

**Mandate:** This is a reflection or manifestation of international will. A mission's mandate is a political rather than a military product in that it reflects political rather than military reality. A key problem with this element of peacekeeping operations is that mandates are normally only understood by those who draft them. As such, mandates are often misunderstood or misinterpreted on the ground.

**Forces:** Adequate military personal and equipment will only be supplied to a conflict zone if the international will exists to make it politically viable. This often results in the inadequate deployment of military personnel.

**Rapid Deployment:** If a sufficiently strong and well-equipped force can be deployed within an appropriate amount of time, conflict and killing can be halted.

**Nation Building:** It is much more expensive, time consuming and complicated to build rather than destroy. It is therefore necessary to foster international will such that countries remain engaged until the mechanisms of good government have been established and integrated. If this task is avoided, the risk of renewed conflict remains.

### Discussion

The ensuing discussion on this topic focused largely on three themes: (1) the disengagement of the North, especially with regard to missions in Africa; (2) perceptions and misperceptions regarding Chapter 7 missions and (3) the barriers to protection of civilians during UN missions.

First, it was generally agreed that there are numerous factors accounting for Northern disengagement from UN peacekeeping. Several problems stemmed from insufficient political will, limited funding and other institutional preferences. Moreover, there are competing priorities amidst limited resources. Increasingly, Northern member states were overstretched with commitments to other organizations. One participant claimed that some Western defence establishments have a strong NATO bias and a preference for "big-league, big budget, advanced technology, war-fighting roles". Others pointed out that there is a misperception that other institutions, such as the EU and NATO, are better able to manage robust operations. Alternatively, a concern was expressed that countries, which participate in overseas missions, should be commended regardless of whose auspices the operation is under.