

learning process is sustained. While the Course itself is an important educational opportunity, the activities and outcomes that grow out of it are also a crucial measurement of its success.

The Sunday morning session on Action Strategies was intended to assist the participants brainstorm and plan events that they could implement in their schools and communities. Many interesting ideas were voiced in this session, including plans for events which focus on specific UN days (e.g. Universal Children's Day, UN Day for the Elimination of Racial Discrimination, etc.), instructions on how to organize a world issues club, and general thoughts on how to raise public awareness. In groups, the participants were given the opportunity to go through the stages of planning an event so that they would leave the Course with a concrete starting point for taking action in their schools and communities.

One of the ideas that emerged during this session was to have high school youth go into Junior High and Elementary schools to teach younger children some of the basics about the UN and human rights. This idea is currently being followed-up on by UNA-Canada in its "What Kind of World...?" programme. The purpose of this programme, which began development in mid-1999, is to teach youth between the ages of 10-14 the basics of the United Nations system and global issues from a Canadian perspective, drawing links between local and international issues and highlighting the role of Canada in the UN and the UN in daily life. Action Course participants are currently being trained to go into schools and deliver the lessons which comprise the What Kind of World...? programme.

As part of the evaluation process, participants were asked what they would like to see in terms of follow-up. A key recommendation was a mechanism by which the participants could keep in touch, share action ideas and success stories, and provide motivation, inspiration and support. To this end, an e-mail listserv has been created and is being maintained by UNA-Canada, and a Virtual Classroom for interaction has been created using the tools available at www.nicenet.org (to visit the classroom, create a log-in identity on the Nicenet website, and enter E23389Y60 for the Class Key.)

Other follow-up activities which are being considered include:

- a periodic newsletter mailed out to the participants;
- more Courses on other issues, including the environment, politics, and economics;
- hosting youth events in order to get more youth involved;
- publicizing youth-oriented or youth-organized events to the general public;
- offering support and assistance to youth taking action, where possible.

Next Steps

The first Youth Action Course on the United Nations, Human Security and Human Rights was a tremendous success. Not only did it succeed in providing an interactive and valuable educational experience to a group of high school students, but it also created a network of young activists who are eager and ready to raise awareness in their respective schools and communities. The impact of the Course extends far beyond the twenty-three participants.