

Key Strategies for Canadian Support:

Long-Term Strategies:

- 1) support alternative models for negotiation/dialogue between different sectors. (government, civil society, private sector);
- 2) support mechanisms that popularize the spirit of the accords, ensuring sustainability of their impacts re; peacebuilding and placating expectations;
- 3) ensure equity in reform process;
- 4) draw in social actors who are outside the process;
- 5) analysis of the impact of consultative processes;
- 6) supporting the building and maintenance of safe spaces for dialogue;
- 7) optimal distribution of resources.

Short-Term Specific Initiatives:

- 1) rural administration of justice (police, judiciary, etc);
- 2) enabling environment to support individual security;
- 3) equitable land negotiation system;
- 4) capacity-building within both government and civil society;
- 5) construction of a shared stake in society;
- 6) privatization: how and by whom should societal infrastructure be rebuilt;
- 7) support for the National Women's Forum; Indigenous Commission, Uprooted Commission, & the Technical Commission.

Discussion:

- Our discussions have been missing an important element which is key to the cessation of conflict - the very unequal distribution of power in Guatemala. We must explore how to support a shift in the balance of power to a broader sector of the population. No consultative process will change the balance of power but rather just help us to see where the balance is at. We need a countervailing force to make Accords realizable. How would the reform of the electoral system contribute to this goal?
- Our concerns break down into two major issues with the issue of power relating to both:
 - 1) construct a system where society is able to communicate with itself in a democratic, interactive society; and 2) lack of government and civil society resources.
- Decentralization and local power have not been raised as issues. We should make suggestions for the reform of Congress. There are currently only two parties, with a combined total of 6 or 7 representatives who represent the majority of Guatemalans - better representation in Congress is necessary. However, electoral politics is not the only, or perhaps the best space to look at government accountability in Guatemala as political parties are not very respected in Guatemala. It is still very common for landowners to pay workers to vote for a certain candidate. We should