

doubt to the equation between a country's culture and poverty (or underdevelopment).

- Daniel Osabu-Kle (Carleton University) expressed his concern about revisiting the now debunked modernisation theory. Lack of development is not a natural condition. Instead, one must pay attention to a country's initial pre and post-colonial conditions. Societies should be empowered to achieve political, economic and social development, not moulded or culturally divided into subjective groups, he said.
- Robin Higham (University of Ottawa) raised questions surrounding the definition of "progress" and expressed his concern about aligning the diverse cultures of the world with ours.
- Madonna Larbi (Match International Centre) said that it would be a grave mistake not to consider systemic barriers to development. In Peru, for instance, certain groups of people can not advance in their careers not because they have certain progress-resistant characteristics, but because they face systemic discrimination on the base of their colour.