

is to move to good economic and political governance. These challenges include poverty reduction, prevention of environmental degradation, peace and security, democratization and political governance, economic liberalization and corporate governance, sub-regional and regional approaches to development, inadequate infrastructure and human resources development. Yang indicated that "Globalization is here to stay. We have to deal with it..."

Bayowa Adedeji, who works for a human rights organization in Nigeria, drew on his country as a way to consider what NEPAD means. He pointed out that many Nigerians are suffering today as a result of slavery, colonialism, the Cold War, International Monetary Fund and World Bank imposed structural adjustment programs, and unaccountable leaders. Plans for development have failed because ordinary Africans did not participate in decision-making. NEPAD will also fail unless consultation and participation continues. Needs to be addressed include the need for loans for small business, debt cancellation and gender equality.

Mikael Taffesse, a doctoral student at the University of Alberta, spoke of the need for a new relationship between Western nations and Africa. Poverty is the paramount issue to be addressed – it will not be resolved through aid, but through fundamental changes in traditional structures which are inequitable and unjust. Unless these changes can be made there can be no partnership between Africa and the West.

Kathryn Dunlop of CIDA discussed NEPAD in the context of the "persistent poverty and marginalization of Africa" which she characterized as "unacceptable." NEPAD has captured people's attention and imagination – NEPAD is Africa owned and promoted and endorsed by all 53 members of the OAU/African Union. Responses to NEPAD in Africa, the G8 and the European Union have been "generally positive." The G8 leaders see NEPAD as a possible turning point in Africa's development. Prime Minister Jean Chrétien is strongly committed to ensuring that Africa remains a principal focus on the Kananaskis agenda. The G8 Africa Action Plan is not meant to be exhaustive, but is meant to be a tangible and credible response to the NEPAD key issues of governance, peace and security, education, information technologies, health, economic growth, aid effectiveness, water and agriculture. The NEPAD and G8 Plan is a unique and unprecedented opportunity for public debate in Canada and in Africa and throughout the world.

Plenary II was entitled "Options for Africa: Role of Government and Civil Society."

Molly Kane, of the Africa Canada Forum, spoke of the efforts of the Forum to work with NGO groups in Africa, to inform them about NEPAD and to assist them in analyzing the document. There are three major areas of concern:

- Governance – The process with respect to NEPAD is elite and suggests a partnership between African and industrialized states, not between African citizens and their governments. The proposal for peer review is inadequate.