

- Preparation of the groundwork for national, international and transnational initiatives.

Recommendation 20

Official support is needed to generate a broader public and professional understanding of current UN rapid deployment initiatives and the various options available for enhancing these efforts. Assistance for developing a focused research programme and a series of conferences addressing the issues of rapid deployment would be a tangible commitment to the process.

Recommendation 21

Co-ordinate a 'soft power' approach not only to focus the Security Council and revitalize the 'Friends', but also to empower a transnational coalition and constituency of support among citizens, non-governmental organizations, related agencies and academic communities.

SECTION V

Expanding On and Beyond The Foundation¹⁰⁰

The development of a reliable and effective UN rapid deployment capability will take time, vision and a coherent, goal-oriented plan. If guided by a long-term sense of purpose, there is the prospect of contributing to a critical mechanism for conflict prevention and humanitarian assistance, as well as an empowered United Nations.

Rapid deployment presents an array of demanding requirements. Missing components, whether in personnel, supportive infrastructure or equipment, cause delays and lead to failures. Four generic components will demand sustained efforts. First, all deployable personnel, equipment and supplies must be adequately prepared for prompt staging. Second, all require a unique degree of self-sufficiency -- a capacity to operate on their own for a period of up to 90 days. Third, it is essential that there be prompt transportation to the mission area, as well as within the specific theatre of operations. Finally, there is a need to ensure appropriate replacements or rotations for steady-state operations, as well as augmentation and reinforcement in the event of serious escalation.

As we look ahead, it is evident that there will be a need for further measures that complement and build on the existing foundation. The prospect of immediately initiating some form of UN standing capability may be remote, however, an ongoing cumulative development process of four