

Both from the conference proceedings and from external sources, there are several options available for attempting to achieve a solution for the enduring conflict. Some of these tools would be applicable to Canadian efforts to solve the conflict.

- International pressure for the solution of the Kashmir issue (especially through the war on terror). This increases the ability of outside states to mediate by putting pressure on New Delhi and Islamabad to sit down and negotiate. This may not be an easy task, as it may be opposed by India.
- Keep Pakistan active in the war on terror and making sure Islamabad honors its commitment regarding stopping cross border terrorism. By doing so it may demoralize the insurgents that are entering Kashmir, and reduce the conflict level.
- Increase the voice of Kashmiris in the resolution of the conflict. Conflict exhaustion may play a role in fostering change in parties' positions.
- Exploit the divisions within the insurgent militants. There is a division between Kashmiri and Pakistani actors, who have divergent goals in achieving a possible resolution to the conflict. Treating them as a single unit is the wrong way to approach the issue.
- De-link nuclear weapons from Kashmir conflict. They act as stimulant as much as a retardant for the perpetuation of the conflict.
- Focus on the domestic politics in Pakistan. Kashmir is an issue that is dominating other internal civil problems – ones that are much more important for the Pakistani population. Continuing to ignore them by the Pakistani leadership, especially by the military rulers, has created a highly unequal society that may lead to broader civil conflict.
- While it is not certain that transition to democracy in Pakistan will end the conflict, data shows that there is a much better chance of peace if both India and Pakistan are truly democratic. Track II initiatives in developing a democratic civil society should be continued. Here Western countries such as Canada can actively support the emergence of a civil society in Pakistan and the reform of its educational system, which is currently dominated by religious schools.
- There needs to be an effort to get India to look farther ahead than the status quo. Its preponderant position in the conflict has made it entrench its policy of simple containment, with little regard for finding a solution. This has to be changed for the conflict to be resolved. This could be done by offering India membership in key international groups (such as the G8 or the UN Security Council) in exchange for a major negotiated peace offensive. De-hyphenating India and Pakistan and recognizing India as a key world player may be crucial for encouraging it to become a peacemaker in the region.
- Finally, countries such as Canada can help the two states to forge economic ties as economic interdependence seems to be correlated with less conflict. Academic institutions in the two countries and elsewhere could produce scientific analysis of the enormous costs of the conflict and the benefits in settling it peacefully.

Almost all of these options have either been undertaken by Canadian officials in the past, or are available to Canadian policy makers given the diplomatic tools at their disposal. Granted, Canadian influence in foreign affairs, and especially in conflict resolution, has