

and activities of leading international organizations. The Human Security Network has brought together 13 countries from several regions of the world, such as Chile, Jordan, Mali, Norway, Switzerland, South Africa, and Thailand.

The G8, with Canada assuming the presidency, has started a series of peacebuilding initiatives and a working group on complex issues such as the illicit drugs trade, and the demobilization, reintegration and disarmament of combatants in Afghanistan. The G8 was also developing a Plan of Action, in response to NEPAD, the New Partnership for Africa's Development.

In the aftermath of September 11th and the climate it created, the Secretary of State said, it is more important than ever to have these consultations on peacebuilding and human security and that they address such crucial questions as the mutually reinforcing nature of human security and state security. The security of individuals and respect for human rights is not possible in an insecure environment. Achieving security of the state is derived from providing people's basic rights and safety. This complementarity, however, often raises difficult questions on how best to develop strong and multi-faceted policies that respond to the full spectrum of objectives.

Rapporteur: Robin Wentzell, CPCC

SESSION 6: Peace and Conflict in Africa

Conflict is about control of resources, access to resources, or resistance because other people are excluding you from resources, André Jaquet, High Commissioner for South Africa, said in his introductory remarks. Africa is a resource-rich continent but for centuries those resources have been exported. When independence came, resources were managed badly because of conflicts over access to resources and the disruption of the past. Corruption and bad management continue in Africa. Elites who do not want to give up power exploit ethnicity, language or religion for their own purposes. Africa's position on the poverty index has gradually declined over the last 10 years. The continent now hosts not 25% but 30% of the world's poorest people.

What really made Africans sit up and take notice that changes had to begin, the High Commissioner said, was the case of Rwanda, where in a matter of 100 days, perhaps 800,000 people were killed. A German traveler in the 1800's who came across the region which is now Rwanda, wrote that many countries in Europe would envy the cohesiveness, the single sense of organization, of social justice and harmony that reigned in that area. But for European colonialists to get access to resources, they had to divide people. The colonizers decided that if you had a long, aristocratic, European nose or over nine cattle, you were an aristocratic Tutsi. If you had a stubby nose or eight or less cattle, you were a Hutu. That was the beginning of the long slippery slope towards the holocaust in Rwanda, which arose over access to resources.

Faced with a desperate situation like Rwanda, Africa had to do something and this led to the formation of the African Union. Its predecessor, the Organization for African Unity (OAU), was fine for battling colonialism, but it was an imperfect instrument to tackle the real problems, such as the problem that globalization presents for Africans. The African Union was to be born on July 1, 2002 and the first presidency was to be in South Africa. An Action Plan was needed to