

Consensus Development

This roundtable was assembled for two principle purposes: 1) to provide a forum for different groups to report and share information and 2) to make recommendations to the Minister of Foreign Affairs through the Canadian Centre for Foreign Policy Development.

The meeting was not designed to act as a voting assembly to pass or defeat specific policy resolutions. The recommendations were to be developed from the day's discussion and designed to reflect a consensus of the participants. As we had participation from a wide variety of groups representing a broad range of views, this represented a challenge.

Although there was widespread agreement on most of the issues discussed, some participants nevertheless were bound by various constraints. For example, in several cases the individual present representing an organization was not in a position to endorse a resolution on behalf of that organization.

However, the following recommendations were ideas that emanated from the roundtable and were agreed on by all who were in attendance for the session on policy recommendations. Although it is safe to say that there was unanimity in the room, this does not imply that every organization or individual on the List of Participants officially endorses all of the recommendations as worded below. (For specific endorsements, see appendix).