

A cooperative security dialogue cannot succeed in isolation. At one level, it can provide a broader context for the wide range of intersecting bilateral relationships which naturally take place between states, and can bring consistency and coherence to these bilateral relationships. On another level, it can contribute to the complex of multilateral and international mechanisms that comprise the broader global security framework.

Cooperative security is a comprehensive approach to national security in its broadest sense, an approach which encourages cooperation and dialogue between states in a region on issues of direct interest to them. As such it requires an evolutionary and issue-sensitive application in each region; progress in one field can contribute to eventual progress on other, more difficult issues. This is the fundamental challenge for efforts to promote cooperative security frameworks in different regions around the world.²

II Issues of Good Governance

Democracy and respect for human rights are values that Canadians hold closely and profoundly, and have sought to promote through the conduct of bilateral relations and the exercise of multilateral diplomacy - in the United Nations, the G-7, the Commonwealth and la Francophonie, the CSCE and the Organization of American States (OAS), the International Financial Institutions (IFIs), and now through the establishment of an NPCSD.

Canadians promote universal, not western, standards for human rights issues. Human rights considerations are also inextricably linked to Canadian foreign and development assistance policy (although here our intent has been more to rectify problems rather than to punish for past sins).

It could be argued that, with the United Nations Declaration on Human Rights, there is a minimum standard in place which assumes that human rights are inherent; that they are not the property of nation states to be bestowed or withheld by fiat. (Admittedly, this view would be contested by several participants in the UN system.)

In the broadest sense, democracy cannot exist without fundamental respect being given to a wide range of human rights, to the rule of law, and to the freedoms that are the bedrock of a democratic state. Unfortunately, of the seven North Pacific countries, only Canada and the United States would appear willing to discuss such issues in a regional, open forum.

Japan does not view traditional western approaches to human rights issues to be particularly productive. In the Japanese view, the most effective method of encouraging a state to increase its respect for human rights is through the provision of economic incentives (the carrot) and the threat of economic privation (the stick). South Korea may be relatively free of ethnic discrimination, but its record on human rights issues in areas pertaining to political freedom is problematic. The situations and problems in China and