

### SESSION 3: Research Priorities and Partnering on Human Security

In a brief introduction of the session, Lloyd Axworthy, of the University of British Columbia, stated that its purpose was to focus in a concrete way on the creation and consolidation of the Consortium in a way that fosters linking theory and practice.

Fen Hampson, of Carleton University, emphasized that policy initiatives and dramatic changes in the nature of international relations have stimulated a proliferation in the scholarly literature on human security and broadened its scope. There are three distinct conceptions of human security that shape current debates and thinking about the subject: the natural rights/rule of law conception; the humanitarian conception; and a broader view of human security, which includes a strong social justice component. Hampson presented a preliminary review of the literature on human security, underlining research progress in policy-relevant issues: globalization and its impact on human security; democratization and development; regional and national perspective of human security; terrorism, weapons of mass destruction and transnational crime. He concluded by stating the importance of finding tools for measuring human security and developing subjective studies on human security such as case studies.

A member of the CPCC executive, Kathy Vandergrift, of World Vision Canada, reflected on NGO priorities and identified three substantive areas for collaborative research between academics and non-academics and three priorities relating to structures and methodology. The three substantive areas are: the implementation of international standards and norms (the gap between these standards and reality is getting wider); the link between community level peacebuilding and macro-level factors in conflict (e.g. local peacebuilding initiatives may be successful but they do not impact the larger geo-political factors that are involved, such as the role of international trade, corporate complicity, and super-power politics); and conflict prevention/resolution (e.g. collaboration between NGOs and academics). Three priorities in the area of structures and methodologies include: information exchange and mapping of capacities and interest in policy-related research between NGOs, government, and academics; good practices emerging from NGOs (with academic collaboration); and a continuous circle of learning between NGOs, government, and academics, rather than linear policy papers.

Atef Odibat, of the Regional Human Security Centre, Jordan, commented on research priorities and shared experiences from his regional centre. He outlined seven research priorities: 1) definition and concept of human security; 2) indicator issues; 3) root causes of human insecurity; 4) health and human security; 5) tolerance (cultural dialogue); 6) regional comparison and human security (e.g. Asian, Western, African, and Middle Eastern views); and 7) gender and human security. He provided an overview of the history, activities, and issues that the Regional Human Security Centre in Jordan has worked on since it was inaugurated in May 2001. The Canadian government has given three years of support towards the centre, as have the governments of other countries such as Switzerland and the Netherlands. Activities have included: a Jordanian brainstorming session on human security; a regional brainstorming session on human security; a workshop for Arab diplomats introducing human security as a concept; regional consultations with Syria and Lebanon; and a national workshop on "children and human security". Issues identified include: unemployment; child labour; domestic abuse; drug