



3. There should be collaboration, flexibility and devolution of authority in peacebuilding initiatives from the Government to peacebuilding organizations in partnership with local grassroots organizations and private interests.
4. The Canadian government should actively support efforts within the United Nations for the formation and implementation of an international "White Helmets" force. Canadian international NGOs, universities and other stakeholders should be involved in the development of Canadian policy on the shape, direction and composition of this force.
5. To complement the formulation of government foreign policy on an international "White Helmets" force, a study should be conducted to identify the capacities of Canadian NGOs to assist in future UN White Helmets' support of free elections, media monitoring, judicial reform and the protection and enshrinement of human rights.
6. Peacebuilders on the ground should have greater freedom/flexibility to design and implement their projects with local partners.

Additional Policy Options Victoria

Several *inter-related operational policy issues that need to be addressed in order for Canada to effectively meet the policy goal:*

- what should be the respective roles of the various civil society organizations and sectors involved in peacebuilding: government departments; military; NGOs, and among them, what should be the role of operational humanitarian aid agencies versus groups oriented around human rights and democratic development) and the private sector. It is

particularly important to examine the potential role of the private sector in peacebuilding;

- how can Canada's peacebuilding efforts best be coordinated, facilitated and managed to maximize an effective contribution to international peacebuilding? How coordinated/focused should this be and how institutionalized should this coordination be;
- how can we build a stronger environment (public understanding and support and ensure adequate resources and funding) for Canadian efforts in peacebuilding. Appropriate funding is essential for peacebuilding to be effective.

Creating a Peacebuilding Coordination Body or Centre: The Victoria report on the Forum outlines a peacebuilding mechanism that was developed during the Forum in Victoria. Several key points were emphasized in this discussion:

- a peacebuilding mechanism should include policy development and a decision-making procedure for allocating resources;
- a coordination body would bring together government officials (DFAIT, CIDA, DND, Justice, Environment etc.) private sector, non-profit, First Nations and Academics.

The role of this organization would be to:

- coordinate policy, planning and implementation of Canada's peacebuilding activities;
- identify and maintain a list of Canadian experts in the various areas associated with peacebuilding who would be available for activities such as facilitating the training of individuals involved in peacebuilding activities in skills associated with conflict management and reconstruction; and,
- promote greater public awareness of these activities by sponsoring conferences, seminars and other educational activities.