

Areas for future Canada-Norway co-operation in human rights:

- freedom of religion, specifically possible projects and future initiatives on creating a website and generating a civil society role in discussing these issues;
- New technology has been instrumental in promoting human rights around the globe. It provides for the rapid transmission of information on human rights abuses to NGOs, governments, international organisations and media. However, access to this information in the southern hemisphere is limited. It is proposed that Canadian and Norwegian interests in the field of human rights could be advanced by exploring methods through which information skills and technology could be transferred or promoted in the southern hemispheric NGO community;
- indigenous communities, with possible co-operation on the Inuit Circumpolar Conference and its interests and activities, including human rights and strengthening indigenous communities.

Further to human rights, it was also pointed out that codes of conduct and the role of the private sector in human rights could also be areas for Canada-Norway co-operation.

With respect to the issue of the child soldier, it was noted that, in war, children are exploited intentionally and the problem cannot be framed as 'collateral damage.' For example, children are exploited for slave labour and soldiering. However, they have also become the targets for violence in conflict as combatants pursue ethnic cleansing agendas and wage campaigns of terror against civilians. The exploitation of children in conflict is indicative of the moral bankruptcy that many combatants embrace during conflict. At the same time, this ethical vacuum also exists within the international community as evident in the small effort to enforce existing international standards or to amend those standards that have proven ineffective.

The issue of children in conflict simply does not appear on the international political agenda. The visibility of children can be an important element in peace accords and demobilisation. For instance, children can be more prominently featured as subjects of dialogue and advocacy, and children's activities, such as children's theatre, can contribute to peace-building. The issue of the child soldier needs to be addressed more vigorously in such frameworks as problems of demobilisation, reintegrating child soldiers into society and linking that to the development agenda. Examples of success do not exist. Canada and Norway could take a long-term leadership approach to this challenge.

Other areas of Canada-Norway co-operation regarding the child soldier and children in war:

- Canada, in co-operation with Norway, should use its Security Council seat to promote the issue of "kids in conflict;"
- further study of the possibility of using children as a subject for organising a forum for dialogue when other avenues of communication for peace are closed. For example, a program for the vaccination of children during a conflict could be expanded to include cease-fires and possibly a settlement to the conflict;
- the reintegration of children into post-war societies.