

developing countries is a good objective, we need to ensure that the fundamental rights of workers are respected and that the benefits are not reaped only by a few.

- Brian Langille suggested that the ILO should look more closely at the issue of comparative advantage of States with respect to the labour market. It should not be used as a smokescreen to disguise lower labour standards. We need to consider the unequal division of goods between developing and developed countries.
- Although some see the World Trade Organization (WTO) as an effective enforcement mechanism for labour agreements, Ton Zijldwik offers the caveat that we do not want to overload the WTO dispute resolution mechanism. One would not want to solve human rights issues through the WTO. However, this debate does have the advantage of considering who has enforcement rights.

WORKSHOP #2: THE CONVENTION ON THE RIGHTS OF THE CHILD: ADEQUATE PROTECTION?

Reem Bahdi: "The Convention on the Rights of the Child: More than Illusion but Less than Reality"

Reem Bahdi stated the Convention on the Rights of the Child (CRC) was poorly drafted and often ignored by hostile governments but that it did provide protections not found elsewhere. She discussed two examples: a) the Baker case in Canada -- reluctance of Canadian courts to take children's rights seriously; and b) Israel's responsibility towards Palestinian children -- a bill introduced in Israeli legislature to deny care to Palestinian children injured by Israeli soldiers in spite of article 39 of CRC.

Martha Shaffer: "Canada's Child Support Guidelines: Do they Really Address Child Poverty?"

Martha Shaffer spoke on the methods used in Canada to ensure child welfare as set out by the Convention on the Rights of the Child. Shaffer believes that Canada has done well to emphasize child support as a private obligation on shoulders of parents, but less well in its obligation to provide when parents cannot. The Child Support Guidelines are indicative of this phenomenon. The Child Support Guidelines are useful, but too little time and money was spent on those children who will not benefit from the new Guidelines. For example, there are children who will not benefit from the Guidelines simply because the parents do not earn enough. As the guidelines are addressed towards child support they will not have any impact in many low-income families. As a whole, too much time was spent revising the Child Support Guidelines and not enough on the larger issue of child poverty.