

# Preface

This Fast Talk Team report draws upon the findings of an expert consultative process conducted by the Human Security Research and Outreach Program, supported by the Human Security Policy Division (GHS) of the Department of Foreign Affairs and International Trade (DFAIT). The Fast Talk Team concept was developed to provide DFAIT with a timely and flexible means to access high quality policy-relevant research with the objective of:

- generating perspectives on new or emerging issues;
- refreshing thinking on existing issues; or
- enhancing the effectiveness of conferences and workshops by developing a pre-conference dialogue which helps to frame issues, focus discussion, and build expert consensus.

Fast Talk Teams bring together officials seeking policy development input with prominent Canadian and international experts through a three-stage consultation process that can be completed in a timeframe as short as 1-2 weeks. First, 4-6 experts are identified and asked to provide short 3-5 page written responses by e-mail to specific policy questions developed by DFAIT officials. Secondly, the officials and experts review the responses and participate in a 2-3 hour conference call to discuss them. Finally, a report summarizing the key findings of the written submissions and the conference call discussion is provided to all Fast Talk Team members for final comment and then circulated to officials.

The purpose of Fast Talk Teams is to generate policy-relevant research. They do not attempt to establish new policies for DFAIT or the Government of Canada. Thus, the views and positions provided by this paper are solely those of the contributors to this research project and are not intended to reflect the views and positions of DFAIT or the Government of Canada.

The Human Security Policy Division would like to thank the Fast Talk Team leader, Maciek Hawrylak, DFAIT colleagues, and the expert participants for their contributions to this Fast Talk Team effort.