

many participants as it had hoped. The proceedings presented in the pages which follow will allow the reader to judge of the intensity of the discussions that took place and of the usefulness of the suggestions that were made.

At the beginning of the meeting, student-participants were asked whether they had ever heard, before receiving an invitation to participate in the consultative forum, about Canada's initiatives in the context of international peacebuilding efforts. At least two thirds of them answered by the negative. Many of them nevertheless prepared themselves for the meeting and arrived with their own suggestions and ideas for discussion. By the end of the meeting, it was probably fair to say that all participants had not only developed a new appreciation for the complexity of the issues, but had also come to a better understanding of the importance of Canada's efforts in this area.

The usefulness of the consultation meeting should not, however, be reduced to its value as a means to better explained Canada's current policies and initiatives in the area of peacekeeping and peacebuilding. Participants also arrived at a number of conclusions and observations which may be of assistance in further developing our national policies in these areas. Although participants were not, as such, asked to formally enumerate all of their recommendations, there were a number of themes which emerged from the discussions around which there seem to be a strong consensus. These were the following:

- Canada ought to intensify its participation in post-conflict peacebuilding initiatives, but not at the expense of other international social development initiatives which may play a role in preventing conflicts.
- Greater efforts should be devoted to making Canadians, and in particular young Canadians, better aware of Canada's peacebuilding initiatives.
- More discussion needs to take place, in Canada, on ways and means by which Canadian youth and young professionals can make their full contribution to peacebuilding initiatives.
- It is necessary to develop models and programs which involve young Canadians in concrete peacebuilding projects, including projects in the area of criminal justice.
- Canada's youth can benefit and learn from new experiences in the area of international peacebuilding and they are eager to participate in ongoing initiatives.
- The coordination mechanisms established by the Canadian Government, as part of its overall peacebuilding initiative, should be reviewed to ensure