

## Future Policy Dialogue

A key challenge for future policy work is building effective mechanisms for policy dialogue with federal government departments, ministerial offices and Parliament. Recent policy dialogue experiences of the Canadian Peacebuilding Coordinating Committee (CPCC) have generated some of the following characteristics of constructive policy engagement:

1. Policy discussions should take place over time instead of being one-off events.
2. Policy dialogue structures should be flexible and varied in order to allow for change as the discussions evolve.
3. The policy dialogue process should be co-managed by NGOs and government.
4. There should be a balance between broad theoretical issues (e.g. frameworks such as gender, peacebuilding, sustainability) and "real time" issues of on-the-ground implementation.
5. The policy dialogue activities should provide opportunities to bring non-traditional players into the process and help build a broader constituency for the policy area.
6. The process should recognize that dialogue involves two-way influence, and seeks to identify and build on potential areas for collaboration.
7. Over the long term, the process should aspire to build greater coherence between and amongst the various players.