

JOINT CANADA-US GENDER SENSITIZATION TRAINING INITIATIVE  
FOR CIVILIAN AND MILITARY PARTICIPANTS OF PEACE OPERATIONS

STEERING COMMITTEE WORKSHOP

16-17 SEPTEMBER 1998

Rapporteur's Report

**I. Introduction**

1. The session opened with welcomes and introductions. The Steering Committee briefly reviewed the genesis of the initiative as well as the outcome of the May meeting of officials. There was a recognition that the 'old rules' of engagement in peacekeeping no longer work in the post-Cold War era, and of the need to integrate a gender analysis and awareness into peace operations at all levels, including policy development, planning and implementation. This initiative is part of a larger project of "rethinking peacekeeping".

**II. Objective of Steering Committee Workshop**

2. The Steering Committee met in Ottawa to layout the parameters for the curriculum, as well as discuss some elements of content.

3. The Workshop had three objectives with respect to output:

- i) learning objectives;
- ii) content themes;
- iii) process/methodology;

4. The output was amended to reflect an additional item for discussion:

iv) bureaucratic processes, including logistics, contract negotiations and funding mechanisms and identification of clientele.

**III. Context and Definitions: Gender and Peace Operations**

5. Participants then discussed operational definitions. It was agreed that the definitions offered by the "Points of Reference" (POR) document from the May meeting were a useful starting point for discussion. Moreover, it was agreed that the definitions in the POR be conveyed to the implementing agent as reflective of the Steering Committee's understanding of these terms as well as part of the curriculum.

6. A discussion on the dynamic character of gender analysis was led by Kirsten Mlacak. To summarize, gender is understood as a lens which allows for the investigation of the socially