

diversity and developed this even further to the micro-level of states, provinces, and regional districts and to indigenous populations that may be disconnected from main stream activities. Would such people desire economic liberalization? Would good policies for some be equally bad for others? Who might be threatened and what might be the costs of economic liberalization and of democratization? Adopting a broad historical approach to some of the major problems under discussion, Dr. Joel Prager commented upon a number of historical precedents and cited recent research that suggests some doubts as to whether or not democracy fosters or hinders economic development.

Other speakers of the NGO and labour sector expressed views critical of economic liberalization. In Nicaragua for example, the agenda to protect Human Rights had been affected by massive unemployment rates that reached 60% in the cities and up to 80% in some rural areas. In Nicaragua, the government had cut 70% of services in one year. Speaking for Labour, Mr. Ramón Antipan supported these views identifying economic integration as a major issue for Canadians. Although some Latin American nations are producing very positive figures indicating high levels of growth, it remains unclear who is reaping the profits and who inside or outside of government is responsible for major decisions. In the case of Chile for example, successful GDP statistics obscured internal disasters and growing inequalities.

Several speakers posed the question, "Which themes and issues under discussion are in Canada's national interest? Answering the question, members of the workshop stressed the point that Canada wants economic and political stability in the Americas and desires success for the Latin American nations. However, while Canadians wish to see economic growth and increase of wealth in Latin America, concerns remain about the potential for instability in financial markets and about events that might produce an upsurge of