

IV THE CHALLENGE TO INTERNATIONAL INSTITUTIONS

Fen Hampson of CIIPS introduced this session by emphasizing the enormous complexity of the policy problem, a complexity heightened by the forcing functions of energy policy, population, economics, and problems of economic and ecological interdependence. Dr. Hampson raised a number of questions that provided major points of reference for the discussion of the challenge posed to international institutions by climate change.

- 1) Why do we need international regimes or conventions to address the problems of climate change? Dr. Hampson argued that international regimes will be required to share information and to monitor national responses. They are also necessary in order to share the costs and risks of both adaptation and preventative strategies, as well as to provide a transfer of resources from North to South. He noted that at a minimum, regimes can be instruments of moral suasion.
- 2) How difficult will it be to negotiate a convention on climate change? Dr. Hampson stressed that these will be complex, multiparty, multi-issue negotiations.
- 3) How long will it take to negotiate a convention and what should we be doing in the meantime? Dr. Hampson mentioned the Third Law of the Sea Conference, which took some fourteen years to negotiate a regime.
- 4) What will be the purpose and functions of the regime? What kinds of international organizations and mechanisms will be required to manage, maintain, and develop this regime?