



Defining a Clearer Policy for Africa

Forum participants were in general agreement that Canada should have a clearer focus for foreign policy related to Africa. In order to achieve this, further resources (both financial and other) need to be allocated towards Africa. On the political level, some suggested, Canada should establish a Secretary of State exclusively for Africa. In addition, two tools were proposed to assist policy makers in conceptualizing a more coherent Africa policy: creating a framework that builds on previous foreign policy successes; and determining policy based on a priority list of key elements of development.

Peace and Security as a Precondition for Development

Rejecting a military only concept of security, most Forum participants affirmed the view that Canada should continue to pursue Human Security. To this end, Canada must concentrate on the resolution of violent conflict to build a minimum base of security and stability. Such stability was identified as a precondition for investment. In keeping with this Human Security approach, participants

said Canada's current commitment to halt the small arms trade and implement the ban on anti-personnel landmines should be major areas of focus at the upcoming Kananaskis G8 summit. Canada's promotion of Human Security should also address the recruitment of children into military forces.

Though Forum recommendations focussing on Human Security and conflict prevention were key, participants did not identify specific proposals for conflict resolution. In addition, some recommended the achievement of peace and security through more traditional means. According to these prescriptions, Canada should take on a prominent role in supporting regional and subregional efforts to develop an African military Rapid Reaction Force. Others noted that Canada should support a stronger and better-funded continental African military security pact.

Making Better Use of Aid

Discussions on aid architecture included a near unanimous call for Canada to raise Official Development Assistance (ODA) to meet the international target of 0.7 percent of GDP. Participants presented differing perspectives

If there is any region in the world that justifies a more coherent and institutionalized approach to human security, it is Africa. While traditional military threats continue, an exclusive focus on this dimension provides a limited understanding of the sources of insecurity in the contemporary period...Ultimately the solutions to African security problems will have to come from within the continent itself, however, through a more constructive engagement that balances ethical solidarity with self-interest. This is necessary to facilitate the transition to a more durable and sustainable peace.

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(Vancouver, February 25, 2002)**