

## REPORT FROM THE ROUNDTABLE: JUDGES AND PEACE OPERATIONS

March 9, 2001

Ottawa

*On March 9, 2001, the Canadian Centre for Foreign Policy Development, in partnership with the Honourable Madam Justice Ellen Macdonald, brought together judges, government officials, and NGOs to address the involvement of judges in peace operations. The roundtable built on an earlier, broader discussion about "Expert Deployment to International Peace Operations" (September 12, 2000) and on the work of Justice Macdonald in promoting a more systematic international involvement of Canadian judges. Participants included the Honourable Justices Peter Howden and Derek Guthrie, the Honourable Judge Ross Goodwin, Adèle Bertiaume (Department of Justice), Diane Elkas (Commission for Federal Judicial Affairs), Debbie Bernard (CANADEM) and Patrick Ulrich (Regional Security and Peacekeeping Division, DFAIT). Steven Lee (Canadian Centre for Foreign Policy Development) chaired the meeting.*

The Roundtable report is divided into three sections:

1. **Context and Challenges** - looks at why Canadian judges should become more involved abroad and outlines main challenges.
2. **Creating a Framework** - outlines what is required to systematise the involvement of Canadian judges abroad.
3. **Next Steps** - identifies steps necessary for the initiative to take off.

### 1. Context and Challenges

During the Roundtable on *Expert Deployment to International Peace Operations* (September 12, 2000), participants endorsed the idea that justice is one area where Canadian expertise could be useful to peace operations. The report states :

There is a broad agreement that (re)establishing the rule of law is a key element of peacebuilding. Building fair and functional judicial and legal structures, promoting confidence in how justice is administered, and so on, are considered key to building democracies. Canadians are in a position to help since their judicial and legal systems are highly regarded abroad. Moreover, Canadians are perceived as modest and sensitive to diverse cultural and socio-economic contexts.<sup>1</sup>

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<sup>1</sup>The Canadian Centre for Foreign Policy Development, *Expert Deployment to International Peace Operations* (Ottawa: CCFPD, 2000), 1006.12E.