

requirement for all States parties, possibly as a stand-alone requirement independent of the 13 Steps. It might also be possible to clarify the reporting requirement to include a request for the submission of formal reports.

It was also suggested that it might be possible to agree on a sentence or two describing the desired content of reports (e.g., "such reports might include inter alia..."). This might include agreement on an illustrative list of categories to report on. It was noted that a good list of categories would be very useful, and might help to delineate a *de facto* reporting format.

A third possibility identified was a tasking for States parties to come up with specific recommendations on the format of reports for consideration at the 2010 Review Conference.

A number of participants expressed support for pursuing all three of these possibilities.

The Roundtable then discussed the mechanisms for getting such suggestions into the draft recommendations that might go forward at the end of the 2004 PrepCom. The first step would be to put the ideas forward in a well-argued working paper. (This could form a major part of the planned third Canadian working paper, for example.) Very specific language should be proposed. It would then be necessary to generate support among other States parties. Finally, the proposals would be addressed in the course of the extended negotiating sessions that would take place to determine the text of any recommendations to go forward to the 2005 Review Conference. If accepted, the proposals would be passed to the Review Conference as recommendations of the 2004 PrepCom.

A number of participants noted, however, that States parties almost certainly would not agree on substantive recommendations at the end of the PrepCom. The issues involved were too contentious, and concessions normally would be made only during the horse-trading at the end of the process, i.e., at the end of the Review Conference itself. Nevertheless, it would be essential to get the proposals on the table at the PrepCom.

### **Next steps**

In addition to preparing a working paper, Canada might find it useful to circulate the Roundtable report and Roundtable background document, at the First Committee and possibly other venues. It was noted that the two documents should be written so as to complement one another, presenting a coherent message and avoiding too much overlap. One side benefit of circulating the documents, it was suggested, would be to counteract the impression of some delegations that the Canadian NGOs working on this issue are dogmatic on the question of the format and content of reporting.

NGOs could help to advance the reporting issue by working in parallel, through direct efforts as well as through NGO-to-NGO links, to shore up support for reporting among States parties and to bring others on side.