

persist, including trade. Addressing issues such as gender and trade would be beneficial. Like borders between states, some boundaries between the state and civil society are being undermined while others are being reinforced.

## 2.4. Comment and Discussion

Molot pointed to a lack of historical perspective in contemporary foreign policy. The understanding of the world has shifted significantly in the last decade, creating a generational gap. The older generation was faced with an entirely different reality than the new, their views were primarily shaped by the legacy of the Second World War and the Cold War. In some aspects the old world order was simpler, "we knew who were our friends and who were our enemies." While we are searching for new directions, the question of how values are shaped is more pertinent today than ever. She suggested that there are not many adequate sources to raise awareness about Canadian history on which values could be based. (The creation of the Canadian History Institute demonstrates the need to educate students and the public about our history.) Elections have rarely generated comprehensive debates on foreign policy issues. It may also be the case that the Canadian public is not really interested in foreign policy. She asked whether Canadian foreign policy was a reflection of domestic policy and whose interests does domestic policy represent? She said that the nature of Canadian polity has changed dramatically (up to 20% of Canadians were not born in Canada). There has been a significant decline in the legitimacy of the state, demonstrated, for instance, by lower voter turn-outs. In a sense, there has been a "loss of community" in Canada.

Five points were addressed during the discussion: 1) the importance of linking the international and the local issues/interests, 2) the need for leadership on foreign policy issues, 3) the role of peacekeeping in Canadian foreign policy, 4) culture as a tool of Canadian foreign policy and 5) seamlessness of borders.

- Some participants, including Irvin Cotler M.P., stressed the importance of linking international issues and interests with domestic platforms. Cotler added that in order to build a wide-spread public interest in foreign affairs, leadership, especially by elected officials, is required on the local (constituency) level.
- Many participants agreed that leadership is necessary to maintain the Canadian internationalist tradition, including the Canadian commitment to peacekeeping.
- While some expressed alarm about the diminishing resources allocated to peacekeeping by the Canadian government and the danger of losing Canada's peacekeeping tradition, others suggested that there are new issues, including environmental protection, that concern the younger generation of Canadians today.
- Allan Bowker (International Academic Relations Division, DFAIT) suggested that culture, as a tool of Canadian foreign policy has been missing from our discussion. A