

be relatively free of ethnic discrimination, but its record on human rights issues in areas pertaining to political freedom has been problematic. The situations and problems in the former Soviet Union and China have been well-documented. The extent of the protection of human rights in North Korea continues to be suspect.

With due respect to the G-7, not all participants in the NPCSD have recognized the 1990s as the "Decade of Democracy", and the Houston Economic Summit plan of action to assist all who are interested "in the drafting of laws, including bills of rights and civil, criminal, and economic framework laws; in the fostering of independent media; in establishing training programmes in government, management, and technical fields; to develop and expand people-to-people contacts and exchange programmes to help diffuse understanding and knowledge", would not appear to be of great attraction to all in the North Pacific.

How then to approach the question of human rights and social issues in an NPCSD context? One suggested approach is to broaden the definition, to include environmental threats to security, and to address relevant issues under the title "Issues of Good Governance".

At the Victoria NPCSD colloquium, North Pacific policy planners agreed that there were environmental issues that could be considered threats to regional stability, but there was no agreement on how to define such threats. Scholars attending the colloquium suggested fisheries issues, airborne pollution, and global warming. Other scholars suggested adding population movement, depletion of ocean-based foodstocks, loss of arable land through desertification and deforestation, toxic waste management, issues relating to migratory species and transboundary pollution. Other participants, citing events in the Gulf, made further suggestions: disputes over trans-boundary resources, environmental security, and ecological terrorism - the use of the environment as a weapon of war.

It has been suggested that Canada should seek agreement on the legitimacy of discussing environmental issues within the NPCSD under the umbrella of "social issues" as a means of providing a lever with which to open the NPCSD to include traditional human rights issues. These are recognized in the United Nations Universal Declaration of Human Rights, a document that Canada helped fashion and that draws heavily on the Magna Carta, the French Declaration of the Rights of Man and of the Citizen, and the American Bill of Rights, but does not benefit from the teachings of Islam, Buddha, or Confucius on the role and obligations of the individual within society.

Bernard Wood of the Canadian Institute of International Peace and Security pointed out at the Victoria colloquium that "...since 1945 the world has codified a wide range of human rights, and even countries that show little respect for human rights now feel a need to pay lip service to them". Codes alone have not been enough; it also has been necessary to develop international institutions to implement them.