

objectives were set out, capacity to deliver assessed and the need to create alliances and share resources identified.

### 3. THE UN, NGOs AND THE LANDMINE INITIATIVE

#### A) Summary of Panel Presentations

**Christopher Raj**, Nehru University, India, suggested that the Ottawa process (land mines initiative) could be applied in the South East Asian context as well. He argued that the Ottawa process could address problems related to the regions' land mine contamination and conflicts in general. He suggested that the best way to launch such an effort would be incremental, involving bi-lateral agreements. Despite some authoritarian tendencies, there exists a space in South East Asia for New Diplomacy to take root.

**William Maley**, Australian Defence College, discussed the Australian experience with the Ottawa process. He outlined the political, legal, and foreign policy making context within which the treaty was eventually signed. He pointed out that the relationship between Australia and the UN is not a major factor shaping foreign policy and traced some of the ambivalent attitudes Australia has displayed towards the UN since its foundation.

The issue of anti-personnel land mines impinged on a number of government departments (i.e., Foreign Affairs, Ministry of Defence, Australian Agency for International Development) and required a complex ratification process involving the Cabinet as well as the Parliament. The issue engaged the attention of elements of civil society and resulted in a broad campaign for total abolition. A diverse range of Australian based pressure groups, aid agencies and NGOs joined other international groups and launched an extremely well informed campaign under the auspices of the "Australian Network of the International Campaign to Ban Landmines" led by Sister Patricia Pak Poy. During the campaign, expertise that was to eventually trump the claims of bureaucratic opponents was developed and mobilised through hearings and work of commissions. There could be few better illustrations of "deliberative democracy" at work.

While the state was divided on the issue, the change of government in March 1996 shifted the mood in favour of the ban. The Foreign and Defence Ministers finally announced the government's decision to sign the treaty on November 17, 1997.

Manley drew five main conclusions from the land mines process and its success in Australia:

- 1) The issue lent itself well to organising a concerted campaign since the questions involved were relatively simple and straightforward.
- 2) The case study shows the maturity in campaigning and its importance (i.e., level of professionalism and expertise).
- 3) The case points to the importance of insulating an issue from domestic party politics.