

methods for international business was seen as particularly difficult given the different business contexts within which various businesses work. While businesses that directly employ people overseas may have less difficulty in implementing human rights policies, businesses involved in purely contractual relationships may have less opportunity to put human rights policies into practice.

While the participants of the Roundtable recognized the difficulty for international business in effectively implementing policies to protect human rights, several suggestions were offered and discussed. These suggestions included roles for business, government and individual Canadians.

In the case of business, it was suggested that the adoption of voluntary Codes of Conduct by the business community may be an effective means to improve human rights in countries where they otherwise may not be protected. It was felt that minimally, the terms of Codes of Conduct should contain protection for a basic package of human rights. They should also include incentives for their implementation. It was further suggested that a commitment to a level playing field with respect to protection from corruption and reducing corruption, particularly at the local level, should also be a component. If such corruption codes were added, it was thought their presence could serve the dual role of providing an incentive to adhere to human rights protection as well as protecting companies from corrupt practices of third parties. It was added that "corruption" should be defined to include such practices as sex tourism, use of child prostitutes and child pornography.

In drafting a Code of Conduct, input should be sought from a broad range of participants, including business, NGOs, human rights activists and academics. It was also felt that a review of existing Codes of Conduct should be undertaken to determine their content, effectiveness and applicability to Canadian business. In this vein, one business sector representative brought with him his corporation's International Code of Conduct as an example. The development of a model code to present internationally was felt to be an objective worth pursuing for the APEC meetings.

It was suggested that an effective Code of Conduct could perhaps be implemented at an international level through the IMF, World Bank or the WTO, particularly in the areas of aid projects and infrastructure investments. The financial input for developing and maintaining such a code should come from all sectors. The need for a strong code with the best possible means to improve human rights was stressed.

While most participants recognized the importance of developing Codes of Conduct, several members of the business sector expressed a concern that such a code could result in increased bureaucracy and regulation. They argued that any code must be efficient to administer.

In addition to the development of Codes of Conduct, another suggestion for