

provides a good model.

- A goal of civil society participation should be long term capacity building. Currently, civil society participation only provides a “snapshot” of a human rights issue. There is a need for constant monitoring.
- Networking should be a central theme towards accomplishing any/all of the above. This includes networking between international and domestic NGOs working on similar issues, and networking with NGOs from other countries to learn from their practices and experiences (i.e., the EC).
- NGOs must clarify their roles and ensure a balance and diversification of tasks.

Next steps:

- ① A strategic approach to domestic implementation of international mechanisms must be adopted (i.e., ensure the better application of treaties).
- ② The tactics on how this must be done should be endorsed by all the NGOs affected by it (i.e., through education, monitoring, capacity building, etc.).
- ③ Instruments for follow-up to the above must be developed (i.e., annual meetings?).
- ④ The UN conference on Racism in 2001 may be a good opportunity to encourage further efforts in this regard.

Report of Working Group # 3

MAKING USE OF DOMESTIC MECHANISMS FOR MONITORING THE IMPLEMENTATION OF INTERNATIONAL HUMAN RIGHTS TREATIES

i) Parliamentary committees on human rights, justice and external affairs

Our group suggested that NGOs make use of these committees to raise human rights concerns and to make recommendations to the government through this process.

ii) The Federal-Provincial-Territorial Continuing Committee of Officials on Human Rights (*meets twice a year*) Its mandate is to:

- maintain consultation and collaboration among governments in Canada with respect to the domestic implementation of human rights instruments;
- serve as a consultation mechanism among governments in Canada on other domestic or international human rights questions related to international instruments. (*Mandate approved by Ministers at the Federal-Provincial-Territorial Conference on Human Rights, September 27, 1988*).

We suggested:

- That the Continuing Committee be opened up to dialogue with NGOs.
- That NGOs make recommendations to the Committee to ensure that social and economic rights are raised at meetings of the Committee.
- That the Committee deal with concluding observations of the treaty bodies and hear from the NGO community.

iii) UN treaty body recommendations related to Canada:

The group suggested that use be made of the recent reports of the UN Committee on Economic, Social and Cultural rights and the Human Rights Committee: