

of a Tobin tax to counterbalance the negative effect that currency speculation has on the poor in Latin America.

Conclusion

At the close of the day, Stephen Randall, University of Calgary, offered a few concluding remarks about the importance of links between government and civil society in shaping Canadian foreign policy towards the Americas and extolled the shift from preoccupations with trade back to human security. He stressed the role of civil society in policy making and the necessity of creating a well informed broad policy community, perhaps with the help of new technologies. He went on to say that Canada has an important role to play in the hemisphere in promoting democracy and should draw on the positive steps taken during the Santiago Summit.

Steven Lee then closed the discussion with a commitment on the part of the Canadian Centre for Foreign Policy Development to continue the process of keeping Canadians involved in a discussion about the hemisphere and in policy development opportunities.

To briefly summarise, the key issues raised by participants at the round table were:

- Human Security is an important approach to foreign policy in the Americas
- Civil society in Canada has an important role in shaping foreign and hemisphere policy and in building civil society in the region
- environment and human rights are important elements of human security
- economic issues impact the development of the region.

While there were some concerns about Canada's capacity and authority in the Americas, there was broad consensus that Canada is well positioned to provide leadership in the Hemisphere at this time.

Human security, as a broad umbrella, was seen as central to the hemisphere agenda. With rapid changes occurring the region, enhancing human security and democratisation could lead to improved economic development. Meanwhile, finding greater balance between trade and aid will be an important component of the discussions over the next two years.

As Canadians become more involved in the Americas dialogue, the role of civil society is essential in creating a more informed and open discussion among Canadians, policy makers and decision makers in Canada and abroad. Involving youth, multicultural communities, business, women and Indigenous People will continue to be important.

The Calgary round table was a useful beginning to shaping this dialogue and process. The ideas generated will be important in designing the next stages of the issues and policy discussion.