

As the most advanced mechanism for rapid deployment to UN peace operations, SHIRBRIG appears to have considerable potential to conduct operations that protect civilians. But one participant cautioned that the SHIRBRIG's potential still depends on securing political agreement among the participating member states to ensure the prior preparation of their military units for new missions. This was assumed to be feasible, but only if a concerted effort was made. A Co-Chair concurred that Canada had a unique opportunity as the Chair and President of the SHIRBRIG and that this opportunity should not be squandered.

While many would concede the risk in being too ambitious, too early, there may be also be a risk in underestimating the extent of support for protection of civilians, shared by other SHIRBRIG members and UN officials. With a commitment to protection of civilians, one participant claimed the SHIRBRIG member states could attract additional participants.

The initiative to enhance UN rapid deployment, the SHIRBRIG, *The Brahimi Report* and *The Responsibility to Protect* were primarily intended to prevent mass murder in any future Rwandas, Srebrenicas, Sierra Leones or East Timors. This workshop was organized to foster a dialogue on the future of peacekeeping that would link these complementary priorities, help to identify next steps and, hopefully, avoid the risks of 'too-little', 'too-late'.

During the extensive discussion following each presentation, a wide variety of questions and comments were raised. For the sake of clarity, these have been grouped into nine themes with corresponding recommendations: