

NEXT STEPS/RECOMMENDATIONS

1. *The future of UN peacekeeping is being jeopardized by the official assumption, here and abroad, that the UN is not a priority Organization and that other organizations can better manage its tasks. This trend is short-sighted, risky and it does not reflect the preference of most Canadians.*

The Canadian Government has a significant stake in correcting this trend, particularly in the lead departments of Foreign Affairs and National Defence. There is a need for policy that demonstrates unequivocal support of the UN. There is also a need for tangible contributions to UN peace operations. Canada's policy and contributions should reflect its commitment to strengthening the only legitimate, universal Organization dedicated to maintaining peace and security, as well as promoting sustainable development, disarmament and human rights.
2. *Given the increasing reluctance of some Northern member states to contribute to UN peace operations, interested parties, institutes and NGOs should renew partnerships to encourage political commitments and appropriate contributions. A concerted effort will be needed to inform publics, politicians, parliaments and the media of the implications due to the current 'commitment-capacity gap' and the primacy of the UN in peace operations.*
3. *The UN Secretariat has made considerable progress in implementing many of the Brahimi Report's recommendations. However, without further support from the Member States it will be very difficult to achieve response times of 30 days for a traditional operation and 90 days for a complex operation. Further attention and support must be devoted to the development of partnerships for additional coherent brigade-size groups.*
4. *It is time to revitalize efforts to enhance UN rapid deployment. As affluent member states tend to be unique in having this capacity, they should be encouraged to designate, earmark and train brigade groups for rapid deployment to diverse UN peace operations, including those mandated to protect civilians. Clearly, all member states need to assign a higher priority to UN operations and to initiate complementary national defence reforms. Another useful step would be to provide support for the new 'Rapid Deployment Level' of the UN Standby Arrangements System.*
5. *There is an urgent need for an in-depth detailed study of doctrine, tactics and training for the protection of civilians in armed conflict. This study should commission papers to recognized experts and solicit the assistance of doctrine writers in national defence establishments. The Responsibility to Protect provided much-needed political doctrine, but there is little material on developing appropriate military guidelines. As this gap endangers practitioners and civilians, it should be addressed as a priority.*