

Other

Organizers and participants at some of the Forum meetings examined other issues relative to their particular regional interests. In the interest of consistency and readability, these issues have been integrated under *Security and Stability, Refugees, Trade and Human Resource Development and Capacity-building*.

Security and Stability

Participants noted that although no nation would overtly deny the virtues of moderation, tolerance and respect for the rule of law, Canada has been particularly successful so far in reflecting those values. While Canada does not have a monopoly on ethics and values, a national commitment to such values (landmines ban, weapons non-proliferation) sets an example, encourages others, and provides a publicly-stated standard upon which to base official Canadian responses to unsavory actions by less democratic members in the Asia-Pacific community.

Given the present foreign policy priorities of security, prosperity and justice, participants agreed that it is in Canada's interest that Asia-Pacific enjoys stability and security, with the caveats that security and stability are not isolated ends in themselves. They must not be achieved at the cost of human security i.e. fundamental human rights or the health of the people and the environment.

Policy Options

1. *Canada should ensure that Canadian foreign policy exploits fully its success in advancing multilateral diplomacy and its bilingual and multicultural heritage to contribute to the common good of the Asia-Pacific community.*
2. *Canada should increase efforts at building military-civilian partnerships here and abroad.*
3. *Canada should ensure that Canadian foreign policy clearly expresses Canada's perception of its national values, so that the basis of this nation's stance on controversial political events is clearly understood by all. "Moderation, tolerance and respect for the rule of law" is a good formula and should be acceptable to Canadian political culture, regardless of the government in power. Canada should continue to speak out against unacceptable acts committed in the Asia-Pacific region.*
5. *Focus, at any given time on any particular area or issue is inevitable. Nonetheless, international affairs are intrinsically unpredictable. Therefore, Canada should ensure that attention does not become so focussed on one area or issue, that critical and significant events elsewhere create an unexpected crisis for which Canada is neither equipped nor prepared to address.*