

inadequate coordination and the pursuit of different goals often lead to unfortunate consequences, including: incoherent strategies; incompatible projects; redundant initiatives; gaps in assistance and; insufficient accountability.⁵ Indeed, these problems work against the goals of peacebuilding.

The concept of peacebuilding is relatively new. It alludes to a means to ensure human security which recognizes human rights, fundamental freedoms, the rule of law, good governance, sustainable development and social equality.⁶ According to Canadian Minister of Foreign Affairs, Lloyd Axworthy, peacebuilding refers to a collection of efforts which help countries to develop socially, politically and economically with human security being a vital concern:

[Peacebuilding refers to] a package of measures to strengthen and solidify peace by building a sustainable infrastructure of human security. Peacebuilding aims to put in place the minimal conditions under which a country can take charge of its destiny, and social, political and economic development becomes possible.⁷

This integrated approach to peace stems from Boutros Boutros-Ghali's concept of 'post-conflict peacebuilding' which was introduced in *An Agenda for Peace* (1991). At this time, he defined the concept as: 'collective action to identify and support structures which will tend to strengthen and solidify peace in order to avoid a relapse into conflict.'

Understanding the concept of peacebuilding and the need for a coherent, integrated approach, the question now becomes what kind of a strategy would be most effective? As was noted earlier, this paper will discuss one possible strategy which entails both short and long-term goals. While activities that are undertaken immediately may help to improve the situation of a country in the short-term, their effectiveness suffers if they are not coupled with a long-term vision: "the problem with quick in-and-out operations (Zaire is an example) is that their emphasis is on rapidity and short-term commitment is antithetical to the cumulative approach required for peacebuilding."⁸

Towards a Short-term Peacebuilding Strategy

A short-term strategy for peacebuilding should allow for immediate assistance and the initial development of the infrastructures necessary to establish human security in countries.

⁵Recovering from Conflict: Strategy for an International Response. Pg. 17-18

⁶Canada and Peacebuilding - Gouvernement/ NGO Consultations.

⁷Notes for an Address by the Honourable Lloyd Axworthy, Minister of Foreign Affairs, at York University: Building Peace to Last: Establishing a Canadian Peacebuilding Initiative.
[Http://www.dfait-maeci.gc.ca/engli...ws/statements/96_state/96_046e.htm](http://www.dfait-maeci.gc.ca/engli...ws/statements/96_state/96_046e.htm)

⁸Kenneth Bush, "Beyond Bungee Cord Humanitarianism: Toward a Developmental Agenda for Peacebuilding," *Canadian Journal of Development Studies*, Special issue, 1996. Pg. 81