

The official, or governmental, track of the Canadian initiative is an open-ended process intended to explore the merits of establishing a regional dialogue encompassing all relevant themes and issues. The Canadian view is that such a dialogue must not be the result of an attempt to transplant European models or institutions. The sources of tension and the nature of the regional challenges in the North Pacific do not lend themselves to such an approach. Rather, approaches to enhancing stability must accommodate the specific traditions, history and geopolitical dynamics of the region. The continuing emphasis is on consultation, not negotiation; and on seeking consensus on how best to address the need for a North Pacific dialogue.