6.	general as opposed to strict principles.

Tatsuro Kunugi drew attention to the obstacles to building partnerships among actors of unequal power, influence and wealth. Care should be taken to avoid sub-contracting or co-opting weaker partners by dominant parties. Managing partnerships among actors having different aims or operational styles may also be difficult. An international organisation may have to assume a role in building and managing multiple partnerships so that the identity and independence of the remaining parties are maintained. Despite these challenges, partnerships may have to be recognised as imperative to creating a shared vision for global governance and to maintaining synergy to realise new visions. The purpose of partnerships for global governance should be the inclusive sharing of benefits in the public interest. In conclusion, Tatsuro Kunugi addressed the possibility of the UN assuming a leadership role in building and managing multiple partnerships. This would place the organisation at the core of the global governance, where it belongs.

Martha Schweitz (Seinan Gakuin University, Japan) addressed questions related to the accountability of NGOs. She said that in the recent past, there has been an unprecedented growth of NGO networks and codes of conduct. This development points to a maturation of the NGO community and reflects the emergence of a moral discourse for improved global governance. She drew attention to a recent publication by the UN University – *Codes of Conduct for Partnership in Governance: Texts and Commentaries,* which includes a collection of documents bearing on partnerships among various global governance actors. The collection includes voluntary codes from a range of countries including Australia, Canada, Colombia, Ethiopia, India, and Japan. In all cases, the documents are a result of long negotiations (one or two years) with wide participation. Parties to a network are obliged to comply with the code. While most of these networks are made up of development NGOs – a sector with a long history of self-regulation, the codes span beyond the networks' charity aspect to include their emerging political and other roles. Many groups have started to perceive their partnership(s) as more important that their identity.

The emergence of codes demonstrates the existence of a self-conscious civil society. The codes often:

1.	expound participation and sustainability in social and economic development,
2.	lay bare the need for NGO involvement in global governance,
3.	stress the importance of respect for diversity and understanding of cultural contexts,
4.	seek partnerships and collaboration with governments.

There are also several challenges posed by the largely general and voluntary nature of codes. First, they can be easily abused and misinterpreted. Second, the general tone of codes necessary to facilitate implementation across diverse networks, often leads to vagueness and lack of definitions. Vagueness can impact the adoption of codes, since their interpretation may vary. Moreover, vagueness could make non-compliance easier. Therefore, codes should be clearly defined and thus strengthened.