

community level of society. Provincial governments should have more say at the table in the negotiations, especially over issues such as health and education.

**Media and Democracy** The media coverage of the FTAA has been primarily focussed on pending protests rather than providing news and information and analysis of the trade agreement and the changes and impacts to Canadians. It was suggested that by limiting monopoly control over the media would mean more critical questions about the impact of market expansions on countries and citizens would be investigated. It was noted that there is a thriving civil society in Latin America despite the strong military presence and that Latin America is not as undemocratic as often portrayed by the media.

#### **Sustainability:**

**Incentives:** Countries should be given incentives to improve their democratic and sustainable practices. There should be incentives to have improved labor laws and working conditions, rather than punishments. The theme of incentives was a crosscutting issue for the three principles of democracy, sustainability and poverty reduction.

**Local Autonomy:** Domestic governments should maintain their own regulatory practices in any rules-based trading agreement.

**Research and Development:** There should be support to prepare alternative analysis and research on global issues and trading agreements. Support to civil society groups – academics, NGOs and others who want to analyze and develop alternative models and options.

**Cultural Sustainability:** Sustainability over trade was a clear message. Intellectual property rights protection over folklore, traditional knowledge and genetic resources were strongly articulated by participants.

#### **Poverty Reduction:**

**Debt Relief:** Providing debt relief to Latin America countries was seen as the most important step in reducing poverty. Countries should be given incentives to eradicate poverty and improve such basic needs as health and education. Lower tariff barriers would encourage trade, especially in textiles and agriculture. Development assistance should be appropriate and it should be assured that it is the poor which receives this assistance.

**Principles and Values:** Trade agreements should reflect and entrench the goal of eradicating poverty and be guided by values of civil society. Human security should be a fundamental principle in the agreements. Food security, water, housing and other basic needs should be specifically reflected in the language of the agreements. The right to collective bargaining and international (ILO) standards can not be separated – these should be international principles entrenched in trade agreements.

**Hemispheric minimum wage:** A minimum wage, tied to the cost of living, should be introduced throughout the hemisphere. This minimum wage would be contextually appropriate to individual countries.

#### **CROSS-CUTTING ISSUES:**

##### **1. A Broader Understanding of Democracy:**

The definition and understanding of democracy was a fundamental issue surfacing and repeating during the roundtable. The question seemed to crystallize as to whether politicians, assisted by those employed by governments, are elected to make decisions for citizens on such important agreements as the FTAA or does the democratic process continue after elections with citizen input and participation? Transparency, access to information by the public, more and better public consultation, and broader participation by stakeholders