

democracy? Some suggestions:

- remove the requirement for security clearances which effectively excludes those not in sympathy with the regime from political activity;
- a Commonwealth monitoring group to oversee the transition;
- in the longer term, bridging the gap between North and South with support for grassroots projects in the North: if the North were saturated with NGOs as is the South, the 1993 election would not have been annulled;
- also in the long term, raising Nigerians' consciousness so that the regime cannot use religion as a divisive tool.

Ayo Obe

Money is needed to help bridge the North-South gap. The grassroots, in the North especially, have to understand what democracy means.

Paul Puritt

The CLC/CTUC West African project's regional and local educational activities contribute to democratic governance in Nigeria, Sierra Leone, the Gambia and Ghana, strengthening strengthens capacity of trade unions as members of civil society and contributing to democratic transition.

The trade union movement has moved beyond its traditional role to provide a model of democratic accountability and campaign for government openness and transparency. As a mass-based, democratic and non-sectarian organization, representative of the poor and dispossessed, it is the *de facto* opposition in the emergent and fragile democracies of the region. It provides a united platform for workers regardless of ethnic, religious and geographic considerations, and embodies democratic norms.

In Nigeria the CLC/CTUC has conducted leadership workshops and workshops for education officers and for women. It has published labour fact sheets, developed educational materials, set national democracy education priorities, trained grassroots activists, supported regional interaction of key trade unionists, delivered workplace education and conducted study visits to Canada by key trade union educators.

The struggle for democracy in these countries requires a long term commitment and a partnership among NGOs and government. This is undermined when the Canadian government, on the basis of gender and class, refuses visas for African trade unionists to participate in study visits.

Kenna Owoh

The CIDA-sponsored Community Development Program (CDP) supports various initiatives to strengthen democratic development at the local level. It operates on 4 assumptions:

1. democracy is strengthened through practice;
2. democracy is based on empowerment of citizens to recognize and claim their rights;
3. one important approach to strengthening democratic development is working with grassroots organizations, community organizations, women's groups, ethnic associations, etc.;
4. women's contribution to social reproduction must be acknowledged, and gender issues must inform democratic struggles

The CDP has been a good initiative. To date, it has supported over 25 civil society groups across a spectrum of entry points ranging from "development" to "human rights/democracy" initiatives, and in all regions of Nigeria. In addition, the Program staff and Committee members continue to reflect on the indicators of democratic development in a context of repression. Future directions should involve developing more effective regional and national strategies, linking grassroots organizations to national human rights organizations and pro-democracy groups, and designing