

institutions to provide small amounts for financing. This same approach could be used for other industries.

### Topic #3: The Eradication of Poverty.

The discussion on this topic noted the package of documentation on the subject that had been circulated at the beginning of the workshop. Speakers referred to the Pan American Health Organization's plan that stressed initiatives for vaccines, immunization programs, and water and sanitation programmes. Margaret Ford of CIDA noted that Canada could contribute to finding solutions to hunger and malnutrition through creating different models that would permit Latin American countries to address social, economic, and cultural problems. Speakers from the NGO sector suggested that projects concerning aboriginal forestry and mining had special merit. However, with regard to the difficulties of indigenous populations, several speakers noted that Canada's own record in alleviating poverty left room for considerable improvement. Ms. Olson from Earthkeeping expressed the concerns of her organization for food security connected with access to land, funding for food and agrarian reform programs, and land ownership. Other speakers presented harsh statistics illustrating that 210 million people in Latin American and the Caribbean live in poverty. Even in Chile that has been recognized as a great success story in terms of economic development, 3.3 million of a total population of 14 million live below the poverty line. Given this situation, neo-liberal economic policies do not appear to have produced an effective panacea. Some speakers suggested that these policies could serve to increase rather than decrease grinding poverty throughout Latin America.