

comprehensive economic sanctions with increasing distaste, while they have expressed enthusiasm for targeted sanctions.

In general, participants agreed that UNSC sanctions are highly problematic instruments of statecraft, and that they are unlikely to prove effective (in the sense of bringing about desirable policy change) very often. However, it was agreed that UNSC sanctions will nonetheless continue to be used frequently, and that they represent valuable means of bolstering international norms and deterring other (i.e, non-target) states from pursuing objectionable policies. Therefore, it is important that Canada use its influence in an effort to steer the discourse and practice of sanctions in more constructive directions.

## **2. Toward a Canadian approach to UNSC sanctions**

Participants agreed that Canada's UN sanctions policy should give priority to three tasks: discouraging the use of sanctions wherever more constructive and humane alternatives exist, ensuring that the needs of innocent civilians in target states are given due consideration in the design and implementation of sanctions, and developing the capacity of the international community to design and administer strong, targeted sanctions where appropriate.

Participants also emphasized the idea that the most severe sanctions do not necessarily produce proportionate policy dividends. This lesson must be reinforced in the minds of Security Council members. Sanctions policy must be guided by the desire to identify measures that are both effective and humane, rather than those which seem intuitively 'strong' and politically palatable.