

The most important factor differentiating peacekeeping from other military action is its requirement that all parties to the conflict in question consent to a peacekeeping presence. Canada recognizes that, while this principle remains valid, responsible parties and the international community should not be held hostage to the activities of renegade armed groups. Canada believes that, in order to preserve peace and stability, the international community must rethink the limits of national sovereignty and contemplate more direct action in cases of massive violations of human rights and basic human needs.

If peacekeepers are to intervene more, Canada recognizes that peacekeeping forces will require appropriate training, equipment and arms for their specific tasks. They will also need recognized rules for returning hostile fire if they are to protect themselves and implement their agreed mandate. Sufficient financial and material support are key requirements, as well.

Canada continues to believe that peacekeeping forces must be drawn from a broad spectrum of states in order to provide an international profile to the operations and to share in the risks involved. Countries with the necessary capability must guarantee the safety of peacekeeping missions, should unforeseen dangers arise.

Canada will continue to pay its peacekeeping financial assessments in full and on time, and is prepared to maintain and increase, if necessary, its present military commitment to ongoing operations. Canada is hopeful, however, that peacekeeping will eventually become a collective endeavour involving not just a few countries, but the whole international community.