

term effect on the economy than the current approach of neglecting the agricultural sector.

- Although some infrastructures are in place, there is a need to greatly expand the current network before attempting to launch other projects. The private sector will remain reluctant to become involved if basic infrastructures, allowing for the development of a private sector, do not exist.
- Haitians living abroad will increasingly be called upon for their contribution to the economic development of Haiti. They can provide technical knowledge and financial support together with a genuine understanding of the Haitian society.

With respect to **Social Development and Democracy**, some participants offered the following conclusions:

- NGOs have assumed a key role in the provision of health and social services to the Haitian population in the past mainly because the repressive nature of the State tended to ignore those areas. Today, the NGOs' dominant position is seen as an obstacle by those who envisage a greater role for the State in this sector. There is a need for discussion about the role of NGOs in Haiti and their relationship with the Government. The international community should also review some of its funding practices which tend to exacerbate tensions between NGOs and the Government. A consensual approach should be adopted to harmonize the variety of development policies currently at work in Haiti.
- NGOs have long served as a mechanism of political participation. Although they sometimes compete with the State, they should be kept in place until mature political institutions which favour political participation are ready to take over.

Policy Recommendations for Canada

Haiti

The current Canadian participation in Haiti may not be the most appropriate. It appears that a short-term, piecemeal approach has been favoured, and the results are not encouraging. Canadian troops in Haiti see their mandate renewed over and over in order to maintain a safe and stable environment. Efforts are made to reform the judicial system, but crime is on the rise and jails are packed – in some cases with innocent people. Poverty is alleviated in some parts of the country, but everyone doubts how long the relief will last.

It is not acceptable that in a hemisphere where economic development is generally on the rise –