

Cypriot position, it also promotes a solution favourable to both peoples. In the time frame – 2001-2002, fundamental issues including: sovereignty and constitutional power sharing, territory and land ownership, security, and external relations, would be carefully addressed. The settlement process would culminate in a simultaneous accession of both Turkey and a United States of Cyprus to the European Union.

Andre Gerolymatos, Simon Fraser University, suggested that the best way to reach a solution to the Cyprus problem would be to diminish the security threats faced by both the Turkish and the Greek Cypriots. According to him, the long-term stability of the island depends on a mechanism that provides security for all Cypriots. Demilitarisation would serve this purpose. Since NATO has demonstrated its capacity and will to maintain security in the Balkans it could replace both the Turkish and Cypriot military forces on the island. Demilitarisation would in turn facilitate the gradual economic integration of the two communities and underwrite the future stability of a federal system. Admission to the EU would accelerate the process and economic prosperity, he said.

5. Living Together and Community Building

Norman Itzkowitz, Princeton University, and **Suzanne Retzinger**, Antioch University, outlined the psychological aspects of conflict and reconciliation. Itzkowitz summarised the psychological elements which fuel and perpetuate ethnic conflicts.⁵ He noted that ethnic conflict is not a zero-sum game as portrayed by many historians. Solutions hinge on negotiation and dialogue.

Retzinger, in turn, addressed the importance of emotions in reconciliation and mediation. She argued that the lack of attention to emotions and relationships constitutes a major gap in understanding conflict. Besides political and economic interests, emotional and relational interests also participate in the construction of ideologies (narratives) used to justify conflict and lead to intractability. Therefore, parties in a seemingly intractable conflict have to be deeply heard and their feelings acknowledged. Denial of emotions and alienation makes conflict more intractable. Hidden shame, stemming from a primary emotion – hurt, leads to (hidden) anger. It is this reaction that often results in a cycle of violence. Acknowledging shame and alienation and listening/hearing may lead to readjustment, negotiation and ultimately reconciliation.

Feyzi Baban, Humber College, suggested that in a post-conflict society, communities can be built by creating a public space. Instilling a sense of belonging and comfort to the discordant parties, such a space can provide a platform for negotiation. For this to be possible, nationalist ideology, based on us-versus-them terminology would have to be replaced by a

⁵See Appendix 2. for a summary table of issues relevant to the psychology of ethnic conflict.