(South Africa) or International Criminal Tribunals/Court (Rwanda, Kosovo)?

3.   How does one galvanise states to action?

4.   Why terrible conflicts go on unaddressed in Africa (Angola, Rwanda, and Sudan), while Kosovo warranted an immediate action and whether Africa was considered a lost continent for this and other reasons?

To the first question, Minister Axworthy replied that, while business actions have implications in conflict situations, one has to look at the whole picture. In many countries, the post-Cold War vacuum imploded to be filled by economic interests. More effective sanction legislation, penalizing "sanction busters," stemming the trade and proliferation of small arms, as well as the behaviour of corporate businesses are all part of resolving the conflict in Angola, for example. Addressing the second question, Minister Axworthy pointed out that if a state resolves its internal problems within its own borders through Commissions or other means, it is not necessary for the ICC to step in. Public involvement and activism are key to galvanising government action. The technology to develop coalitions and synergies exists, it just has to be utilised for the public good. To the last question, Minister Axworthy replied that Africa is by no means considered a lost continent. He drew attention to some positive developments including a recent conference in Accra, Ghana, on war-affected children, the EGAD process, and the OAU. He also reminded participant of the huge problems facing Africa in terms of pay-outs from the Cold War and the colonial period. Africa is "lost" only because it was not given the support it needed, which was in part due to the huge gap between need and available resource.

3.   UNITED NATIONS INSTITUTIONS AND THE GLOBAL COMPACT II: REFORMING THE UN, THE EUROPEAN CONTEXT, AND LOOK TO THE FUTURE

Guenther Altenburg addressed the possibilities and limits of reforming the UN Security Council. He said that Security Council reform has been on the agenda of the General Assembly since the 1960s. In 1993 an open-ended working group was established to address Council reform without any tangible results. The topic ignites political passion, bringing national interest and overall international responsibility into conflict. There is a discrepancy between a widely recognised need for reform and a patent inability or unwillingness to act accordingly, Guenther Altenburg said.

The Security Council does not reflect the political reality of the contemporary international system, neither in size, composition and structure; nor in its procedures. First, the membership of the Security Council is not representative. It is not based on wealth, power (capacity), or population. Second, the authority (credibility) of the Security Council is low. The frequent impotence of UN-imposed sanctions and the apparent inability to protect the safety of UN personnel are among the key factors contributing to this perception. Third, NATO's decision to intervene without the Security Council's approval in the Kosovo conflict points to the acute lack of a "reaction" mechanism.