

should be emphasised and help build a favourable public perception, which most participants saw as key to getting the initiative off the ground. Support by the government, especially the Department of Justice, will also be crucial.

Canadian judges have been involved in peace operations in the past on an ad hoc basis. Stephen Bierbrier (Department of Justice) said that the international component of the work of the Department of Justice has evolved significantly in the recent past. The projects specifically involving judges address issues including: justice reform, minority issues in justice and the integrity of public sector. Legal experts in Eastern Europe, for instance, are eager to speak to judges. With a vision and enough political will, there is a potential to transform the ad hoc approach into a coherent framework, he said. The CFJA has also been involved in sending judges abroad, including Russia, Ukraine, and Ethiopia. A request from a foreign government is usually submitted to either a Canadian Embassy abroad or to CIDA directly. CIDA then approaches the CFJA to act as the executing agency. A growing number of Canadian judges are expressing interest in participating in CFJA projects and an informal roster has been developed as a result. CANADEM has had requests for judges as well. A recent demand came from the UN.

A unified roster of judges should be developed and, perhaps, administered by the CFJA. Judges could be notified of its existence and encouraged to sign-up either through the Judicial Council or through the Chief Justices. The roster should include retired and sitting judges, it should be filed by field of interest and contain relevant personal information, such as, the knowledge of languages and previous working experience abroad. The CFJA-developed application form could be improved to meet these requirements.

A point was made that judges do not always have to be deployed to contribute. Participating in international conferences and developing seminar curricula can have impact and judges do not need apply for judicial study leave or time off. The same applies to interactions with foreign judges, brought to Canada through international exchanges.

### **3. Next Steps**

1. To inform and contextualise the initiative, an overview of past and present involvement of judges in peace operations and projects should be undertaken. Moreover, existing (deployment) practices should be reviewed, starting with those of the Department of Justice, the CFJA and CANADEM. The Canadian Centre for Foreign Policy Development could be approached to commission such work as a follow-up.
2. A working group, led by Justice Macdonald, should be formed to keep the initiative moving forward.
3. The “judges in peace operations” concept should be perfected and used to “sell” the initiative. A clear concept will help identify needs and interests. One could argue, for instance, that the work of Canadian judges abroad would contribute to a more