

3. Some argued that while the Angolan civil war has an undoubtedly international character, regional actors, especially South Africa could play an important role in achieving a sustainable solution.

4. The role of peace-building and capacity-building was addressed. Some argued that there should be peace-building and capacity-building activities even amid continuing hostilities. Initiatives aimed at longer term development would lead to creating viable alternatives for soldiers. An environment conducive to economic growth and social development would raise the costs of continuing a devastating war. Awareness and education could lead to the creation of civil society as well as accountable, representative and responsive government. People could learn how to negotiate. The cycle of violence could be broken and a culture of peace take root. Others pointed out that the government has completely withdrawn from any efforts at re-building the devastated infrastructure, environment and society. It is difficult to build peace in such circumstances. Therefore, attention should be paid to short term goals including, humanitarian assistance and continuation and enforcement of sanctions.

5. Canada's Role in Angola

Canada's interest and involvement in Angola is longstanding, dating back to the 1930's. CIDA was very active in Angola in the 1980's, supporting its growing civil society by funding the umbrella group "Program Angola." In 1992, Canadian observers were sent to the UN-monitored elections and since then the situation in Angola has been closely followed (especially the Lusaka Peace Accord and the implementation of the Lusaka Protocol). Canada's development assistance has also continued through international development agencies such as the World Food Program, assistance to NGOs active in Angola, and through CIDA's bilateral program called Canadian Fund. Canada's Honorary Consul, Allan Cain, has been very active in Luanda for almost twenty years, providing consular services to Canadians, assisting the Canadian Embassy in Harare, and running countless development workshops through the NGO - "Development Workshop."

Canada remains committed to ensuring that basic human rights are maintained and Canada supports the work of the human rights unit of the UN office in Angola. Other concerns include land mines. Reports continue pointing to use of land mines by both sides, despite the fact that the Angolan government signed the Ottawa Convention to Ban Land Mines. There is hope that the Angolan government will soon ratify the treaty and stop the production and use of land mines.

Recently, government activities have focussed on the UN Security Council and the Angola Sanctions Committee that Canada chairs. The objective at the Council is to help to reestablish conditions for a resumption of negotiations toward a political settlement. Sanctions are intended to encourage UNITA to return to the political process and participate in the implementation of the Lusaka Protocol.