

## Objective

The aim of the study is to make practical proposals to enhance the UN's rapid reaction capability in the field of peace operations.

## Scope

The Canadian study will analyse the problem of rapid reaction capability from the perspective of the UN system as a whole. The functions that need to be performed at the political, strategic, operational and tactical levels will be identified. A key component of this analysis will be a clear description of the crucial interrelationships among these levels, based on the premise that deficiencies and inadequacies in any one sphere directly influence success or failure throughout the system. For example, the ready availability of an operational element remains dependent upon both the generation of political will, and adequate ongoing strategic planning and direction for its effectiveness.

The focus of the study will be at the operational and tactical levels. The greatest challenges lie here, given the virtually complete ad hoc nature of mounting today's peace operations and the slow, inefficient assembly of disparate tactical units in the theatre of operations. Even given adequate warning and the existence of strategic plans to react, there is a virtual vacuum at the operational level in the UN system. At present, there is no standing headquarters that is capable of organizing, integrating and directing forces based on common doctrine and standards.

In keeping with the requirement to make practical recommendations that respond to today's needs, as well as the achievement of potential advances in the future, the study will develop proposals for the short, medium and long terms. In this context, the study of the concept of a UN standing force will involve both its feasibility and *modus operandi* once established over the long term, as well as the relationship between short- and medium-term projects and their possible cumulative contributions to its ultimate creation.

Finally, the study will look at the impact of a standing force on the activities of regional organizations and their capabilities in this area. Regional actors and organizations should have a high motivation to react quickly to emerging crises in their own regions. Similarly, in some important respects at least, they should be inherently more capable of moving quickly into a theatre of operations. The comparative advantages of operating at a global or regional level will be addressed, and proposals will be developed to achieve a balanced effort in accordance with