

INTRODUCTION

Background:

The genesis of the initiative is a Canada-US agreement reached during Secretary of State Albright's visit to Minister Axworthy in March 1998 on developing a joint gender sensitization training curriculum for civilian and military participants in peace operations.

In May 1998, the Department of Foreign Affairs and International Trade (DFAIT) hosted a bilateral meeting of officials with the United States to discuss the parameters of the initiative, which included questions of scope, substance, process, roles and responsibilities, and a work calendar. After the May meeting, a Steering Committee was established which included policymakers, military and gender experts in peace operation issues and field activities.

The purpose of the September 1998 Steering Committee workshop was to develop the formal and substantive aspects of delivery, and establish the parameters and requirements of the training that will be submitted to the implementing agent. The Steering Committee was also tasked with establishing the initiative's theoretical framework and to engage in questions of pedagogy and curriculum content.

The Lester B. Pearson Canadian International Peacekeeping Training Centre (PPC) was invited to make a presentation of their capabilities in implementing the initiative. This session gave the Steering Committee the opportunity to outline the initiative's genesis, and its aims and objectives to the PPC. It also allowed for a discussion to clarify terms and approach and field questions. Pursuant to this discussion, the Steering Committee agreed to retain the PPC.

In this regard, after the workshop, the Steering Committee produced "Terms of Reference" (TOR) to guide the implementing agent's development of a proposal. The TOR specified expectations with respect to delivery; suggested clientele, methodology and content; and gave clear direction on the parameters of the curriculum. The TOR also requested that the PPC provide an inventory of already existing initiatives, programs, and curricula and contextualize this initiative within this framework.

At the end of October, designated members of the Steering Committee were expected to participate in a Course Design Conference (CDC) with PPC representatives. Over a three day period, participants would have further developed the aim, scope and structure of the training; identified resources including literature and background materials; established the length of the training; and discussed evaluation criteria. However, constraints kept officials from attending and the PPC held a CDC with NGO resources alone.

According to the initial plan, after the CDC the PPC would have developed a workplan which specified tasks, responsibilities, staff requirements, level of effort, deadlines and a budget. The proposal was also to include an outline of both training methodology and content. The proposal would then have been subject to the approval of the Steering Committee in early December in Washington. Instead, the PPC had proceeded to develop a first draft of a proposal. This draft is now expected to be discussed in January 1999 at the