

context in which they were introduced.<sup>2</sup>

The discussions yielded the conclusion that Canada definitely has a specific role to play within La Francophonie, both in supporting short-term interventions, which were seen as unavoidable for purposes of conflict resolution, and in long-term interventions, which were seen rather as a requirement for conflict prevention. While it appeared inevitable to participants in the meeting that Canada should apply itself to short-term strategies, it was also deemed eminently desirable by many that Canada's efforts not neglect the longer term, an essential condition for a true prevention strategy.

## **2. Multi-Faceted Constraints: Demographic, Economic and Socio-Political (control methods) (SECTIONS 1 and 2)**

Analysis of conflict prevention from a broader economic and socio-political perspective led to the conclusion that economics cannot be dissociated from socio-political considerations. It also highlighted the need to formulate both long- and short-term responses, and the need for Africans to reclaim ownership of the discourse, the analysis and the responses. **Canada is particularly well placed within La Francophonie to argue for the importance of this process and to support it by creating instruments such as discussion forums, as it plans to do.**

This is illustrated by many of the points raised in the papers and discussions.

**2.1 Over the long term, current demographic growth rates in sub-Saharan Africa represent a significant source of tension, especially at a time of slow growth and resource scarcity. These pressures, discussed in G. Duruflé's paper, point up a major issue which continues to be extremely contentious in North-South relations: Africans see the donor community's approach as an assault. It is urgent for Africans, and women especially, to debate this subject themselves in order to approach questions of demographic transition in terms which are acceptable to African societies, and in the larger framework of policies promoting better development and distribution of resources. La Francophonie could serve as the forum for this debate. This topic would also foster participation by African women, who increasingly are seen as key players in sustainable development.**

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<sup>2</sup> Please refer to the following texts in the appendix: Gilles Duruflé, "Les aspects économiques de l'origine et de la prévention des conflits en Afrique francophone subsaharienne"; Bonnie Campbell, "Réformes institutionnelles, reconceptualisation de l'État et prévention des conflits: quelques enjeux politiques, économiques et conceptuels."

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