

2. *Emphasis should be put on moral versus monetary support.* For instance, outside political statements could lead to buttressing the democratisation process. There should be international discussion of current human rights abuses and money (mis)allocation. Open support for democratic activists should be displayed.
3. *The international community could help the new Nigerian government repatriate money from European bank accounts established by former corrupt leaders.* The Nigerian public should be aware that the international community cares about these mismanaged monies.
4. *The Nigerian debt could be rescheduled to help put finances in order.*
5. Heed should be paid to cultural sensitivities addressing issues such as demilitarisation of the society. Moreover, too much attention is being paid to parliamentary work without understanding the extent of corruption in the National Assembly. The international institutions should be involved in trying to foster democratic culture in Nigeria (i.e., the Ford Foundation's civic awareness programme). However, the NGOs and others should tread carefully.
6. Approximately five bodies are trying to coordinate aid and other programmes to Nigeria. Canada should stay away from trying to function as yet another coordinator of bodies/organisations that do not particularly like to be coordinated.
7. *The international community has to pay careful attention to regional balance in aid programmes.* Information about implementation/delivery of aid and other programmes should be readily available. The international NGO community should be accountable for their actions in Nigeria and elsewhere.

### 3. Canadian Initiatives

Sandelle Scrimshaw, Director General, Africa Bureau, DFAIT, said that her team is preparing a strategic plan of action to which all stakeholders could contribute. She reiterated the importance of Nigeria for Canadian foreign policy and for African peace and development. The Prime Minister's visit last November symbolised the importance of Nigeria to Canada. The political relationship between the two countries creates an enabling framework for other relationships to develop (Track II). She expressed her hope that President Obasanjo will reciprocate the PM's visit by coming to Canada this year.

Sandelle Scrimshaw said that Canada is working to support democratic development in Nigeria. Some of the areas in which Canada has been active include:

- evolving trade and economic relationships,