

Finally, it was suggested that the Group of 78 should ask the G78 Peace and Security Policy Panel to draft a policy paper on the best means of controlling small arms and the role that Canada should play. It is suggested that Peggy Mason should be asked to supervise the drafting of such a paper.

3. War-Affected Children

Senator Landon Pearson, resource person. **Samantha Nutt**, moderator.

The establishment of the Rights of the Child in 1989 has had an immense impact on the incorporation of child-related issues into the international dialogue. Within the last ten years, child related issues have become an integral component of both governmental and non-governmental mandates when discussing conflict and conflict prevention.

The conference on war-affected children held in Winnipeg in September 2000 illustrated the magnitude of child-related issues and why they have moved to the forefront of foreign policy.

The conference helped to clarify the issues and set an agenda. Primarily, it was a success because of the incorporation of youth from various countries in the process of negotiation and formulating strategy. Half of the 126 countries at the conference were represented by ministers. The large turnout showed that the issue of war-affected children can no longer be ignored internationally.

The Winnipeg agenda covered 14 issues:

- leadership,
- fulfilment of obligations through signing, ratifying, and implementing the optional protocol,
- increased accountability, decreased impunity, through ratification,
- targeting children,
- negotiating release of abducted children,
- increasing humanitarian assistance,
- focus on preventative rather than curative measures,
- substantial reduction of the use of small arms,
- promotion of health and well-being,
- protecting children from HIV/AIDS,
- peace education,
- concentration on long-term plans and policies,
- engagement of youth in defining policies, and
- improved research.

The group saw three of these as controversial and in need of discussion: impunity, HIV/AIDS, and the definition of "youth". The resulting discussion produced consensus on a number of points.