

We have a short window, of perhaps 1 year to 18 months, within which either peace will be solidified or violence erupt. Within this timeframe several basic problems must be resolved or demonstrate significant progress. The peace agreements have demanding timelines with international pressures (such as the momentum towards hemispheric economic integration) and with the Guatemalan presidential elections scheduled for the year 2000, the electoral campaign is already underway. We need to look at how Canada can gear up to action - in a short timespan. We must step back to assess the long-term impact of our actions and interventions. While focusing on the short-term, we must take a long-term societal view on Guatemala, separate ourselves a bit from the immediate demands of our Guatemalan counterparts and develop a broader perspective. This is our current challenge.