

occasionally lack an "ethic of implementation," thereby broadening parameters of negotiation at international conferences, but to little consequence after agreements have been signed. This is called the issue of "global ethics".

Dr. Herity then asked about the place and practicality of talking circles. Professor Henderson suggested that this method of dialogue is most effective in small groups, perhaps up to 20 people. He added that a former president of the University of Saskatchewan drew on talking circles, thereby allowing ideas to be exchanged without feeling obliged to respond to specific individuals or ideas.

Lea Mackenzie explain her efforts of working with International Indigenous Women's Forum, in consultation with the Assembly of First Nations, to foster greater international co-operation and collaboration among Aboriginal women. She affirmed a key component is to overcoming "elements of mistrust" between Aboriginal peoples and Canada and maintaining the trust earned. She noted the consultation process presented by Herity describing the Biodiversity Convention, especially "8(j)," seemed quite respectful, especially when compared to other recent advisory initiatives launched by Heritage Canada relating to preparatory meetings for the World Conference Against Racism and other international meetings. Foundational knowledge is often lacking among Aboriginal representatives, and others, because of poor planning and co-ordination, simplistic understandings of complex international issues, (occasionally among government officials) and weak or ineffective communications among delegates.

Participants noted that a lack of continuity within the Aboriginal community speaks to the under-development of mechanisms for training and grooming participants. They recommended that scholarships and mentoring opportunities be established to build capacity and reflect upon and share lessons learned from international initiatives. Further, they suggested that to date, requests to "move down this path" have not been received warmly by the government. They expressed concern about attempts to "take advantage" of inexperienced members of Canadian delegations and noted that experienced people are not always invited back to participate in other initiatives. As well, apparently leaders within