

the UN. Rather than condemn the report for what it does not do, others argued the necessity of implementing the few recommendations that have not, as yet, been tackled. One idea raised in the session was to bring in outside groups, such as non-governmental organizations (NGOs) to help promote the remaining agenda and overcome the lack of political will for further reforms.

Several panelists challenged the perception that the Brahimi report dealt primarily with traditional peacekeeping. They noted that the emphasis from the start had been on robust operations and ensuring sufficient military capacity to deter and, if necessary, take action to prevent further atrocities.

It was the opinion of one participant that implementation of the Brahimi recommendations had exceeded earlier expectations and that having accomplished many of the objectives demanded by member states, there should be a corresponding increase in national contributions. Yet repeatedly, even resolutions of the UN Security Council warned of a commitment-capability gap, as numerous member states continued to deny the UN sufficient personnel, mechanisms and funding. Aside from shifting the heavy burden onto developing countries, this generated concerns about an increasingly unrepresentative two-tiered system that is far too selective and slow. In its own words, the Brahimi Report had focused on “the minimum threshold of change” necessary.

Efforts to Enhance Rapid Deployment to UN Peace Operations

Summary:

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According to Dr. Langille, improving UN rapid deployment is proving to be a slow process. Routine delays of four to six months had become the norm by 1997. In an emergency situation, delays of this length frequently entailed serious consequences for civilians. If the objective is to protect, he emphasized that the UN must get to the mission quickly with a credible presence so there is far less likelihood of people being murdered on a large scale or mass ethnic cleansing.