

control of the regions and their functions. Under military rule, funds from oil revenues were not properly distributed under revised federal systems for allocation of resources. Imposition of new laws such as the Land Use Decree allowed the central military government to impose a formula on the entire country, over-riding former local autonomy in these matters. On a constitutional level, constituent regions lost their autonomous rights in 1979, with subsequent military regimes defending the right to ratify any constitutional changes. In Dr. Ekeh's opinion, all of the above developments had led to alienation, lawlessness and corruption, violence, and militarization in the country. His policy options for reform under a return to civilian rule included: increased attention to the rights of states; limiting the rights of central government; reconfiguration of the Nigerian constitution; and repeal of the Land Use Decree.

V. Strategies for Increasing Citizen Participation in Policy Making

Conference participants discussed how to increase citizen participation in policy making under the transition to civilian rule, and clarified the potential role of Canadian foreign policy in relation to this. Their key observations were as follows:

- Canada can provide key resources in terms of offering advice and expertise on different models of federalism (e.g. what has and hasn't worked in the Canadian context) and how to deal with structural issues of representation and resource allocation. This would support the development of new forms of cooperative federalism in Nigeria.
- Canadian support for constitutional reform processes such as the Sovereign National Conference would provide opportunities for constructive dialogue among diverse elements of Nigerian society. Support for processes to allow the 'bottom-up' construction of policies and constitutional frameworks would also be beneficial.
- Canadian encouragement and support for negotiation and conflict resolution among stakeholders in Nigeria would be a key aid to the democratic transition process, so that fragile political relationships can be strengthened. This could be combined with support for national mobilization of citizens through electoral education activities that counter the 'ethnicization' agenda of some forces in Nigeria.
- Support to enable civil society organizations in different regions of Nigeria to share skills, strategies and resources in a coordinated fashion to