

The **Centre for Legal Drafting and Research** of the National Assembly's Secretariat is intended to improve the quality of legal drafting through training and consultation on legal analysis, procedures and precedents as well as the constitutionality of new laws (few MPs have legal backgrounds). Its staff have also assisted the Assembly's Human Rights Commission to better monitor compliance with international human rights standards as well as to respond to complaints.

OGRIA is focussed on assisting the secretariat provide information to MPs on international affairs.

b) Multilateral Bodies

UNDP, under its Governance, Democracy and Human Rights project, has been supporting the National Assembly's Secretariat. It has provided salary support to the coordinator of research services and two other research staff.

c) Bilateral Donors and International Ngos

With **USAID** funding, **TAF** had also supported the Secretariat, particularly to enhance eight local staff in responding to the needs of National Assembly members. However, that support was cut after July when **USAID** stopped supporting government -to-government programs.

c) Canadian Role

The **Parliamentary Centre** began providing assistance to the National Assembly in 1994 by sponsoring a workshop for Cambodian MPs on the role of MPs. Subsequently, with **CIDA** support, the Parliamentary Centre provided advice on elections law and electoral reform, the design of a new administrative structure for the Assembly, and the design of new financial control procedures.

The main area of support has been of **OGRIA**, the outcome of assessment missions which recommended in favour of its creation. **CIDA** supported its design and funded its director, **Sovathanna Sokhom**. Reporting on their visit last September (supported by the Peacebuilding Fund), **Stephen Owen**, **John Bosley** and **Greg Armstrong** concluded that the National Assembly Secretariat should continue to be helped, especially because of the return of **Than Sina**, and that there should be further training of the **OGRIA** staff in collection and analysis of data, and in upgrading their English-language skills. In December 1997, the Parliamentary Centre, with funding from **CIDA's** Southeast Asian Fund for Institutional and Legal Development (**SEAFILD**), renewed support for the **OGRIA** director and proposed to support a **CDRI**-run training program for the **OGRIA** staff.

G. Regional Initiatives