

Recommendations stemming from the session included:

- Involve the UN Security Council in the Kimberley Process, in order to ensure an appropriate monitoring mechanism emerges. A secondary option is to create a voluntary code of conduct for willing nations to sign and pressure abusing nations to join as well.
- Increase awareness programs for policymakers on water issues.
- Increase capacity-building programs for grassroots and women's organizations around issues of water management.
- Continued and increased funding by the Government of Canada for research relating to the economies of conflict, illicit markets, the trafficking of humans/women/children.
- Ensure that the experience of the Kimberley Process and its lessons are transformed into more open policy regarding NGO and private sector involvement.

Rapporteur: David Mozersky

SESSION 6.4: Security Sector Reform in Africa

Having recently returned from Ethiopia and Eritrea, where he worked on the United Nations Mission in Ethiopia and Eritrea (UNMEE), Lt. Col. Dean Milner presented the Department of National Defence perspective on how to improve the situation in Africa. Canadian Forces personnel are currently deployed to three UN peacekeeping missions in Africa – UNAMSIL in Sierra Leone, MONUC in the Congo and UNMEE. It is currently felt that the Canadian Forces (CF) are overextended and trying to do too much in too many areas. It would be more prudent to concentrate their efforts since they possess such limited resources. Milner felt the CF should instead pick a spot, similar to what the United States or France and the United Kingdom have done, and focus solely on one or two countries. The Canadian Forces currently has 17 members deployed to Sierra Leone, which has been a good effort. Elections in Sierra Leone were imminent and the United Kingdom has estimated that they will need another 10 to 20 years to transform the security forces there. The Sierra Leone mission has been successful enough that it could be considered a blueprint for future missions. The mission in the Congo (MONUC) is not going as well, and the UNMEE mission is also encountering difficulties because of weak governments and a poorly education population. DND needs capable, well-trained soldiers and also needs to coordinate efforts with the French or the British when going into a country to maintain effectiveness. In addition, we need to make a long-term commitment to a mission. Simply operating in a country for one or two years is insufficient. More likely, we will have to commit troops to a mission for ten to fifteen years.

Alhaji Bah, of the International Development Research Centre (IDRC), endorsed the idea of making a long-term commitment in peacebuilding and noted that the international community should be thinking in terms of decades not just one or two years to ensure sustainability. IDRC is funding security sector reform programs in Africa. In Sierra Leone, after a brutal civil war demobilisation is almost complete, but civil-military relations have been completely destroyed. Through a decade of civil war, the public lost confidence in the security forces and there is no trust in the armed forces. Security sector reform holds the promise of reforming institutions and developing the capacity to provide civilian oversight. The armed forces within Sierra Leone currently are not held accountable to the general public and are rife with corruption. The