



Post-Conflict Reconstruction

Recommendations

Participants recommended that a better understanding of links between the "civil" dimension of reconstruction operations and the resources of Canadian civil society should be a priority for policy-makers. Increased public awareness should also be a priority.

Participants also felt that while Canadians may prefer to be involved in all peacekeeping operations, a policy of total engagement is neither tenable nor desirable. Instead, Canada should encourage the trend towards an international "division of labour" in reconstruction operations.

Policy-makers and political leaders need to carefully weigh the demands of crises against Canada's capacity for assistance.

Policy Options

- Lasting stability should be the overriding goal of post-conflict reconstruction. Confidence-building measures and arms control and disarmament should be key components of Canadian reconstruction efforts.
- Similarly, foreign aid should encourage the development of economic self-sufficiency and Canadian foreign aid policy should take into consideration local concepts of growth and development.
- Conversely, the democratic ideals of respect for human rights and free elections should be conceived of as a core component of Canadian reconstruction efforts and promoted regardless of a lack of local democratic traditions.
- The "civil" preoccupation of post-conflict reconstruction may require the deployment of civilians working, in various capacities, within the UN framework. The institution of the "White Helmet" concept could address this need.
- Canada should establish a permanent international registry of peacekeeping specialists who could enhance the ability of the international community to respond to new crisis situations and coordinate reconstruction efforts.