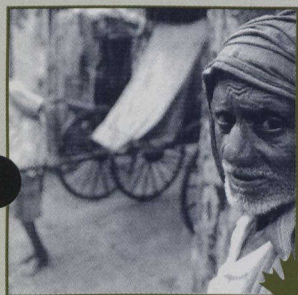




# Conflict PREVENTION

## Identifying HUMAN INSECURITY

The most effective and efficient approach to reducing human insecurity is to prevent the emergence of violent conflict through an open, inclusive, coherent and comprehensive framework which takes into account all phases of the peace-and-conflict cycle. This approach entails a need to strengthen international capacity for cooperative conflict prevention, particularly at the regional level. The ability of local communities and global actors to manage violent conflict peacefully requires meaningful political action and access to a full selection of conflict prevention tools for decision-makers and other actors. While national governments have the primary responsibility to prevent violent conflict, many other actors also have an important supporting role to play, particularly civil society, the private sector and international institutions.



Canada's Conflict Prevention initiatives include the following issues:

- ▼  
Diamonds and Armed Conflict
- ▼  
Small Arms and Light Weapons
- ▼  
Co-operative Conflict Prevention
- ▼  
Targeted Sanctions
- ▼  
Post-Conflict Peacebuilding

## Taking CONCRETE ACTION

Canada's leadership on conflict prevention is especially evident at international and regional organizations, where it draws upon a wealth of domestic expertise to develop conflict prevention capacity. During our recent tenure on the UN Security Council (1999-2000), we worked to accelerate international efforts to promote the protection and safety of ordinary people by pursuing progress in such areas as conflict diamonds, international civilian police, conflict and development and corporate citizenship. The Human Security Program of the Department of Foreign Affairs and International Trade also invests in initiatives that strengthen the capacity of the international community to prevent violent conflict and build local indigenous capacity to manage conflict without resorting to violence. The South Asia Small Arms Initiative brought together civil society groups and governments from Bangladesh, India, Pakistan, Sri Lanka, and Nepal to work towards a common approach to reduce the spread of small arms. Another initiative helps Columbian youth develop the tools to constructively manage conflict. The Human Security Program invited 14 Colombian youth delegates to R2K: *Resolve It! 2000, the Second Annual Youth Conference on Peacebuilding and Conflict Resolution*, where they created an action plan for conflict resolution and peer mediation programs in their own schools back home. The Human Security Program supports Talking Drum Studios in countries like Liberia and Sierra Leone. The studios, developed by the non-governmental organization (NGO) Search for Common Ground, produce programming that provides reliable news and information and in so doing, reduces tension, increases transparency and builds confidence.

## Fostering FUTURE SECURITY

Canada will continue to work with multilateral and regional organizations to address the root causes of violent conflict. As President of the G8 in 2002, Canada will be in a strong position to lead in the development of concrete conflict prevention action plans. Through the Development Assistance Committee (DAC) of the Organization for Economic Cooperation and Development (OECD), Canada will continue to work with other member States and UN agencies to improve the ability of donors to manage the international assistance strategies for conflict, peace and development cooperation.

