

ANNEX

CANADIAN PEACEBUILDING EXPERIENCE

In their respective ways, the Department of Foreign Affairs and International Trade (DFAIT) and the Canadian International Development Agency (CIDA) each contribute towards the promotion of peace in conflict countries. While the two departments use different instruments and approaches to support the building of peace, their combined efforts are recognized as complementary and mutually reinforcing. Other government departments, such as Justice Canada, Elections Canada, and the RCMP, are involved in the planning and delivery of peacebuilding programmes.

In its management of Canadian bilateral and regional political relations with countries entering or emerging from conflict, DFAIT exercises preventive diplomacy and undertakes initiatives designed to strengthen a political solution to disputes, governmental crises and situations of acute societal instability. DFAIT also manages Canada's participation in the multilateral political fora that coordinate international peacemaking, peacekeeping and peacebuilding efforts. In certain instances, DFAIT has initiated or led a regional or international peacebuilding effort. Through the Centre for Foreign Policy Development, the Department also sponsors public involvement in the peacebuilding policy-making process. DFAIT and CIDA both consult on a regular basis with Canadian civil society groups on issues related to peacebuilding practices, lessons and priorities.

In the area of peacebuilding, CIDA's overall goal is to support the emergence of participatory and pluralistic societies, with a well-functioning and responsible government administration acting under the rule of law and respect for human rights. CIDA works in partnership with developing countries to strengthen the long-term foundations of peace, human security and sustainable development, such as a strong civil society, representative governance systems, economic opportunity, and the participation of women in the development process. These efforts are needed to build a tradition of conflict avoidance and effective institutions of conflict resolution in societies undergoing rapid economic and social change. The reduction of poverty and disparity, which are deep-rooted causes of conflict and instability, particularly in multi-ethnic countries with exclusionary habits of governance, also requires long-term efforts directed towards policy reform and capacity building.