

Strengthening Multilateral Mechanisms for Peacebuilding

Multilateral partnerships can extend the reach of peacebuilding efforts and increase their effectiveness. External actors will have a minimal impact on peace unless efforts are co-ordinated with local actors, other donors, UN institutions and the neighbouring states of countries in conflict. The UN is the linchpin of global peace and security. It must be fully supported if it is to maintain its ability to play this role.

This is the reason why we have supported initiatives such as the establishment of the UN Trust Fund for Preventive Action. Canada co-sponsored a high level seminar on how to improve the effectiveness of Special Representatives of the Secretary-General and sponsored another seminar that brought together senior officials from the United Nations and many regional organizations to examine the challenge of strengthening co-operative approaches to conflict prevention. We have also provided support for the UN Lessons Learned Unit to foster the development of guidelines for demilitarization, demobilization

and reintegration exercises. In addition, Canada has created CANADEM, a stand-by roster of experts in various peacebuilding skills who are available on short notice to serve on human rights field missions and in peace support operations around the world.

Co-ordinating Peace Support Operations

In a world where crises evolve quickly, the UN cannot meet its mandate without the capacity to respond rapidly and to ensure that all of the relevant players are at the table. The military, civilian police, international humanitarian agencies and peacebuilding experts need to be present at the outset. The need for integrated planning and timely deployment of a multidisciplinary core mission is the driving force behind the Rapidly Deployable Mission Headquarters (RDMHQ), an initiative strongly supported by Canada.

Civilian police operations (Civpol) are a key component of successful peace support operations and contribute to



CIDA Photo: Roger LeMoine. UNTAC troops.

institution building. Civilian police monitor local police forces, train a civilian police force to operate within international human rights norms and oversee the physical security and human rights of the most vulnerable. Civpol operations foster an environment free from intimidation during elections; monitor the disarming and demobilization of security forces; and monitor human rights. Canada participates in more civilian police operations than any other UN member. As a reflection of this commitment, Canada has established a fund — the Civilian Police Arrangement — to facilitate the rapid deployment of up to 50 police officers to multilateral peacekeeping missions.