

reporting. It was noted that RCW already plans to focus greater attention on media work this year and next to take advantage of the fact that the coming PrepCom and Review Conference will both be in New York.

Participants discussed whether it would be useful for NGOs to examine the reports of States parties as they were submitted in order to provide overnight advice for other delegations and for the media. One participant suggested that midsize delegations can do that job for themselves over the course of a few days and that, in any case, a reaction at the next year's meeting would be a pretty good response time. Others commented, however, that NGOs and the public were seeking faster action than that. Immediate responses were needed for media purposes, as well. It was noted that media work should be done carefully, to avoid playing into NWS fears of being dragged before a media/NGO "kangaroo court".

Analysis of reports

Participants noted that there is a need for greater academic and NGO analysis of the reports submitted by States parties. Although the reports and related documents are increasingly available (thanks to Reaching Critical Will and others), an analytic gap persists, both in assessing overall developments and in performing "quality control" assessments of individual reports. The listing of issues addressed by States parties in Appendix 1 of the background document was a highly useful start, for example, but it did not show how States parties addressed the issue or what position they took. This was not to be expected in the background document produced for this Roundtable, but a more in-depth analysis would be useful. Questions were raised as to who might be approached to do such analyses. It might be possible to obtain modest funding for such research from the Canadian Centre for Foreign Policy Development or from DFAIT's International Security Research Outreach Programme.

It was also noted that the Liu Centre is planning to publish an annual *World Security Report*; a regular chapter analysing reports by States parties would be valuable addition to this publication. NGOs might also consider organizing an annual event after each PrepCom/Review Conference to dissect the reports from that year.

Would thorough use of reports by NGOs, academics, and States parties dampen the enthusiasm of States parties for reporting? Participants acknowledged that there is a risk of this happening. But it was argued that thorough and careful pursuit of transparency need not create an "information chill". In any case, analysis and use of the reports was part and parcel of accountability – the very basis of their value. Without accountability, transparency would be of no use.