

of the media but instead learn to build a relationship with the media and take advantage of its potential for supporting democracy and peacebuilding. Finally, it was pointed out that Canada should also evaluate how it could improve good governance within its own borders; good governance and democratization should not be an issue that only concerns Southern countries. Several challenges were noted. It was mentioned that peacebuilding interventions often face significant delays, which limit the efficacy of such interventions. Secondly, there is always a limit to what foreign interventions can actually accomplish, which emphasizes the fact that the democratization process needs to be initiated from within the country and its civil society. Thirdly, there also exists the challenge of creating new indigenous models of democracy and not imposing a "one model fits all" template.

Several recommendations were made: an appropriate timeline, with the option of reconsidering decisions made in the light of the new developments should be implemented with institution-building projects. Education should be taken into account as an important tool to consider in support of democratization. Thirdly, while there are limits to what intervention can accomplish, there are still actions that a country like Canada could undertake to build an environment favourable to democratization, such as election monitoring and supporting civil society. Finally, it is important to find ways to favour a stronger and a more continuous participation of civil society in democratic institutions. The media and the model of local and municipal governments being developed in India were identified as means through which such an objective could be reached.

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SESSION 9.4: Warlords

The workshop began with the screening of a CBC documentary on warlords in Afghanistan, reported by the workshop's chair, Carol Off. The documentary called attention to the challenges posed to humanitarian agencies working in areas controlled by warlords. It illustrated how some international bodies currently working in Afghanistan are forced to work within the confines set out by local warlords. Following the screening, participants were presented with a working definition of the term warlord, defined warlord as "a man who has power in a failed state and who holds on to this power through the use of force".

Ian Smillie, of Partnership Africa Canada, discussed how the phenomenon of warlords has been on the rise over the past 10-20 years. The expediency of African decolonisation during the 1960s and '70s was presented as a contributing factor in the emergence of weak states. The movement to downsize public sector capacities during the 1980s further compounded the problems of weak states by restricting their ability to ward off rebel movements and to protect civilians. Smillie made a compelling case that the phenomenon of warlords does not occur in isolation and that warlords in fact learn from one another's experience. Control over natural resources, the easy procurement of weapons, the forced recruitment of child soldiers and the ability to terrorize civilian populations, raid humanitarian convoys and internally displaced persons camps, and persuasively articulate and air grievances were presented as shared attributes of warlords. The West's proven track record of not sanctioning or forcefully intervening to