

As in justice, a major concern raised by the participants was the need to identify and address systematic (i.e., bureaucratic, Treasury Board, etc.) barriers to deployment of public servants to peace-support operations. A balance should be found between the government's accountability and transparency measures (such as, for instance, legal and contractual frameworks for dealing with client NGOs) on the one hand, and the ability to deploy government employees quickly and efficiently on the other. An enabling environment for civil servants (and perhaps others) wishing to contribute to Canadian peace-support operations should be created. Such an environment exists in Ireland or Denmark, for instance. Corrections Canada shared their experience with helping and encouraging employees to participate in peace-support operations. The need to educate Canadians about their privileged position in the world and the responsibility that accompanies this position was emphasised. Employers should understand that working abroad often makes for more experienced and valuable employees.

Another area where Canada could contribute is **child protection**. Experience from the field demonstrates the importance of having the right people on the ground. Good will and good intentions are often not enough. Peace support initiatives aimed at the well being of children must be well thought out and take into account cultural and contextual issues. Setting up a comprehensive child protection system anywhere is a complex task. Internationally accepted standards of Children's Rights and needs including and beyond food and shelter are often a foreign concept in situations where the rights of the individual have yet to be recognised. Establishment of a child protection system is not viable before rule of law is established and before trained professionals from the community are in place to implement such a system. Beginning steps, to establishing a system, would include education about the value of children and the components of healthy child development with respect to internationally accepted standards. Early social and mental health interventions should be focussed on projects that would be aimed at:

- restoring childhood for children who have lost this right through war, poverty and abandonment (i.e., reintroducing play into the lives of these children)
- respecting and supporting the integrity of the family and caregivers; programmes to support and strengthen families.

At the same time Canada can offer expertise in the areas of education and training for child welfare and child and family mental health practitioners. Expertise can be drawn from the Canadian mental health community, the Canadian child welfare system, professional associations, Canadian colleges and universities and the community of NGO's who have experience in the field. It is important not to impose inappropriate values and practices but to train and prepare professionals well before deployment to the field in programmes that are going to be useful. We should apply learning from our own mistakes through history and offer help in a planned way.

Other possible areas of Canadian expertise could include disarmament, demobilisation, re-integration and re-training of ex-combatants. Canada could also develop a niche in building capacity *before* elections. Rather than electoral monitoring which, some argue rarely