

- In its deliberations concerning sanctions, the Security Council should give consideration to assessments of the likely humanitarian consequences of various strategies. Studies undertaken by OCHA (formerly UN-DHA) must be supplemented by more holistic, long-term analyses by economists, political scientists, and area experts. The main problem plaguing the practice of assessment is not a lack of information; it is a lack of the political will required to set the process in motion. Canada should use its seat on the Security Council to ensure that the Council receives such assessments as a matter of course, both prior to and during the imposition of sanctions.
- Canada should support discussions aimed at developing the idea of 'humanitarian limits' which would guide the Council in its deliberations regarding sanctions. Such an exercise would move beyond existing, general statements of intent by seeking consensus answers to questions such as: When does a humanitarian emergency exist? How should sanctions be modified to reflect the changing situation on the ground? Under a sanctions regime, who bears the responsibility for ameliorating the suffering of innocent civilians?
- Security Council resolutions must outline clear guidelines governing humanitarian exemptions to sanctions. The exemptions process would also benefit from the creation of a generic, item-based list of exemptions, the consistent application of these standards, transparent procedures involving open deliberations and the widespread dissemination of documents among the members of sanctions committees, decentralization of the authority to approve exemptions, and enhanced communication and coordination between the UN secretariat and member states.

*c) Approaches to reform: the interstate level*

- Participants enthusiastically supported the idea of a 'sanctions forum': a group of concerned states and non-state actors which would explore options for sanctions reform and work to build support for these reforms. Such an initiative, it was held, meshes well with Canada's stated intent to build a Council that is more accountable and sensitive to the views of non-permanent members.
- It was also agreed that Canada should determine how other non-permanent members of the Council view various proposals for sanctions reform.
- Participants expressed the view that there would be little room for substantive progress on some of the more institutional aspects of sanctions reform while the sanctions against Iraq are still in place. Nonetheless, they agreed that it would be fruitful to undertake discussions of reform while this controversial issue still occupies the global agenda. Furthermore, many of the initiatives presented above may be carried out by Canada on a case-by-case basis. It was agreed that Canada should lead by example, and by demonstrating consistency in its approach to sanctions across cases.