

conflict poses special and complex challenges.

Peacebuilding may involve conflict prevention, conflict resolution, as well as various kinds of post-conflict activities. It focuses on the political and socio-economic context of conflict, rather than on the military or humanitarian aspects. It seeks to address this challenge by finding means to institutionalize the peaceful resolution of conflicts. External support for peacebuilding should supplement, not substitute, local efforts to achieve a sustainable peace.

A long-standing democratic tradition, humanitarian values, leadership in human rights and historic commitment to peacekeeping operations places Canada in a strong position to respond to international peacebuilding needs. Many Canadian diplomatic and development assistance activities have already taken on the challenge of peacebuilding. The Canadian Peacebuilding Initiative will further mobilize Canadian expertise and experience to meet this new challenge.

## **B. THE CANADIAN PEACEBUILDING INITIATIVE**

The Canadian Peacebuilding Initiative was announced by the Minister of Foreign Affairs, The Hon. Lloyd Axworthy, on October 30, 1996. Two objectives of equal importance underpin the Canadian Peacebuilding Initiative: **to assist countries in conflict in their efforts towards peace and stability, and to promote Canadian peacebuilding capacity and Canadian participation in international peacebuilding initiatives.** These objectives are interactive and interdependent.

### **Strategic Outlook**

Canada will mobilize its expertise and resources systematically to respond to peacebuilding priorities, in countries at risk of, or emerging from, violent internal conflict. An integrated approach will bring together concerned Government departments, academia and the NGO community. Peacebuilding will be developed as a foreign policy priority within DFAIT programmes while peacebuilding activities will continue to be mainstreamed into regular CIDA programming as much as possible in order to develop a sustainable approach to peacebuilding. Other governmental priorities, such as the Canadian International Information Strategy and the protection of children, will be taken into account when developing Peacebuilding interventions. In addition, emphasis will be placed on integrating lessons learned from past peacebuilding experience into the Canadian approach to peacebuilding.

Not only will Canada take a coherent approach to our own peacebuilding programmes, we will work to achieve coherence in the peacebuilding responses of the international community, through coordination with other donors, with the United Nations, and with regional organizations.

More specifically, the strategic approach to the Canadian Peacebuilding Initiative is composed of three main elements--preparedness, partnership and implementation.