

Bob Finbow, Dalhousie University, briefly addressed the impact social and environmental clauses in trade agreements actually have on the development of social equity, democracy and environmental awareness in the region. Can the adoption of a clause within a multilateral context actually have any impact on how individual governments treat their societies and environment? For example, in the context of Mexican authoritarianism, it is doubtful any such commitment would be adhered to. The enforcement of social and environmental provisions is another conundrum that would have to be addressed. Therefore, other, long-term opportunities to influence change in the region should be sought.

It is useful to keep in mind the danger of Northern neo-colonialism towards Latin America in imposing values and standards and the growing challenge in the United States to globalization. Barbara Arneil's contribution to the former point was that many people in the South do not share the same concerns about the negative impacts of trade liberalisation expressed by the opponents of neo-liberalism located in the North and see trade as a major vehicle to growth and development. Arneil also suggested a country-specific focus, since the needs of Latin American countries vary widely.

Jennifer Proudfoot, Canadian Council for International Cooperation, summarised the policy work of the CCIC as broadly reflecting the concerns expressed by labour, Indigenous Peoples and other NGO representatives. Among other things, the Council explores the link between globalization and social development (social exclusion and unemployment).

In conclusion, Steve Lee summarised the day's discussion and drew out the key ideas and possible niches for Canada in the Hemisphere. Canada could develop a niche as a Northern partner to the Americas. Drawing on Jeffrey's idea, Canada could become the "Scandinavia" of the Hemisphere through "Human Security." The use of ICTs could be particularly helpful in furthering this niche. Canada could become a leader to close the "digital" divide and create electronic commons for public discussion and deliberation. In this way Canada could use "soft power" to influence positive change. Canada has great experience and expertise in dealing with the US in trade and other issues. Canada could become a leader in encouraging civil society engagement and good governance in the Hemisphere. Other, specific initiatives where Canada could lead are 1) the integration of disabled people into the economy, 2) disaster preparedness, 3) tax reform and public administration, and 4) approaches to dealing with Indigenous Peoples issues, especially Indian urban youth.

At the close of the day, it was agreed that a summary report would be written by the CCFPD and distributed. Arch Ritter offered to establish an e-mail list of participants to better connect with the *Latin America and the Caribbean into the Coming Millennium: Equity, Democracy and Sustainability* Conference (Ottawa, September 30 to October 2, 1999). Networking among the organisations present could be strengthened through developing inventories and exchange of information. Participants and others are encouraged to keep in touch and to follow up at the local level (i.e., Toronto based organisations).