

RECOMMENDATIONS (Issues - Options)
(Group #)

Canada should lead the movement to draft a charter to implement the goals of the United Nations Universal Declaration of Human Rights in the global information infrastructure.

Canada should propose and coordinate a multilateral effort to promote a partnership with the private sector in doing so. Canada would aim to establish bilateral projects, the goal of which would be to educate and train NGOs working overseas, in particular human rights advocacy groups, on how to use the new technologies and effectively understand their potential benefits and risks. It is expected that this would result in competent and informed users within human rights groups and among the disadvantaged.

Canada should actively promote the inclusion of new groups, in particular human rights advocacy groups, in all international forums responsible for developing new policies, regulations and standards for the new technologies. Canada should also help finance the participation of these groups and encourage other governments to do the same. The following results should be expected:

1) The inclusion of human rights concerns in development policies and technological standards.

2) A transparent process.

Canada should refrain from introducing new restrictions on the use of the new technologies, including content, tools and infrastructure, and reject any idea of "balancing" other interests in discussions on these restrictions. Canada should also promote this approach during international forums on these subjects.

Canada should review current restrictions on technologies that enhance privacy, secure communications and security. Above all, it should encourage international organizations and foreign governments to adopt these standards.

During international forums, Canada should promote the disclosure of policy choices embedded in technology and that affect human rights, such as key escrows (the "key" for decoding), information gathering, personal content filters and copyright. The following results should be expected:

1) More availability of user-controlled technology.