

CANADIAN CENTRE FOR FOREIGN POLICY DEVELOPMENT
Roundtable on Canada-Norway Relations

9 October 1998

On October 9, 1998, Ambassador Lovald of Norway, Eric Hoskins, Andre Ouellet, Senator Landon Pearson, Irwin Cotler, Peter Johnson, Wendy Cukier, Nigel Fisher, Necla Tshirgi, Nancy Smyth, Dr. Marshall Conley, Professor Don Desserud, Paul Hannon, Phillip Pinnington, Christopher Hale, Ingrid Urberg, Laurie Wiseberg, Marc Hecht, met to provide civil society input on the Canada-Norway Co-operation Agreement (Lysoen Declaration). The meeting was hosted by the Canadian Centre for Foreign Policy Development (CCFPD) and was chaired by Steve Lee, its National Director. The participants were invited to contribute to the Lysoen Declaration themes based on their own fields of expertise.

Following the introductions, Ambassador Lovald of Norway began the discussion by congratulating the CCFPD for its innovative work in strengthening civil society-government relations and suggested a Norwegian interest in this model. He also congratulated Canada and the Canadian government for the successful campaign for the UN Security Council seat and noted Norwegian support for Canada, and drew attention to the Canadian campaign for election to the Security Council based on a Security Council program and policy ideas. This, he said, had never been done before and was especially important. The Norwegian ambassador drew attention to Minister Axworthy's emphasis on human security issues and stressed that human security issues were the key elements of Canada-Norway co-operation. Canada's seat on the Security Council in the next two years makes this co-operation even more important. He drew attention to the Axworthy-Volleboek Foreign Minister's meeting in New York and Canada's efforts to broaden the group of countries addressing human security issues. He also said that what is going on, including community-building of like-minded countries and the broad political appeal to both North and South, is very interesting from the political science point of view.

It is very important that Norway and Canada pursue these human security issues and use the time now to concretise these ideas. Can these human security elements become a constant in foreign policy-making efforts? To this end, Canada and Norway are both independent actors in the UN and NATO and have freedom to take initiatives.

The Chair thanked the Ambassador for his introduction to the discussion and outlined the goals of the meeting: to share expert views and experience from outside government and apply them to the elements of the Lysoen Declaration, to explore:

- possible concrete steps and activities: what to implement, division of labour, resources, funding, role of experts and civil society;
- what "like-minded" means;
- the definitions of human security.

The Chair stressed that this was the first round of what would be an on-going discussion and a good place to start on sharing views, experience and perspectives.