

presented some of the initiatives now under way in East Timor such as training indigenous staff to administer CARE programmes in agriculture, sanitation and clean water. Jacques Bertrand of University of Toronto expressed concern about the imminent institutional vacuum that is to come on the heels of escalating conflict or Indonesian withdrawal, capacity building initiatives should address this problem immediately. According to Norm MacDonnel from CIDA, supporting activities such as the use of media and grass roots discussions could help to develop a culture of tolerance and prepare the way for democracy. Furthermore, initiatives supporting the planning and strengthening of East Timorese provincial government were briefly addressed.

**\* Helping to strengthen East Timorese NGO networks and state-NGO partnership.**

Antonio Conceicao, CARE officer in Dili, expressed the necessity of coordinating local NGOs, perhaps by working with a Forum of NGOs in East Timor, in order to take better advantage of outside assistance. Furthermore, he stressed the importance of grassroots initiatives and the developing links between leaders and society (to build trust).

#### IV. CONCLUSION

The participants concluded by stressing the grave nature of the current situation in East Timor. **They stressed the clear danger of civil war if no action is taken.** Some outside presence is absolutely necessary to stem imminent civil war and enhance the personal security of the East Timorese people. The identified channels of action were the Security Council, Foreign Ministers' Friends of East Timor Group, Canada's own initiatives or a combination of the three. While immediate intervention aimed at a cease-fire and disarmament is the sine qua non of all further initiatives, thinking should start about how to approach medium and long term reconciliation and development needs of the East Timorese.