

(ICTs) to spread information and connect communities across the Hemisphere. ICTs could facilitate the development of a "Human Security culture" and create a public "digital" space for policy discussion and deliberation. Initiatives aimed at placing ICTs at the centre of the Hemisphere agenda and narrowing the "digital" divide should be developed.

7. The role of **CIDA** in the Hemisphere should be maintained, especially in the poorest countries. CIDA is a vehicle for promoting equity in the region and the engagement of communities and civil society in public policy.
8. Canada should strive to improve the OAS **process**. The agenda for Quebec City should be practical (i.e., topical, credible, cost-effective), manageable and fall within the context of Human Security.

Summary of Possible Canadian Foreign Policy Niches:

1. *Canada as "the Nordics" of the Hemisphere*
2. *Canada as a long standing partner (trading and other) with the United States*
3. *Canada as a leader in civil society engagement and good governance*
4. *Canada as a leader in closing the "digital" divide*
5. *Integration of the disabled into the economy*
6. *Disaster relief assistance: building resilient communities*
7. *Expertise in tax systems*
8. *Experience with Indigenous Peoples (especially Indian urban youth)*

II Starting the Discussion: Opportunities and Constraints

Steve Lee, welcomed everybody to the roundtable. He reminded the participants that the mandate of the CCFPD is to bring ideas and expertise for foreign policy development from outside government. He outlined the goals of the day's discussion as being first, information sharing and second, testing everybody's key interests in the Hemisphere. He also laid out the format and process for the discussion.

George Haynal, then brought everybody up to date on the development of Canadian foreign policy towards the Hemisphere. In particular, he explored some of the main opportunities and constraints that policy makers currently face. He thanked Nola-Kate Seymoar for her efforts and the participants for coming. He also expanded on the new dimension in Canadian foreign policy that the active engagement of civil society brings. In particular, he commended Steve Lee and the CCFPD for their efforts in this area.

On personal reflection, he went on to say, there exists a dissonance between the extent of involvement in the region and discourse in Canada. Canada's engagement is unprecedented and