National Forum in Montreal, Quebec January 21-22, 1999

Montreal Recommendations

Recommendations on Canada and the Security Council: Human Security and the Development of the Concept of Security

1. Canada should have appropriate (military and peacekeeping) means to support its policies.

2. Canada should rely on Non-Government Organizations (NGOs), international institutions and UN agencies and bodies to promote its policies on human security.

3. Canada should decentralize the responsibility for human security toward subsidiary bodies and local communities.

4. Canada should promote the establishment of ad hoc coalitions within the United Nations to manage conflicts, especially when the Security Council is paralysed.

5. Canada should clarify the concept of human security.

6. Canada should create a program of civic and institutional education within international organizations as well as in local communities.

7. Canada should promote a redefinition of the Security Council's mandate as well as that of international organizations in order to ensure recognition of all aspects of human security.

8. Canada should promote intervention that responds to the problems in Sierra Leone.

Recommendations on the Canada and the Security Council: Sanctions and Interventions

1. Canada should review problems associated with sanctions and interventions within the context of the Security Council and Canada's position on their use.

2. Canada should clarify the objectives of sanctions.

3. Canada must continue to promote a step-by-step approach to sanctions.

4. Canada cannot act alone within the Security Council.

5. Canada should solve the problems of resources for the Canadian Armed Forces to participate much more actively in implementing sanctions.

Recommendations on the Relations between the UN and Civil Society: The Transparency and Responsibility of the Security Council

1. The Canadian government must establish mechanisms of consultation and coordination for the actions of civil society within the Security Council.

2. Canada must open up the Security Council to non-governmental stakeholders.

Recommendations on the Relations between the UN and Civil Society: The Role of NGOs

1. Promote the representation of civil society.

2. Reinvest Canada's budget surplus in international aid.

3. Raise awareness and media coverage of NGO activities.

4. Reinforce the principle of "peace education" domestically.

5. Systematize the consultation process between civil society and NGOs.

6. Systemize participation by NGOs in evaluating the implementation of Canadian foreign policy.

7. Reinforce the role of NGOs within UN bodies.

