



Canadian Foreign Policy and International Communications

Toronto Report

Group 3: Reconstruction - Discussion Summary

What strengths do Canadians bring to peacebuilding

- cultural sensitivity;
- Canada's work with indigenous people and governance;
- known for environmental legislation and policies - seen as progressive;
- participation of Canadian public in policy development;
- networks and coalitions have assisted in policy making;
- respect for diversity; take risks; visionary in approach;
- human resources are very important;
- Canada is not seen as a major power.

How can we bring more coherence and coordination to reconstruction activities.

1. Create a Coordination Mechanism

This mechanism would track the activities of government and NGOs. Canadian policy-makers would access this information and integrate it into their work. The Model would be multi-sector including government, private sector, public, NGOs, and would structurally link objectives and activities of sectors. The Model would have a built-in capacity for civil society to participate.

The Model needs the coordination of the Department of Foreign Affairs and International Trade, Defence, CIDA, Canadian NGOs, international NGOs, international agencies (UN). The Model would require adequate funding for the expertise to build an infrastructure. Finally, the Model would need skilled and knowledgeable people to set a mechanism in place - research other models [Nordem]:

- creation of a grid which gives a description of activities over a period of time - in order to track the activities of government, NGOs and others;
- the Coordination Model needs to agree on Canadian values, respect political statements of the state, work at the grass roots for quick results, and collect, correlate and make available information about people/activities involved in peacebuilding;
- the Model would support collaborative programmes rather than individual ones.

2. Create a Resource Reserve

This reserve would include government representatives, NGOs, academics, private sector, expert citizens (ie. engineers) with skills, knowledge and experience who would be available for peacebuilding activities:

- key to peacebuilding is to open up foreign affairs and make it more accessible to citizens and therefore make policy development and operations more democratic and open to public debate. This will lead to increased support;
- increase opportunities for skill development of NGO agencies and expert citizens (training and education on political and cultural situations).

What level of education/training is required to maintain the delivery of reconstruction services.

- revisit past research, models and activities on reconstruction by Canada - what lessons can be learned. Research models of coordination and peacebuilding in other countries;
- teams of people drawn from multi-sectors would be trained and educated on the political and cultural situation of the country where reconstruction is taking place;