

Many individual NGOs are involved in peacebuilding work through their involvement in the coalitions mentioned and through their programming on the ground. This is a growing area of activity, no doubt encouraged by CIDA's Peacebuilding Fund. Nevertheless, many of the specific objectives still require a lot of work, particularly in developing alternatives and options for consideration by policy-makers in such areas as defence policy and peacebuilding strategies overseas.

6. Food Security

Policy goal: Promote sustainable food security as a basic human right in Canadian agricultural and international development policy and work to achieve at a minimum the 1996 World Food Summit seven-point Plan of Action.

Current capacity and activities

The United Nations Association in Canada coordinates the Global Network on Food Security (GNFS). This was launched at the Global Assembly on Food Security in Quebec City in October 1995, organized by the UNA Canada. The GNFS is a virtual organization using e-mail, teleconferencing, and fax to prepare for the World Food Summit in October 1996 and to follow-up since then. Over 800 networks and civil society groups are linked through the GNFS world-wide. The GNFS helps any group or network link to others, who wish to work to implement the Principles of Food Security recognized by the Global Assembly. Key among these principles are the right to food security; empowerment of civil society, with growing emphasis on women and indigenous peoples; food not to be used as a weapon; and the installation of timely follow-up mechanisms to evaluate the status of world food security. Participants in the GNFS carry out their lobbying activities directly, on many specialized and basic issues concerning global food security. The GNFS assists by facilitating inter-disciplinary meetings, focus workshops, providing summary reports on joint undertakings, and generally, networking. Canadian members of the GNFS include PARTNERS in Rural Development; Rural Advancement Foundation International - Canada (RAFI); Canadian Foodgrains Bank; Indigenous People's Biodiversity Network, Canada; National Farmers Union (NFU); OXFAM-Canada/World Food Day Programme; OXFAM-Quebec; and the UNA-Canada itself.

As in so many other cases, however, reduced funding for UNA Canada's programs has diminished its capacity noticeably. UNA Canada is not in a position to support the GNFS in a leadership role, either among Canadian NGOs or internationally. It is