

involved the ratification, universalization and implementation of the Ottawa Convention.

According to Lawson, "policy" lessons from the Ottawa process included:

- 1) Strategic coalitions work.
- 2) Campaign style diplomacy is very effective.
- 3) There is a key role for the NGOs in monitoring the Convention.
- 4) The full implementation of the Convention is key to solving the anti-personnel land mines crisis.

The Process involved roundtable discussions with states, International Organisations, NGOs, parliamentarians, media, military, and technical experts. Among the concrete outcomes were:

- a commitment to a report,
- donors' pledge (\$500 million),
- a creation of "Ratify in 98" coalition,
- the launch of a monitoring initiative,
- the formation of Geneva International Centre for Humanitarian De-mining,
- the formation of UN Mine Action Service,
- the pledge of \$100 million by Canada,
- the announcement of a "Mine Action Coordination Workshop" by Canada.

The key initiatives leading to the ratifications included advocacy work, media awareness and regional meetings. The focus has now shifted to survey, monitoring, and reporting activities, although consensus building and awareness raising are still important.

B) Comment and the Synopsis of the Discussion

Some participants stressed the particular nature of the land mines issue and expressed their pessimism about the ascendance of a global civil society. The transparency of NGOs has also been questioned by some. The opinion that the involvement of NGOs may preclude consensus on issues by authoritarian countries (China) was also voiced. Attention should be paid to charges that NGOs are the tools of Northern neo-colonialism.

The problems with the UN system were attributed to the resentment of the UN Geneva community to the notion of "learning anything." Others pointed out that both the constraints and the strengths of the UN should be utilised. The venue to circumscribe the UN system in order to avoid bottleneck should be kept open. An argument was made that the UN was circumscribed in the land mines case without many repercussions only because Kofi Annan himself endorsed the initiative and because the process was eventually re-integrated into the UN system. The dangers of taking risks in the context of New Diplomacy were mentioned.

Some asked why land mines? Why not trafficking in human beings or child soldiers? Are