

that it provides effective ways to mobilize Canadian youth for participation in the various initiatives.

The new standing roster of human rights experts should perhaps be amended to include a component for young professionals with an interest in the area, but not necessarily a whole lot of experience yet.

Although efforts to support political democratization processes in post-conflict situation need to continue, greater, more systematic attention must be paid to issues of human security and to rebuilding law enforcement and criminal justice institutions in war-torn countries.

Most peacebuilding initiatives are likely to require a significant, long-term, investment on the part of participating countries. Canada cannot get involved in every single initiative that might be undertaken by the international community. Participants felt that Canada should make explicit the criteria it uses, beyond that of political expediency and enlightened self-interest, for deciding whether or not to get involved in a particular initiative.

It is not sufficient to preach greater respect for human rights as a general principle. In all cases, Canada should lead by the example it sets in this area.

There exist a large number of relevant human rights and criminal justice international standards and rules to which peacebuilding efforts, particularly in the area of criminal justice, should refer directly. For instance, efforts to reconstruct law enforcement and criminal justice systems should be guided directly by existing United Nations standards.

Public support for democracy and democratic institutions ultimately rests upon the ability of criminal justice institutions to enforce the rule of law. The re-building of effective criminal justice institutions should be treated as an immediate priority within all peacebuilding initiatives.

Law reform initiatives undertaken as part of peacebuilding initiatives must be congruent with local cultures, values and legal traditions.

More discussion needs to take place, in Canada, on various ideas and experiences which demonstrate concretely how technical assistance in the area of criminal justice can work for peace. This could offer a practical starting point on a subject which requires a great deal more research and evaluation.

Canada's international assistance in the criminal justice field should focus on, among other things, the demilitarization of law enforcement and correctional institutions.