

further facilitate NGO-to-NGO links by preparing background information or talking points that might make such contacts easier to pursue.

It was suggested that the Canadian government also might be able to facilitate such efforts to some extent. A number of possibilities were suggested in this regard: Canadian officials could participate in brainstorming sessions with NGOs; Canada could provide contacts with other NGOs; and Canada might be able to assist with information flow. Some financial support might also be possible. It was noted that the Canadian government did provide some funding to support development of the International Action Network on Small Arms (IANSA) and the effort to ban landmines. It also was acknowledged that in some cases it might be helpful for NGO efforts not to be associated with Canada or other specific States parties.

Meetings between NGOs and delegations in New York might also be helpful. The First Committee session in the fall would be one opportunity for such meetings. It was suggested that the Canadian delegation might be able to facilitate NGO meetings with key states.

Another possibility discussed was that an NGO, rather than a State party, could produce a briefing document on reporting for States parties. Such a document might address such factors as why States parties should report and how they might do so. Reaching Critical Will, for example, could put together a package of proposed reporting criteria, the Roundtable background document, and the latest Shadow Report and provide it to States parties. RCW could offer the package as an aid to States parties that chose to report (and possibly offer other assistance as well). States parties that chose not to report would, in effect, have the job done for them by the information in the Shadow Report. This might serve as an incentive for States parties to do their own report. Participants cautioned, however, that tone would be highly important in any such effort. The approach used must not seem presumptuous or threatening. An approach perceived as a genuine offer of assistance might be welcomed, however.

Finally, it was suggested that a special section of the RCW website dedicated to reporting would be highly useful both for NGOs and for States parties. It was noted that the RCW website is currently being overhauled and a section specifically on reporting is planned.

## **V: What to expect and what to strive for in 2005**

In the last session, the Roundtable participants discussed possibilities and priorities for the 2005 Review Conference.

Participants commented once again that it is not realistic to expect States parties to adopt a standardized format for reporting at the 2005 Review Conference. But several more limited developments were considered possible.

It was suggested, for example, that the Review Conference might agree to reaffirm the reporting