

negotiate with the rebels. In Sierra Leone, as elsewhere, it is important to talk to as many groups as possible and to draw them into the peace process. Another participant agreed, noting that it is more useful to maintain a dialogue than to cut some factions off.

Another participant argued that NGOs should be able to operate provided they obey the law. Others agreed, noting that the only restrictions on NGOs should be that their activities not exacerbate the situation on the ground, e.g. by causing local price structures to explode through competition for cars and house rentals. Participants recommended that ground rules and codes of conduct be devised from which NGOs should not allow other NGOs to deviate. On the broader issue of NGO accreditation, it was emphasized that in Rwanda, NGOs had not even wanted to register. It would be beneficial if independent, senior NGO officials would create an accreditation system for NGOs, in order to avoid a situation whereby the poor behaviour of a small number of NGOs harms the reputation of others.

Participants agreed that a pluralism of viewpoints and analysis is preferable, but noted that similar activities are carried out in vastly different ways. There should at least be some agreement on how to present information, so that coordination would be rendered easier.

The question arose as to the role of economic model in early warning analysis. There exists a close connection between human rights violations and economic problems, and between ethnic conflict and such models. One participant discussed her research, which indicates that specific institutional human rights violations do not cause mass exoduses, but that mass violence (such as genocide) does. In addition, economic issues on their own do not have a direct impact on refugee movements, but such issues may have such an impact when combined with violence. Thus, economic issues should be considered in early warning models, not as primary factors but as underlying or integrating factors.