

## **Implication for Peacebuilding and Canada's Role:**

We must focus on monitoring the implementation of the spirit of the Accords and not pressure the government excessively on the timeline or the letter of the Accords. We should focus on elements which will advance inclusive national consultation and dialogue in a way which will continue when the Accords run out. We must ensure that we have a complete understanding of the situation on the ground, and work in consultation with Guatemalans, while recognizing that they are not a united front and that we must make choices, ensuring that we listen particularly to marginalized voices. We should promote the construction of a shared stake in the country. Security, and its implications for the potential reemergence of political conflict is the main worry.

### ***Discussion:***

- The Guatemalan government can not use time as an excuse for slowness in increasing taxes, as the need has been under discussion in the country for a long time.
- We must recognize the influence of the URNG and community groups, even if they are disparate.
- Guatemalans have high expectations for the Accords. We must be sure to recognize that the context is very different in the capital and the rural areas.

## **Consultative Mechanisms:**

The ARZU administration reports that there are 15 official consultative mechanisms with government and civil society to work on the implementation of the Accords.

- Indigenous Accord: 3 *Comisiones Paritarias* (joint government/civil society participatory commissions) on political participation, land rights, and education reform. The main civil society actor in the commissions is COPMAGUA, a broad-based coalition of aboriginal organizations.
- Uprooted Accord: 1 Technical Commission has existed since the Accord was signed in June 1994 and includes representatives of the uprooted and displaced, the Guatemalan government, and the international donor community as consultants (UNDP and EU).
- Civil Society Accord: Calls on the participation of women. One month ago the National Women's Forum was created to coordinate the input of women's groups into the consultative process on elements of the Accords which relate to women.
- The Accord on Socio-Economic Aspects and the Agrarian Situation has no consultative mechanism at a national level apart from CONTIERRA.

## **To What Extent are Consultative Mechanisms Functioning & Contributing to Peace Building?**

The key concerns are: civil society and government capacity, timeline pressures and expectations, political will on the part of government, and representativity. There is a serious lack of capacity within civil society to participate meaningfully in the implementation proposals and decisions. Very technical issues are involved and both government and civil society are finding the task difficult. The leadership within civil society is limited and it will take generations to develop the capacity yet their participation is essential to the peace process. The government has limited capacity also, and financial absorption problems. The timeline for accord implementation is too ambitious given this lack of technical