

be integrated within the UN. In Latin America, the need for coherent policy is apparent.

Human security also means including civil society in traditional state interests. In the next two years the Organisation of American States could lead the process of civil society engagement in Latin America.

Human security as a concept requires the involvement of the international community when necessary. In case when nation states assault human rights there should be room for the international community to protect individuals -- perhaps through the International Criminal Court. The case of General Pinochet is instructive here, ways have to be found to address injustices and protect individual potential victims.

Given these conceptual considerations, human security could be defined as the recognition of a general sense of insecurity in the world, of new threats to individuals and most importantly a paradigm shift that aims to recognise the need to move beyond national security to include the security of all persons through the engagement of states, civil society, and when necessary through the action of the international community.

Mark Dickerson of the University of Calgary, addressed the problem of globalisation-related insecurity and the challenges facing Canadian foreign policy in the Americas. He pointed out that despite criticisms of Western democratisation efforts abroad as neo-colonial, values such as freedom, accountability, desire for the rule of law are more universal than an observer located in the West may think. Therefore, the relationship between a prosperous economy and democratic governance may not be as complex as it appears and room exists for external ("objective") democratisation efforts.

Maureen Wilson of FOCAL talked about the negative effects that globalisation has on the capacity of states to cope with socio-economic issues such as the growing income gap among as well as within countries. She pointed out that there has been a resurgence of religious, environmental, anti-poverty and other organisations that stepped in to fill the growing vacuum left behind the "hollowed out" state. She stressed the importance of recognising the key role these organisations play in the region and the necessity of supporting them.

Liss Jeffrey from the McLuhan Program stressed the importance of factoring in the new media in the discussions of civil society in the Latin American context. The problem with advanced technology reaching the resourceless and often illiterate inhabitants of impoverished regions of Latin America is the same as in Canada and the rest of the world. It would be shortsighted to dismiss the importance of digital technology in today's world even for those who find themselves marginalised. For Canada, the new technology could be seen as a vehicle for building an informed society capable of active and meaningful participation in the democratic process -- including the shaping of foreign policy.