

schools and trained teachers. She argued that the 2010 date for the completion of universal primary education is overly optimistic and will be difficult to achieve. Dr. Ted Chambers of the Faculty of Management, University of Alberta, cut through the vague support statements about educational reforms proposing that Latin American countries declare specific levels of budgetary commitment to education. Mr. Manuel Galvan of Malaspina International, and Dr. Barbara Angel of the University of Manitoba representing the International Institute for Sustainable Development, expressed concerns that governments would not be able to ensure educational standards at the same time that they are dedicated to cutting programmes. Much more funding will be required to move education from elite-based to universal. Mr. Stedman of Nova stated that the business sector recognized that good education systems are absolutely essential for the development of societies. Other speakers pointed out that the enhancement of education would in the longer run advance democratization and human rights. Speaking in favour of the documents provided, Dr. Handy supported an approach that would decentralize education so that indigenous communities can develop programmes specific to their culture, language and special needs.

Commenting that no one in their right mind opposes the principle of universal education, Mr. Antipan of the Alberta Federation of Labour supported the concepts expressed in the documentation, but he expressed some cynicism about how general theory could be brought to reality in specific situations. He cited the example of the Maquiladora Zone in Mexico where large numbers of young workers are functionally illiterate. While in theory the Mexican government promotes education, neither it nor the foreign companies that employ these workers have been able to solve the literacy problem satisfactorily.