

Apartheid.) Unlike Sudan, South Africa was not at war but in a transition process.

Caution was raised about assuming Sudanese civil society to be coherent enough to meaningfully participate in the peace process. The level of civil society coherence in Sudan is fairly low. The importance of using a "stick" as well as the "carrot" in peacebuilding projects was also brought up. An example was given of a World Bank project in Sri Lanka where the World Bank, regulated by the Sri Lankan government, acts as a convenor for a reconciliation conference, for example. Often good ideas are necessary but not sufficient to move the peacebuilding process forward.

The discussion generated a number of key questions: When is the right time to intervene in a conflict? Are the conditions in Sudan ripe for Canadian involvement? Could outside involvement actually exacerbate the situation on the ground rather than help? What is the best way to intervene? In other words, how to engage with existing institutions and mechanisms without interfering with existing processes?

4. Evaluating Current and Possible Future Canadian Contributions

Several issues came into focus during a discussion about Canadian contributions:

1. the relationship between long-standing humanitarian assistance and the longevity of conflict
2. incorporating conflict resolution objectives into development projects
3. the role of Canadian media in shaping public opinion on foreign policy toward Sudan
4. the expectations of the Canadian public in dealing with the Sudan conflict
5. mechanisms and tools/assets for Canadian contributions

CIDA has been involved in Sudan in two areas: 1) humanitarian relief and 2) support for the peace process. Humanitarian relief efforts are indirectly tied to the peace process. The need to deliver humanitarian aid in Sudan is evident and the need to do so neutrally and impartially is keen. There is a diversion of emergency supplies by all parties, including the government of Sudan and the SPLA. After the SPLA attempted to impose a Memorandum of Understanding on relief agencies, NGOs withdrew from Sudan because they believed it would hinder their impartiality. CIDA supported this move resulting in the loss of an important delivery capacity. Canada is urging the SPLA to open negotiations, however, an early break-through is unexpected. Some speculate that the SPLA is aware of pressures donors will be under if a humanitarian crisis intensifies. Canada could be faced with a political and moral dilemma whether to respond to humanitarian needs without a delivery mechanism in place.

CIDA has come to a conclusion that there exists donor fatigue over the long-standing humanitarian aid to Sudan. *While there is constant need for humanitarian assistance, a durable resolution to the conflict is far off. Without a lasting peace, there is little chance of this need diminishing.* In some instances, regular outside delivery of aid may actually sustain conflict.