Some Questions to Orient the Debate

Félix Peña
Sub-Secretary, Federal Ministry of External Commerce, Argentina

1. Which are the main trends in the globalization process that could have a more serious impact in the capacity of the nation-state to play its traditional economic role in the future?

2. What lessons can we draw from the recent experiences in regionalization, i.e. European Union, NAFTA ASEAN and Mercosur?

3. What lessons can we draw from the experiences of federal states?

4. Should we talk of "decline" or of "redefinition" of the traditional economic role of the nation-state as we have known it in the recent decades?

5. If redefinition is the issue, which are the fields of public economic policies that should be adapted to the new realities of economic, political and cultural globalization?

6. How could we develop at the global and regional levels collective disciplines that contemplate common interests of nation-states with different degrees of economic development?

7. Cultural diversification is a positive or a negative factor in the development of a more stable, pluralistic and democratic global economic and trade system?

8. What kind of global and regional institutions are more suitable in the new era of economic globalization? Is the "supranational" concept the only reasonable option for the future? In that case how can they assure the democratic values in the international or regional system?

9. Could strengthening national and local identities be the logical answer to challenges and opportunities of a new era of globalization and regionalization?