

## PREFACE

Environmental issues have grabbed the spotlight of public attention. Paradoxically, in contrast to the doom and gloom scenarios on the nature and extent of environmental degradation, there has been relatively little discussion, in practical policy terms, of what can or should be done to address environmental problems within the context of global security and international governance.

The Canadian Institute for International Peace and Security assembled a wide range of decision makers and experts, on 11 and 12 April, to discuss the nature of climate change, its ecological, social, political and economic consequences, and possible policy responses at regional, national and international levels. The conference was organized by Nancy Gordon, Director of Public Programmes at the Institute, and Fen Osler Hampson, a Research Associate. They were ably assisted by Margaret Bourgeault, Jill Tansley and Samantha Hayward. This report presents an overview of the major issues addressed during the conference. It is organized by theme, rather than in the chronological sequence of events. Appendix II contains the programme and Appendix III a list of conference participants.

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