

CIVIL-MILITARY COOPERATION (CIMIC): A FOREIGN AND DEFENCE POLICY TOOL

INTRODUCTION

As advocated by the Department of Foreign Affairs and International Trade (DFAIT), within the larger context of foreign policy resides the Human Security Agenda. As the then Minister of Foreign Affairs stated, "Canada's human security agenda responds to new global realities. Its goal is to ensure that people can live in freedom from fear."¹ In an effort to make the concept a reality, within the overall context of the Human Security Agenda, a key component is Canada's involvement in peace support operations (see Figure 1).

Figure 1: Human Security Agenda



Source: DFAIT

Both Non-Governmental Organizations (NGOs) and military organizations had already recognized this need for decades, both had previously during peacekeeping and peace support operations become involved in the processes of post-conflict reconstruction and the rehabilitation of failed states. Also, an awareness arose of the interdependence between civilian and military actors in the peace process. By the nature of their respective cultures, in the peacekeeping milieu, the military became involved on a more ad-hoc basis, while the NGOs were more structured and