

Characteristics of the Assessment Process:

- Minister has requested this assessment and is committed to responding
- Open, transparent and accountable
- Long term in both engagement and view
- Good credible background information will be provided
- A balance of sector representation will bring legitimacy
- Background papers and discussion questions will frame and facilitate specific and focussed dialogue which includes tools and priorities
- Government officials will be engaged in the dialogue and respond

Issues to Consider:

- Perceptions: Doing things differently in different situations has implications on how things are perceived by the public.
- Resources: Time, people, and dollars will be scarce for this process. There are no new government funds allocated for this assessment. It is hoped the Canadian Centre for Foreign Policy Development will financially support some of the process.

Outcomes and Output - a product:

This 6 month piece of the assessment could result in:

- anchor and reaffirm human rights work
- incorporate human rights principles into shaping work overseas
- assist finding out if Canadians are supportive and hear their view
- DFAIT will find out if they are in tune with what the public supports
- internal department discussions will lead to better coherence within the department and other parallel ministries
- new ways of doing the work leading to improved practices
- greater awareness will increase public and political support.
- partnership and complementarity between government and civil society - that each have different and important roles

Next Steps: How to do this process over the next 6 months?

- A report of the August 31 meeting (this document) will be circulated to all