

Prof. Black then highlighted several themes raised in the background paper which, he said, deserved the attention of the participants. These themes were: the prevailing pessimism surrounding comprehensive economic sanctions and the attendant enthusiasm for targeted sanctions, the symbolic importance of sanctions, the lack of evidence that sanctions are effective as direct coercive measures, the idea that force is sometimes both more effective and more humane than sanctions, and the importance of mitigating the humanitarian impact of sanctions for instrumental (as well as ethical) reasons. Prof. Black concluded by outlining several areas in which reform efforts might profitably be undertaken: enhancing coordination and communication among actors responsible for planning and administering sanctions, promoting pre- and re-assessment of the political and humanitarian effects of sanctions, streamlining the process for approving humanitarian exemptions to trade embargoes, and encouraging national-level legal and administrative reforms aimed at helping states to impose sanctions more quickly and reliably.

Prof. Margaret Doxey (Trent University) then outlined the changing nature of UN Security Council sanctions. She noted that the post-Cold War Security Council is characterized by increased cooperation and backroom dealing, particularly among the P-5. Moreover, the Council has demonstrated an increased willingness to apply sanctions to a wide variety of "threats to the peace" under Chapter VII of the UN Charter. Prof. Doxey also noted the de-emphasis of comprehensive economic sanctions in favour of targeted measures, and cited the development of Sanctions Assistance Missions (SAMs) in Yugoslavia as a key institutional development.