

3.2c Peace-Building

Land mines Canada has committed significant resources to clear land mines. It is a large and essential initiative which should continue to receive Canadian attention.

Dispute-resolution Canada should support the development of reliable dispute settlement by building on cultural practices in judicial education and conflict resolution. Do not import models. Instead, explore what role the monastic community, which is seen as neutral, can play. Reconciliation is consistent with Buddhist principles. The pagoda and monks should be used to explain and resolve conflicts and in turn play a role in advising Ministers such as Interior, Defence and Justice.

Human Rights Human rights should be looked at in terms of meeting basic human needs and meeting international regulations. Canada should continue to support the UN Commission on Human Rights as the most transparent body in the country.

National Healing Process While the experience of South Africa is very different, the experiences of the Truth and Reconciliation process has contributed to the healing of the country in the post-apartheid period. Canada should examine whether such a mechanism, suitable to the Cambodian situation, would work. (Note: This suggestion emerged during follow-up with a participant unable to attend the workshop)

3.2d Civil Society

“The needs of Cambodia will go on despite the outcome of the election. If Canada disengages, we risk abandoning those who are struggling for peace and democratic development”.

Financial and moral support Canada should use the Canada Fund to strengthen civil society groups. Primary assistance should be directed to Cambodian groups in the provinces that are already in place. They particularly need moral support.

Safety and protection Civil society groups need protection and strengthening. The support for accompaniers goes beyond monitoring, in that their presence along side of local groups, reduces the latter's vulnerability to risk. There is need for visible support from the Canadian Embassy to ensure civil society groups have a voice, especially those engaged in human rights and democratic development. These groups need moral support and a visible indication that a country like Canada is supportive of their work. Canada should monitor whether NGOs are