

National Forum Meeting Recommendations

The National Forum Recommendations reflect some of the regional diversity of Canada. Each set of recommendations, though similar, reflected some particular concerns of local issues and interests.

National Forum in Saint John, New Brunswick January 9-10, 1999

Recommendations on Policy Options involving Civil Society



1. Canada should consult with NGOs both in Canada and at the UN, through the NGO Working Group of the Security Council. NGOs should have a role in monitoring political situations and the effectiveness of UN missions on the ground.
2. Clarify ambiguities between self-determination and state sovereignty within international law, so as to strengthen the role of the World Court with regards to the legality of internal conflicts.
3. Canada is encouraged to promote greater transparency of Security Council decision-making.
4. Canada should encourage reconsideration of the implications of economic sanctions. Human Security must be given equal weight with economic and military security within Security Council decisions.
5. The Presidency of the Security Council should have a permanent staff to facilitate the workload of such a position. A vice-presidency should also be created to offer leadership training for upcoming Presidents.
6. Canada should adopt a coalition-building approach to support its position on the Security Council and encourage the use of diplomatic persuasion as a means for continuing the humanitarian resolution of such issues as the land mine problem.
7. Canada should remind the Security Council members of their role and responsibilities to adhere to the principles of the UN Charter and acknowledge that not all foreign policies should support invasion.
8. Canada should compile a list of short-term priority changes which are possible without resorting to the revision of the Security Council charter.
9. A long-term change that Canada should bring to the Security Council is an international small arms registry.

Recommendations on Peacekeeping Issues and Policy Options

1. In light of the variance and complexity of peacekeeping missions, Canada should continue to support and improve its peacekeeping training. It should also help promote the formation of specialized peacekeeping forces to coincide with the promotion of human integrity in Security Council decisions.
2. Canada should ensure peacekeeping is conducted in as cost-effective and efficient way as possible, including the appropriate and sufficient equipping, training and resources for our personnel.