

Adjustment Programmes have had high social costs, especially for women. In some instances, they have contributed to the destruction of national productive capacity. Therefore, there is a need for new approaches to economic policy which will require a significant shift away from the Structural Adjustment paradigm.

New directions in economic policy could include:

- emphasis should be on the development of well-integrated economies (strong links among the agricultural, industrial and other sectors)
- trade policy should serve to build a strong manufacturing sector and support decentralised agro-industrial production
- trade liberalisation should not be implemented before an industrial policy is in place to address the structural constraints causing the inefficient operation of local enterprises
- efficiency-enhancing measures (technological upgrading, technical assistance) should be the focus of efforts to help firms confront import competition
- trade policy should support a country's strategic sectors
- access to long-term loans at affordable interest rates for small and medium-size businesses should be enhanced
- investment that creates local economic linkages and that is not import-intensive should be encouraged (to avoid growing account deficits)
- investment should be made in the agricultural sector before import liberalisation in order to ensure the viability of small farms as well as food security, particularly in rural areas
- the legal and policy framework of the mining sector should be overhauled so that companies have greater responsibility and accountability with regard to environmental and social issues
- public utilities and basic social services should remain under state or local government ownership in order to best ensure the provision of affordable, quality services to all segments of the population.

The lack of viable alternatives to Structural Adjustment Programmes was addressed during the discussion. Some participants pointed out that a good articulation of economic policy that addresses distributional issues is missing. What should a "pro-poor" economic policy look like, especially in the context of the increasing reliance on monetary policy (as supposed to fiscal policy) and the decline of the activist state? Mihevc pointed out that exploring alternative economic policy options to Structural Adjustment Programmes was the next stage of SAPRIN's work.

## **5. Human Rights Approach to Food Security**

Donald Buckingham (University of Ottawa) examined the international evolution of the right to food. He also addressed the right's recognition and implementation in Canada. He pointed out that both recognition and implementation of the right have been difficult for several reasons, including:

- The state obligation to provide food or to recognise an individual's right to food is a