

Committee (DAC) Guidelines on Conflict Prevention and Development, Conflict Prevention and Reconstruction Website - including a compendium of tools, lessons learned and best practices; conflict prevention training such as the CIDA peacebuilding course for junior development officers; and Forum on Early Warning and Early Response (FEWER).

David Carment, of Carleton University, stated that good prevention is highly ambiguous and difficult to measure, whereas intervention is not only visible, but also has clear sets of thresholds and a set of measurable aspects. Given this, how can the academic and policy community move towards a more effective prevention tool? Presently, the policy community is far ahead of the academic community in terms of human security issues. Academics must identify: a) conflict generating factors; b) who the stakeholders are, both agents and spoilers; and c) peace generating factors. Moreover, there is a large analytical gap between academics and policy-makers that needs to be closed.

Some of the key issues and challenges that emerged from the presentations and subsequent discussion were that: the ideal risk assessment model is often far from what is feasible; information is scarce and knowledge sharing is inhibited by individual NGO or government interests; and in the domestic Canadian climate, emphasis on results based management means low tolerance for ambiguous results, while at the same time it is difficult to measure success in conflict prevention, when success is signified by nothing occurring. Therefore, development organizations need to become more flexible in country selection criteria, concentrating not only on 'good performers' but also on 'bad performers' such as countries engulfed in conflict or just emerging from conflict.

Recommendations emerging from the session were:

- Building a consensus within the international community on human security as a policy and guide for action should be a priority. Developing countries can play a central role in the security sphere and must be included in building this consensus.
- Key areas internationals can and should intervene in include: development of indicators; land and property rights (legal issues); illegal economies; and media and hate propaganda.
- The political will to intervene before conflict must be created. Governments must be convinced "to pay to see no results," that is, to invest in preventive measures. More attention needs to be focused on supporting NGOs and early warning mechanisms, not recognized in the ICISS report.
- NGOs should focus on the following priorities: property; commodities; technology; diaspora roles in conflict; the reduction of 'hate politics'; and youth strategies.
- Canada engages in weapons trade – we need to clean up our act – and money should be reallocated from military expenditures to preventing conflict.

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SESSION 7.2: Reaction