

The IDRC has carried out many initiatives for the strengthening of infrastructures and institutions for the protection and promotion of human rights and the participation of populations in the decisions which affect them. In keeping with its research mandate, and determined to stimulate research and discussion among those most interested in the field, the IDRC has directed its efforts primarily towards financing pertinent conferences, workshops and local research projects. For example, it has supported the study of the structures and functioning of the Peruvian Parliament, a conference to encourage African States to ratify the African Charter of Human and Peoples' Rights, research on the means by which Chilean and Peruvian judges interpret the freedom of association, freedom of speech and habeas corpus, research on the settlement of disputes within the indigenous peasant population, and the contradictions between official and customary law in the Andean region.

21. The Canadian institutional approach in the area of women's rights stands out internationally in terms of its level of development. As a result Maureen O'Neil, past coordinator of Status of Women Canada, was invited in the spring of 1986 to travel with CIDA financing to Sri Lanka, India and the Philippines to share the Canadian experience with representatives of their women's bureaux, senior officials, academics and representatives of NGOs. In May 1987, a delegation of six senior Filipino officials headed by the Deputy Minister of Social and Economic Development travelled to Canada for a three-week program, coordinated by Status of Women Canada, to acquaint them more extensively with the Canadian experience at federal, provincial and non-governmental levels. Funding was provided by CIDA and the organization of the visit aided by the Women in Development Program of CIDA. Requests for comparable programs, precipitated by the World University Service of Canada (WUSC), have been received in respect of India and China. In addition, the Minister responsible for Women's Affairs in Argentina has asked Status of Women Canada to organize an appropriate visit for Argentine officials.

22. The contribution of the Department of Justice should also be noted: support for research projects in Canada on human rights and international law, participation in international training programs, participation in workshops jointly organized by the United Nations Institute for Training and Research (UNITAR) and the Human Rights Centre of the United Nations to assist governments with the preparation of reports required by their adherence to international conventions, and assistance to the the Seychelles, Papua New Guinea and Western Samoa for the preparation of legislative and constitutional texts.

23. In response to an annual survey of interest in police training in Canada of 30 to 35 developed and developing countries,