

2) ECONOMIC FOUNDATIONS OF A SUSTAINABLE PEACE

The contradiction between the implementation of neoliberal economic policies alongside the peace-building project must be addressed. If not, serious social dislocation and internal conflict is bound to arise. There is a great risk that the economic agenda will take precedence over the peace process, especially if there is formulaic pressure from the International Financial Institutions. The macro-economic reform agenda must not de-stabilize the peace process but rather be shaped by it.

3) SOCIAL PARTICIPATION - NEW VOICES, NEW STRUCTURES

The transformation of Guatemalan society must include sharing of both political and economic power with those who have traditionally been marginalized. Examples from post-colonial Africa attest to the need to ensure that economic power not be left in the hands of the elite. New and innovative mechanisms and support systems should facilitate effective and broad-based social participation in peace-building and in economic and social reconstruction. It is especially important that the international community insist on meaningful participation by women; a continuing insistence on the importance of a gender perspective is paramount.

Efforts should be made to strengthen local authorities and communities in the process of the decentralization and democratization of the Guatemalan state. Civil society must advocate for the transformation of the state into one that responds to people's needs. While NGOs have a role in these areas, given the vulnerability of their funding, they should not attempt to replace government roles, especially in areas like health and education.

V. RECOMMENDATIONS TO THE CANADIAN GOVERNMENT

Canada is already making useful contributions to the Guatemalan peace process with the deployment of two police officers with MINUGUA and the assignment of 15 peacekeepers to the multi-nation force to oversee the demobilizing of the URNG. New bilateral aid assistance is also in the pipeline.

It is imperative that Canada keep all of the Accords in mind -- not just certain ones. The Roundtable is concerned that the Arzu government may favour the Accords that its government signed, at the expense of those that previous governments negotiated. Continued international attention should be maintained on issues of security and human rights lest the international community overlook human rights