

- What are the key messages the Government and other stakeholders must convey to the public about our international human rights policies?
- What are the two or three achievable human rights initiatives that Canada should champion in the next several years?

CONCLUSIONS AND DIRECTIONS FOR THE FUTURE

1.0 Principles. Participants mentioned several overarching principles that should underpin Canadian policies. These include ensuring that:

- Canada's actions to promote and defend human rights abroad reflect and reinforce core Canadian values, such as respect for diversity, tolerance, equity and freedom.
- Thematic priorities are consistent with domestic public policy priorities. Canadian international activism on such issues as women's rights, indigenous peoples, and child labour will be credible if they are matched by equal Government priority in domestic public policies.
- The Government's international standard-setting (on labour standards for example) is matched by domestic ratification of the relevant international instruments.
- Canada's human rights policies and programs give priority to those communities and groups least able to care for themselves.
- Practices that are unacceptable domestically are also unacceptable in Canadian activity internationally. Hence, the Government should conduct impact assessments to ensure that the trade-promoting programs of the Export Development Corporation and the Canadian International Development