

3. At the UN Canada could assist in building an adequate peacekeeping force in Afghanistan, once the U.S.A. decides to withdraw. On the one hand, the peacekeeping force should not include troops of countries immediately neighbouring Afghanistan (or countries that are neighbours of these neighbours, or that have vested interests in Afghanistan's affairs). On the other hand, peacekeepers should be predominantly Muslim (drawing on troops from Indonesia, Egypt, Jordan, etc.).
4. The new provisional government will require an army. Canada could work toward building a mechanism whereby soldiers from the various warring factions are hired by the new administration to create a formal national army.
5. Canada could assist in efforts to build a regional coalition of neutral partners to help Afghanistan.
6. Canada could assist in building political capacity in Afghanistan, drawing on the existent and nascent civil society.
7. Canada as a "middle power" could promote issue-oriented cooperation in the region. Issues could include: counter-terrorism, economic development/trade, and technology.
8. Canada could promote democratic governance in Afghanistan. For instance, drawing on traditional governing structures, Canada could assist in building strong institutions. The Canadian experience with pluralism and good governance may also be transferable. These efforts could be particularly effective at the local/community level rather than at the national level, at least initially. "There is no point in having a Ministry of Education if there are no schools."
9. Recognising the link between poor social and economic conditions and the rise of fundamental Islamic groups and terrorists, Canada could address the issues of poverty and lack of education in Afghanistan and the region.
10. Using existing legal mechanisms (including international treaties signed by previous Afghan governments) Canada could help ensure the equal participation of women in Afghan political, social, economic and cultural life.
11. Canada could push to open a humanitarian corridor into Afghanistan to respond to the massive humanitarian crises faced by many Afghan refugees. Resources could also be committed to alleviating the horrible conditions in existing refugee camps for Afghan people in Pakistan and Iran.