

Developments with the agreement at DFAIT since early August include draft action plans, the co-hosted lunch in New York on 25 September, and the look ahead to the next senior officials' meeting and further drafts of an action plan. It was stressed that a number of people were struck by the one page simplicity of the bilateral agreement and also that it is an issues-driven agreement being dealt with at an issue-by-issue level by experts on both the Norwegian and Canadian sides. Ambassador Lovald noted that Norway was pushing for early ratification of the International Criminal Court (ICC) agreement and stressed that Canada-Norway co-operation was being coordinated at a high level of officials and at the political level on this matter. He stressed to keep in mind academics, NGOs and civil society and to encourage people to bring project ideas forward and requests for funding.

In presenting how the Canada-Norway agreement is understood in Norway, the Ambassador said that the important players are well informed of it and that there is a well-established network in Norwegian civil society, including four or five big NGO players like Norwegian People's Aid.

The discussion was organised along the following topics: the landmines campaign, child labour, the International Criminal Court and humanitarian law, human rights, the child soldier, small arms control, Arctic and Northern co-operation, new technologies, and democracy and good governance.

The presentation on the landmines campaign noted that it exemplified the success that can be achieved via government-NGO co-operation on an international scale. It followed a simple, three-step process: identify a growing humanitarian crisis, propose a solution, and promote the solution (with the governments of the world and civil society). It was also noted that although the exact process of the landmines campaign may not be replicated, the following lessons could be learned from it:

- NGOs should be present at international negotiations alongside state officials;
- the need for continued NGO-governmental co-operation regarding the implementation and monitoring of the success of an agreement (such as in the landmine monitor system);
- capitalisation of communication technologies by NGOs to communicate and make an international impact.

Canada and Norway can continue to co-operate in further exploration of the landmine campaign as a model for foreign policy development, especially regarding the role of civil society. In this respect, it was stressed that the successful elements of the landmines campaign could be applied to Canada-Norway interests and formal channels, such as conventions and the UN system, new technologies, stronger NGO presence on official delegations and commitments of money and other resources at critical moments. A cautionary note was sounded about governments sometimes responding to hot issues followed by a loss of government and media attention. It was recommended that Canada and Norway pursue specific invitations to help maintain focus and attention on the landmines campaign as implementation is the hardest part of the initiative with little media attention on it and the need for even more resources.