

□ Provision of Technical Assistance

Practical assistance in the reform or re-establishment of a country's criminal justice system would usually be clustered in the following three major areas: (1) advisory services; (2) training; and, (3) material assistance. It is very likely that assistance in all three categories will be required simultaneously in a post-conflict situation. Practical assistance should be principle-based and conform to certain standards in order to have the maximum possible impact. Training and the provision of material assistance should be designed in such a way as to create a basic sustainable infrastructure and give the country the possibility to proceed on its own. It should be designed to ensure a multiplier effect.

Any assistance should draw in particular on universally accepted principles, such as the United Nations human rights and criminal justice instruments, standards and norms, while taking into account local traditions, customs and specific needs. It should be structured so as to ensure that the criminal justice system can meet them as soon as possible.

□ Protection of Victims of Crime and Abuse of Power

In a post-conflict situation, the need of victims of crime and abuse of power are very complex and require immediate attention. Attending to these needs is part of the healing process referred to earlier. Civilians are often the main targets and victims of conflicts. Any serious attempt to provide assistance both in preventing the eruption of new conflict and in peacebuilding following conflicts must address the issues of the protection and compensation of victims. redress and compensation for victims, in fact, are essential to secure justice and reconciliation in countries ravaged by conflict. The application of the *United Nations Declaration of Basic Principles of Justice for Victims of Crime and Abuse of Power* would be a first step. Practical instruments have now been developed to facilitate the implementation of the Declaration.

Conclusion

We have perhaps succeeded in convincing you of the importance of timely, but not precipitous, interventions to help nations recover from violent conflicts, build new democratic institutions and the justice system to back them up. Governance and establishing the rule of law are two sectors which simply cannot be neglected. They are essential prerequisites for reconciliation, reconstruction and economic recovery.

If you agree that this is so, you may perhaps offer, during the consultation forum, your own suggestions about the mechanisms and processes that will have to be set in place to ensure that Canada develops a permanent and rapidly deployable capacity to contribute to these two important aspects of peacebuilding. At present, the capacity is perhaps more virtual than concrete. We are interested, in particular, in hearing your suggestions about