

inclusion and properly functioning elected bodies, legal and judicial systems and public services. Increasingly, governing systems are involving the private sector and civil society organizations. Nancy stated societies in the hemisphere faced two main challenges - firstly, the ability to guide and articulate democratic development visions with broad-based support for its consolidation and secondly, the ability to formulate and implement public policy in a collaborative and constructive environment. The group was posed with the question as to whether institution-building efforts should involve working with civil society groups in democratic development and what role should Canada play?

5. Corruption

Matt Dippell, National Democratic Institute for International Affairs in Washington, began framing the discussion on corruption by defining corruption as an abuse of entrusted power for personal gain and identifying some lessons learned in the fight against corruption. He outlined an integrated approach put forward by the World Bank which includes the public sector establishing ethical codes, the need for strong civil society groups, an accountable judiciary, a free media, a private sector with strong ethical standards, and international cooperation in fighting corruption. He recommended strengthening political parties, identifying the sources of campaign funds, supporting civic education to include ethics education and educating the military to take on more productive roles in societies. Matt Dippell signalled the group to identify any Canadian pieces or existing niches within the World Bank list that Canada could pursue in preparation of the OAS Summit.

6. Threats to Democracy

Professor Pat Marchak, University of British Columbia, introduced this topic by emphasizing how essential the protection of the judiciary and legal systems and the capacity of international organizations to protect the rule of law were in assisting struggling democratic societies. Professor Marchak clarified that globalization had more to do with investment than free trade and that the unequal distribution of income and wealth were major threats to democratic development in the hemisphere. She explained the importance of understanding the limitations on the freedom of capital, the quiet war on intellectuals and union leaders in struggling democracies and how vital it was to build in protections for labour, culture and the environment. Recognizing the impact that the media has on shaping opinions about political leaders and political parties is significant, improving the role of the media and supporting political parties becoming more viable were seen as essential to developing democracies.

7. What can Canada Do - Where can Canada have Influence?

Recognizing Canada does not have all the answers and being mindful not to commit Canada