



Adopting standards

- 1) Canada should resume its consideration of International Labour Organization Convention 138 (on minimum age of workers), should invite the provinces to participate in this effort, and should ratify this document;
- 2) The government should continue its joint initiative with the Canadian Manufacturers' and Exporters' Alliance to develop a code of ethics to protect children, should promote adoption of a measure of this type by other parties, and should publicize this initiative at the appropriate time.

for International Business, which have in turn considered various aspects of the problem. Although the efforts to bring together the Canadian players in this area are important, they remain incomplete and fragmented, since there is no real national cooperation on international protection of children. At a time when the Federal government wishes to involve Canadians more in the various stages of developing its foreign policy, would it not be appropriate to broaden the basis of consultation and improve coordination among the various national players involved in this issue? This question arises in a context where international needs for child protection are increasingly acute and national resources increasingly scarce.

Discussions

Workshop 1

National consultation, coordination and cooperation

There are currently a number of consultation and co-ordination mechanisms in Canada for discussion and debate on the problem of children's rights and international protection of children. The participants include the federal and provincial governments, and various Canadian players interested in the issue, such as unions, non-governmental organizations, the educational sector and many community groups. There are, for example, the initiatives of such authorities as the Canadian Coalition for the Rights of Children, the Sub-Committee on Sustainable Human Development of the Standing Committee on Foreign Affairs and International Trade, and the Canadian Council

1. Introduction

The participants met to identify potential new ways to improve national cooperation mechanisms. The session was preceded by a short introduction by Ms. Fernande Meilleur, designed to identify the issue and promote debate among the participants. The broad outlines of her statement were as follows:

- a) foreign policy is not a government preserve: new players are participating in developing policies and programs;
- b) in recent years, three basic themes have emerged in Canadian policy consultation forums: good governance, democratic development and human rights;
- c) the challenge now is to move beyond a mere statement of these principles toward a co-ordinated action plan which must have a specific time schedule and specific objectives;