

Peace and security are important issues for Africa. It is important to note that "many countries are not engaged in war." Further, it has been only 40 years since independence. Peace movements all over the world are contributing to greater peace.

"The African Union and NEPAD will lead to a better future for Africa."

Plenary I Questions and Answers (Smith and H.E. Yang)

Q.1. With regard to NEPAD, how does it relate to labour and ethical standards in business, especially multinational companies (MNCs)?

H.E. Yang – Corporate governance issues will have to deal with this; cocoa and coffee corporations are examples. NEPAD suggests the issue of labour and labour standards should be addressed within the framework and using the standards of the International Labor Organization (ILO). Issues of child labour and debt labor are serious problems and these will need to be addressed.

Malinda Smith – Peer review and a code of conduct for African leaders are part of NEPAD but how these are related to popular processes of legitimation and greater democratization remain to be seen. As H.E. Yang indicates, NEPAD does acknowledge the need for internationally recognized labour standards but monitoring the implementation of these will be key. Labour unions do have a valid concern with regard to how NEPAD's endorsement of privatization might exacerbate employment standards and labour insecurity.

Q. 2. Issue of sovereignty – will problems be addressed by changing borders and transnationalized governance?

H.E. Yang – This is a longstanding problem. Many countries cannot defend their sovereignty. Reality may dictate changes. Regional unions are already developing. ECOWAS is an example. We will need to seek diplomatic routes to solve regional conflicts. Banking and monetary systems are already becoming regional. Sovereignty is often a block to cooperation.

Q. 3. Economic development – How is NEPAD going to develop Africa and address poverty? What should we make of the west's involvement in women and development? Development is cultural as well as economic. Do we want to incorporate western ideas on how to deal with issues of women and families?

Malinda Smith – NEPAD is a long-term project. One estimate is that it will cost US \$64 billion a year. As we know there already are billions earmarked for Bosnia and for Afghanistan as well as the "war on terrorism." So global financing will be a challenge. In terms of human resources it will require an informed and educated