

budgets in the Universal Reporting Instrument established by the U.N. Thus, there was some question of the practicality of attempting to establish an arms trade register. As well, it was suggested that the debate in the U.N. both conventional arms transfers needed to be revitalised and given new prominence.

In looking toward the Paris conference which it was noted that, whilst some progress in terms of consciousness-raising had been achieved in the years since 1978, there was still a good way to go. Many participants spoke in terms of how Canada might assist in having the Conference undertake small, practical, useful steps to move the discussion onto more concrete and meaningful ground. Questions were posed regarding what Canada could practically do in order to raise global public awareness of the Conference.

The role of the U.N. itself was stressed, in particular in the area of dispute settlement. The Paris Conference was considered an opportunity to strengthen the U.N. machinery as a whole. It was also believed important that the message and details of the Paris Conference be transmitted widely to publics, -- including the Canadian public.

It was suggested that Canada could take a fairly strong position at the Conference. The Canadian public was considered to be quite enlightened in terms of its awareness of the question -- it was to some extent already an issue for Canadian people. Canada's relatively low military expenditure and the fact that Canada was in the midst of a foreign policy and (to a lesser extent) a possible defence policy debate made it well-positioned to think creatively and act on the Disarmament/Development question.

Whilst it was considered by some that "incremental steps were not enough" in affecting change, many suggested that Canada undertake small programmes to move the process forward. For example, there was some support for a focus on peace-making at a regional level as a means of enhancing and advancing regional security. It was suggested that such regional initiatives would as well, strengthen the U.N.'s position. In this regard, it was suggested that some consideration be given to the concept of developing "regional CBMs" for application outside of the European sphere. It was noted that a successful agreement in Stockholm could provide a potential model for such a regional approach.

In addressing representation at the Paris Conference, it was suggested that provision be made for the funding of Canadian NGO representatives -- in particular women -- to attend the Conference.