

affairs and challenge “latent Canadian isolationism.”

The need to strengthen the role of civil society in formulating and articulating policies was stressed by some participants. Canada should lead as an example in engaging women, Arab Canadians, Afghan Canadians and others in policy making and encourage other governments to do the same.

## **5. Implications for the “International Community”**

Foreign policy of the most powerful nations, including the U.S., France, and the U.K., in the 1990's continued to be driven by self-interest. The governments of these countries show no inclination to elevate their foreign policy rationale beyond a narrow national interest, to include global/human interests. “Where there is no national interest to defend, the human factor does not even hit the radar screen – leading one to the conclusion that some human lives are more valuable than others.” When thousands of Africans died in Rwanda, nobody in the West cared, when hundreds of Americans died on September 11, the “international community” mobilised itself for a war. On a related note, the need to oppose oppressive regimes on a consistent basis was also raised. Do we respond only if we are threatened or also when a regime does not live up to global norms? The Taliban regime mattered because the terrorists it was protecting could attack other “Western” populations/targets, not because of its horrendous human rights record at home. Indeed, the oppressive regime of Saudi Arabia, for instance, does not seem to concern us.

A point was made that terrorism must be fought on an international level, which requires the strengthening of the international justice system and policing, disarmament, and other efforts. Canada should marshal international support for this approach, broadening the concept of the national interest. Otherwise, the “war on terrorism” will actually strengthen the terrorists. To this end, Canada should support and promote:

- the International Criminal Court (and international law in general),
- the Comprehensive Test Ban Treaty, Anti-Ballistic Missiles Treaty and other disarmament efforts/regimes,
- the reform of the UN.

The nature of the new U.S. multilateralism was also addressed. U.S. efforts to build a multilateral Coalition to fight terrorism and the sudden repayment of UN dues may lead one to conclude that the U.S. government has embarked on the path of multilateralism. Several participants suggested that this is unlikely. They pointed out that both the Coalition and potential UN engagement in Afghanistan are serving U.S. interests and have little in common with multilateralism. Still others said that the U.S. can not fight terrorism unilaterally and that there is some hope for a more cooperative U.S. policy.

Some participants emphasised the importance of bringing Russia into the “Western” sphere. Cooperation with the Russian government is key in addressing security threats such as deposits of nuclear materials, a large number of unemployed (or underpaid) nuclear scientists as well as