

particular) included raising public awareness of the issue and participating in the actual negotiation of an international convention. The latter was a truly ground-breaking development. What became to be called the Ottawa Process was characterised by:

- 1) a partnership between states and NGOs in the conduct of international diplomacy,
- 2) a coalition of small and medium-size like-minded states,
- 3) a willingness to operate outside the normal channels and fora.

Therefore, the Process suggests that non-hegemonic states and transnational social movements can achieve diplomatic ends by working in partnership. The Process essentially established the "basis for new mechanisms of horizontal accountability by bringing together like-minded states, in partnership with NGOs, outside of traditional arms control fora."

According to Cameron, three lessons came out of the Ottawa Process:

- 1) Partnership pays.
- 2) Coalitions of the like minded can lead.
- 3) Obsolete diplomatic fora can be subverted.

The last lesson brought to focus the role of the United Nations system as a forum for negotiations as well as the relationship between NGOs and the UN. Should diplomatic initiatives take place at the margins of the UN? Should the UN be democratised and access of NGOs to the UN process facilitated? How should the transformation of the UN be effected? Despite the criticism aimed at the lack of NGO accountability, they can prove invaluable in the following areas:

- raising awareness,
- bridging the knowledge gap between international negotiators and real world conditions,
- pushing for accountability by public officials.

The idiosyncrasies of the ban movement included:

- 1) The issue was unique.
- 2) Luck played a role.
- 3) A big gamble paid off.

In conclusion, Cameron stated that the crucial lessons are that states and social movements can work in partnership to mutually enhance their capacities, to bring publicity to neglected issues, and to create new mechanisms of global horizontal accountability.

Robert Lawson, DFAIT, summarised the Ottawa Process and commented on developments since December 1997. He described the global landmine crisis in figures (1996) and pointed to the inability of the UN to react. Lawson went on to look at the 1997 Ban Convention which called for a ban on the use, production, transfer and stockpiling of anti-personnel mines.

The Canadian objectives at the Ottawa Conference included, maximum convention signatures and issues related to the shape and launch of the Ottawa Process II. The latter