

particular peace-building must incorporate development assistance, adapted to meet the needs of reconstructing civil society.

3. In any peace-building initiative, Canada must ensure that women's voices are at the table. Canada should consider whether or not to involve itself in a peace-building initiative if women are not included, or what leverage can be brought to bear to insure women's voices are heard. A specific and recent example is Guatemala where women's voices were included in the negotiations and El Salvador where they were not. A set of related recommendations include:

- a) Canada should support civil society's involvement in peace negotiations.
- b) Canada should examine models already available (for example, South Africa, Guatemala which have incorporated women's groups into their post-conflict reconstruction negotiations)

4. Canada must recognize the difference in the definition of violence and insecurity for women and men, and the differing needs therefore of peace-building initiatives. There are specific forms of violence and insecurity which affect women in different or more profound ways than men. For example, mass rape, land mines, domestic violence, displaced persons, etc. are specific ways in which women (and children) are impacted by conflict differently or in greater numbers than men. Canada should be encouraged to continue its leadership in areas such as demining, and consider more broadly other aspects of violence as they impact on women specifically, in order to insure that such insecurity is addressed in peace-building initiatives.

## Areas of Analysis

After the general discussion of how one defines peace-building, the group chose to look at gender and peace building under four general headings: 1) Supporting Political reconstruction 2) Strengthening and Democratizing Legal institutions 3) Transforming Military and Human Security 4) Economic and Social Reconstruction

### 1. Supporting Political Reconstruction

Political reconstruction is often defined as the holding of free elections - it was pointed out that limiting peace-building, in the political sphere to this goal, may not be helpful in insuring women's participation in political society. Rather, if women are to be included in the political realm, the goals of political peace-building must be viewed more broadly as good governance and the expansion of civil society. One specific recommendation that was made was to increase the number of contacts between women's groups, in countries affected and Canadian NGO's, particularly indigenous women. Secondly, it was argued that human rights should be at the centre of any peace-building initiative. Canada might support women's rights by providing support for dissemination of information about women's and children's international rights, either through the education system or popular workshops. Finally, some of the participants believe that the best place to begin political reconstruction is at the local level. Domestic NGO's in Canada could work, for example, with the Federation of Canadian municipalities to support city-specific programmes aimed at strengthening the capacity of women's groups and mid-level bureaucrats to engage in political dialogue.

### 2. Strengthening and Democratizing Institutions

Canada could take an important role in regards to the relationship between gender and institution building in several ways. First and foremost, Canada should insure that any support given by Canada in terms of personnel or training in