

gather participants from various regions of the world.

#### **4.2. Private Sector**

Many multinational companies are actively involved in Nigeria and share the feeling that they have to be part of the solution to the Nigerian situation. For the last few years, they have elaborated a code on conduct to regulate their own activities around the world. This code, which has growing support, shows a desire from companies to subject their own actions to scrutiny and should be integrated in the Canadian approach. One way of moving from regulation to implementation, would be for Canada to make respect of these standards mandatory for any company seeking government funding. However, Canada is not providing any governmental support to companies involved in Nigeria. Participants also agreed that interested actors should seek in other countries and institutions to monitor if any similar code is being elaborated.

#### **4.3. Labour Unions**

Finally, it was raised that labour unions had in the past played active role, such as the 1995 oil strike which had had a strong impact on the Nigerian Government. This is only one example of means, outside from direct government intervention, to bring pressure upon a dictatorial regime to open discussion with civil society. For this kind of action to be successful, labour unions would need for the Canadian Government, if not to directly support them, to refrain from impeding unions' actions.

#### **5. Conclusion**

This roundtable discussion allowed participant to share their views and position, which were often similar, on the situation in Nigeria. The challenge remains has to how to bring a democratic change in this country where the human right situation is of great concern, and how to induce Nigerian government to live-up to its international commitments. Nigeria's future could have a tremendous impact on the whole region. It his therefore critical for Canada and other members of the International Community to act rapidly. The election process will be a determining factor into bringing Nigeria on the road to democracy. Leading towards these elections, Canada and the Commonwealth - including CMAG and CHOGM - will have to establish clear and unambiguous criteria covering the situation of political prisoners, democratic process and freedom of the press. Decisions will also have to taken regarding possible sanctions for non-compliance to international standards. In elaborating there strategies, Canada and the Commonwealth should seek support from other international players and fora, such as the UN, the World Bank and international financial institutions. Forces for change also reside in other actors that are already involved in Nigeria. The Private sector and NGOs can create a knowledge body that could work from the inside