

October 1/6, Session A: CONCEPTS OF CIVIL SOCIETY

This session set the stage for the discussions, strategies and recommendations of the workshop. It introduced the topic and provided information on key issues about the approach and the concept.

October 1/6, Session B: CIVIL SOCIETY IN CANADA AND SOUTH ASIA

This session compared different civil society environments, status and relations in Canada and in each South Asian country. Participants gained a greater understanding of similarities and differences in the use of the concept and in approaches to civil society relations between these different countries.

October 2/7, Session C: CIVIL SOCIETY AS A DEVELOPMENT STRATEGY

This session examined civil society as an emerging strategy for development and social change. Participants looked at the underlying rationale, understanding, assumptions and expectations of NGOs, governments and donors.

October 2/7, Session D: CASE STUDIES IN STRENGTHENING CIVIL SOCIETY

In this session participants analyzed case studies of various donor, Northern NGO and Southern NGO approaches to strengthening civil society. In smaller groups, participants and South Asian/Canadian resource people developed criteria to assess what constitutes effective strategies for strengthening civil society.

October 3/8, Session E: PARTNERSHIPS FOR CIVIL SOCIETY

The need for collaboration among civil society groups in order to work more effectively for sustainable development is widely accepted. Participants and resource people explored how to best go about facilitating the necessary collaborations among civil society and other sectors through a discussion of barriers to collaboration and strategies to overcome these barriers.