

Commonwealth, a joint Government-NGO mechanism to monitor Canada's action on commitments made at the World Food Summit, and so on. There is currently experimentation with a range of mechanisms for the participation of civil society organizations in public policy processes.

One of the main barriers to progress on this goal, however, is the limited capacity of the community to carry out effective policy research and to allocate the time and resources to policy dialogue, not to mention policy advocacy when necessary. As mentioned in the Introduction, there has recently been a decline in the capacity of individual organizations to do this work. This capacity issue increases the importance and value of coalitions; a number of coalitions are working to enhance their policy role at present.

Partnership Africa Canada, a coalition of 25 African and 60 Canadian members, is one. One of PAC's goals is capacity building of its member organizations in the area of policy work. PAC is planning its own "mapping" exercise for production of a manual on policy work for Africa and Canada. PAC may also develop a training program on policy research and advocacy, on the model of the Jesuit Centre's training program, "Naming the Moment" on social analysis in Canada.

The South Asia Partnership (SAP) is repositioning itself to be a meeting place for all groups in Canada interested in sustainable human development in South Asia, including social activists, immigrant communities, academics, and NGOs. It will work to gather information, learn, and carry out activities to increase public awareness and advocate appropriate Canadian policies in relation to South Asia. It is now building up its capacity to carry out this role. SAP anchors two or three forums each year on issues of relevance to South Asia. Sometimes these are country specific and at other times they are issue specific, such as a focus on human rights, gender equity, and rights of the child. The aim is to involve policy planners and decision-makers. This will increase in importance in the future.

The Halifax Initiative, described above in the sections on Sustainable Development and Trade and Investment, is working to achieve fundamental reform of the Bretton Woods institutions, particularly to promote democratic governance, transparency, decentralized decision-making, community involvement, full and open public participation, and full public accountability. It has been successful in establishing regular consultations with the Department of Finance, Foreign Affairs and International Trade, and CIDA, to exchange views on these issues.

The APEC Coalition, mentioned in Section 8 above, is pressing for opening up