

locate their business. As states often do not require such a commitment, other mechanisms must be found to make companies adhere to codes of conduct.

2. Needs

Several key needs have been identified by the participants to further the democratic development of Nigeria:

- *The need for an inclusive National Conference aimed at redefining the building blocks of the Nigerian state.* In preparation for the Conference, nation-wide fora for discussion should be established where core constitutional and other issues could be addressed. The Conference should be representative of all the Nigerian nationalities and other stakeholders and define the parameters of a "truly" new Nigerian federation.
- *The need to pressure the Nigerian government to comply with human rights and humanitarian laws.*
- *The need to address the crumbling health and education systems.* There is an acute need for computers and other technology to improve the quality of education. The health system is in a critical state where hospitals serve more as mortuaries than health-improvement centres.
- *The need to address electric power failure.* Perhaps alternative ways to power generation should be sought, including solar energy.
- *The need to assist with institution building, democratic processes and the improvement of administration.* Election monitoring and pre-election assistance as well as legal training would especially be of value.
- *The need to reinvigorate Nigeria's trade with the rest of the world and to attract socially responsible foreign investment.* Possible tools could include the establishment of foreign trade missions in Nigerian and the signing of an Investment Promotion Agreements.
- *The continuing need for humanitarian aid.*

Drawing on the study of the International Institute for Democracy and Electoral Assistance, Alison van Rooy, offered a list of recommendations/activities that the international community could undertake to address Nigeria's "democratic deficit." She also raised caution about activities that could harm the democratisation process:

1. *The international community should consider small and cautious programmes rather than mega-projects.*