

The Canadian Centre for International Studies and Cooperation (CECI)

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Organization's mandate/goals:

The Canadian Centre for International Studies and Cooperation was founded in 1958 and incorporated ten years later as a non-profit organization. CECI is one of the largest and most solidly established Canadian NGOs supporting international development. Its membership tallies over one hundred individuals from various backgrounds: international relations, religious congregations, universities, private firms, former participants. CECI's mission is to fight poverty and exclusion. More specifically, it strengthens the development capacity of disadvantaged communities; it supports initiatives for peace, human rights and equity; it mobilizes resources and promotes the exchange of know-how.

CECI has solid project management experience in the developing countries. Its participants in these countries mainly support local development initiatives. CECI's primary Third World partners are non-governmental organizations (NGOs). Its public awareness activities remind Canadians of the needs and expectations of less favoured countries. The range of CECI's development programs has recently been extended beyond the developing world. In 1999, it started to work in Southeastern Europe (Balkans). In 2000, it began to support a disadvantaged community in Northern Quebec, Canada.

Areas of expertise relevant to 2001 UN Conference on Small Arms:

Human and Social Development -- *Building good governance and transparency*

CECI's cooperation programs, carried out with a network of national partners based in some 23 Southern countries, are mainly geared to the various facets of development: economic aspects, human rights and strengthening of civil society, social issues and the environment. Humanitarian aid also has its place. CECI's main development tools are volunteer cooperation, implementation of projects and professional exchange between organizations.

Consultation, Co-operation and Information Exchange -- *Coalition Building*

CECI offers the Canadian public the following activities, instilled with the values of humanism and international solidarity: documentation, publications, initiation of young adults to international cooperation, public sensitization and fundraising for development and humanitarian aid.