

training activities sometimes serve the military as a preparation exercise for a take-over/coup.

7. Canada should focus on *supporting grass-roots initiatives and on-the-ground NGOs*. It should take advantage of the good record Canadian NGOs have in Nigeria and continue endorsing Track II interventions. (Areas of interventions could include: electoral reform, human rights, transparency, education as well as indigenous NGO personnel development). Concern was raised that those Nigerian NGOs, which did dangerous work before the transition, are now being forced out of business by the influx of new Northern NGOs. This trend should be considered when funding decisions are made. Some argued that the current practice of administering funding in Nigeria through the High Commission, rather than Canadian NGOs, is problematic. A specific recommendation to extend funding to the Community Development Programme was made. Funding could be also extended to the Transition Monitoring Group and the Justice Development and Peace Commission of Ijebu-Ode.
8. Canada could help with *power generation* problems faced by Nigerians.
9. The Canadian *private sector* could play a role in Nigeria's economic transformation. Socially responsible investment and increased trade links could be particularly beneficial. Canada could broker a forum to address investment in Nigeria involving the Canadian and Nigerian business communities and citizens concerned about the impact of foreign investment on their well being (i.e., environment, human rights, sustainability).

Calls were made to focus activities toward youth and women. Some argued that Canadian engagement should be concentrated in the Niger Delta, which could act as a testing ground for further projects. Others objected to streamlining aid into one geographical area. There is a need for better inter-departmental collaboration (CIDA, DFAIT, Immigration, DND) and better information sharing mechanisms. A long-term vision for Nigeria is necessary and given limited resources Canada should better utilise its existing expertise and personnel (i.e., it was not seen as useful having personnel completely new to Nigeria's realities sent on a CIDA mission to the region).

Steve Lee, Chair, closed the discussion by thanking all for their participation in the Nigeria learning circle. He expressed the hope that upon leaving the roundtable, participants were encouraged to better share information and create new links and networks.