

3.1 Protecting minorities through legal recognition, discussed by W. Shabas, is a good example of the usefulness of short-term mechanisms, notably of a legal nature, as a means of conflict resolution (e.g. the case of Rwanda). On this subject, see the paper cited in Note 1. The development of the situation in Rwanda since this paper and its recommendations were delivered highlight the appropriateness and urgency of action along these lines.

3.2 The discussion on the OAU indicated the appropriateness of Canada's security and conflict prevention policy in Africa. **The growing role of regional organizations in the world and the OAU's clear political will should help secure a key role for that organization.** Africans want La Francophonie to bolster the OAU and not operate as a parallel body; moreover, observers argue that the OAU should not be underestimated as a regional organization, as has been done in Asia. The OAU could benefit by being put to the test, as long as it receives support; Canada intends to provide such support. **Strengthening the OAU is also consistent with increasing Africans' sense of ownership.**

3.3 **Some current strategies seem to be contributing to creating conditions that foster conflict (deflation, lack of redistribution of wealth, poverty, etc.). Problems of this type cannot be solved in the short term.** On the contrary, as has been noted, solving these problems demands that Africans reclaim ownership of the analysis, the discourse and the strategies. The OAU can also play a crucial role in this respect.

CONCLUSION AND RECOMMENDATIONS

The discussions on the world environment considered from a more long-term perspective, though without excluding short-term interventions in crises such as the one in Burundi yielded the conclusion that Canada should propose topics for the discussion forums which reflect this short/long-term duality, as well as the general perspective on which the approach adopted at this meeting was based. Canada should therefore propose discussion topics which relate to the following principles and general themes:

A. Broadening Francophonie meetings

Canada should invite non-Francophones to the round tables, as it did at the meeting held in Ottawa in September 1995, in order to compare experiences and avoid perpetuating artificial divisions.

B. The debt, since accelerating the process of debt reduction is vital to creating more favourable conditions for economic recovery.