UN missions. Communications technologies can be used to support free elections, media monitoring and good governance. Communication technologies should be used together with existing organizations (such as C.E.S.O.) to offer advice on and provide support for judicial systems and participatory systems of governance based on established international declarations and charters.

9. Domestic regulation of communications and international trade are linked. Some regard current domestic regulation and foreign ownership controls as a barrier to international trade. Research and production partnership programmes with industry could supplement or replace direct regulation to promote Canadian content and competitiveness.

10. Some participants see media concentration as a major threat which should be addressed through new and tighter controls. Commitment to media diversity should be promoted domestically and internationally.

11. Some think Canada should support international efforts to develop standards, controls and safeguards on offensive content and electronically-communicated crimes. Others vehemently disagree.

Policy Development Process Recommendations

1. An increased effort must be made to link process with outcomes. This includes tailoring development projects and policy options to the rapidly changing technological environment.

2. The National Forum consultation process is valuable and should be continued, possibly by using electronic means, and by expanding participation in the process. Follow-up in response to the recommendations is needed for the consultation process to be respected.

3. Canada needs a coherent and integrated approach by government departments involved in foreign policy and trade.

Outstanding Issues

There are a number of controversies and tensions which emerged. They included:

- control of content production;

- diversity of technology: low-tech and high-tech;

- definition of "access";

- resourcing: who pays;

- the role of market-driven and democratic models;

- regulation and free markets;

- sovereignty issues;

- foreign ownership;

- domestic and international linkages;

- shared goals for development and trade;

- the relationship between "interests" and "values";

- strategic and coordinated versus fragmented approaches;

- appropriate roles for governments, individuals, corporations, NGOs.