

*Michelle d'Auray raised the difficulty of engaging in broad cultural dialogue on the international level. Attention tends to revert to trade and investment issues. Building a broader understanding of culture, which would include the value of human and social development will be a challenge. How to address the dissonance between established democracies and fragile democracies or authoritarian regimes on values like political (and other) rights and freedoms? Another challenge confronting a unified discourse is the difference in how rich and poor countries tend to conceptualise culture: While the former tend to fall back on trade (agreements), the later often use culture to sustain their development. How to approach the extraordinary diversity in the world and, in effect, "to convince people to forget their distinctiveness in favour of diversity?" Sustaining culture may also be used or be seen as protectionist activity.*

Despite these challenges, bridges should be built through international fora such as, the World Bank, International Monetary Fund, G-8, and others besides UNESCO and the Francophonie. *A framework within which to operate internationally and domestically must be articulated and then communicated to the culture conduits (bureaucrats, artists, etc.). An outreach strategy should be developed. Resources will only be provided once it is clear that culture is central to (foreign) policy.*

Though Heritage Canada aims: "to ensure that Canadians have Canadian choices and to connect Canadians to the diverse Canadian experience," what does this connection mean?

The United Nations Conference on Racism could be a good opportunity for Canada to promote cultural diversity.