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to provide leadership in developing a well-defined and effective mechanism (as was done with the International Criminal Court) to strengthen the international human rights regime in the Hemisphere. An important point was raised at the Halifax roundtable that *economic, social and cultural rights* are as important for a democracy as political rights and attention was drawn to the disintegrative trends globalization has on the regional social fabric and culture. While some recommended promotion of human rights in trade and other economic agreements and policies (i.e., investment and taxation policy), others criticized such an approach as a short-term fix based on an often fickle market economy. The role of economic sanctions was also addressed frequently with little consensus as to their effectiveness.

Many participants agreed that Canada should promote the *development of civil society and good governance*. To do so usefully, the need to recognize and understand the long-standing histories of diverse Latin American societies and communities was raised. Protecting and strengthening Latin American civil societies through the capacity building work of Canadian-based NGOs as well as others (i.e., government departments, missions, private sector initiatives) was acknowledged as important. Grass-roots and local-level projects were seen as particularly effective.

Inclusion of traditionally excluded groups and access to decision-making and deliberative bodies was also identified as imperative for further democratic development in the region. Many agreed that inclusion and access should be institutionalized and become an integral part of governance. Special attention should be paid to Indigenous Peoples, the disabled, people in poverty and women. Canada could help by sharing its best practices in working across the state and civil society divide. In particular, we could contribute to strengthening bridges between civil society and the government and to open up space for public participation in policy development.

Concerns about corruption and other threats to democracy including: the centralization of power, resurgent militaries, the lack of judicial independence and rule of law, weak political parties and representative institutions, and social inclusion, were frequently raised. Many highlighted the necessity of putting democratic development into the context of globalization and free markets. Some argued, for instance, that the fundamental problem of good governance and the related "regression syndrome" in Latin America is the declining capacity of states to carry out their traditional roles, including such basic functions as the provision of common security.