

serve to emphasize that many more States parties do not report than do.²⁰ Participants discussed what might be done to increase the number of States parties reporting without attempting to shame them. Efforts to convince UN members to report military budget information²¹ had used a more positive approach, seeking to convince states that it did not hurt to report.

Participants commented that it might also be useful to reward participants with praise and favourable publicity. In this regard, it was mentioned that Canada had received very little notice for its own efforts to promote reporting. Canada had been one of the most active States parties, if not the most active State party, at the PrepCom on this issue. Another participant noted, however, that Canada had to some extent discouraged attention to its role, apparently in order to minimize the impression that reporting was mainly a Canadian interest.

It was noted that one form of reward might be a meeting of the States parties that had reported. Such a meeting might be held at the margins of the UN First Committee and/or outside the next PrepCom. Canada could invite all 31 States parties that had formally reported in 2002 and/or 2003 to a lunch meeting to talk about how to move reporting forward. Such a meeting might discuss the role and use of reports, the process of reporting, or it might discuss the content of the actual reports. Such a forum might encourage those States parties that have reported to feel greater "ownership" of the process.

Participants discussed whether Canada should engage in further discussions with the other reporting States parties before developing a more definitive "Canadian position" on reporting. It was noted that consultations with other States parties that support reporting but favour different approaches might lead to ways in which these differences could be bridged. Participants commented that Canada had been pursuing a collaborative approach on this issue and undoubtedly would continue to do so. A number of participants felt, however, that it was now time for Canada to declare its preferred approach, even though it should continue to remain open to other solutions.

It would also be useful, it was suggested, to organize a panel or briefing session on reporting to which all States parties could be invited. This too could be held on the margins of the First Committee, and would discuss the role and use of reports, encouraging other States parties to participate in reporting. Would it be better for such a panel/briefing session to be organized by NGOs or the Canadian government? Either approach might work. It might also be possible for both to be involved.

²⁰ It may be worth noting, however, that reporters are already in the majority in the case of the CTBT Annex 2 states. Of the 36 NNWS NPT States parties that are on the Annex 2 list, 20 submitted formal reports in 2002 and/or 2003; only 4 failed to report in any form.

²¹ The Instrument for Standardized International Reporting of Military Expenditures, established by UN General Assembly resolution 35/142B, 12 December 1980.