justice
Greater Kansas City Fair Trade Coalition
Mexico Solidarity Network
Minnesota Fair Trade Coalition
Mobilization for Global Justice
NETWORK: A National Catholic Social Justice Lobby
Oxfam America
PACE International Union
Project South: Institute for the Elimination of Poverty & Genocide
Public Citizen
Public Services International, Inter-Americas Region
Resource Center of the Americas
Rural Coalition
School of the Americas Watch (SOA Watch)
Sierra Club
Sierra Student Coalition
Sisters of the Holy Cross Congregation, Justice Committee
South Floridians for Fair Trade and Global Justice
Texas Fair Trade Coalition
Unitarian Universalist Congregation of Miami, Social Justice Committee
UNITE!
Unite for Dignity
United Auto Workers
United Church of Christ Justice and Witness Ministries
United Food and Commercial Workers International Union
United for a Fair Economy
United for Peace and Justice
United Methodist Church, General Board of Church and Society
United Mine Workers of America
United Steelworkers of America
United Students Against Sweatshops
Wisconsin Fair Trade Coalition
Witness for Peace