



REPORT FROM THE ROUNDTABLE ON EXPERT DEPLOYMENT TO INTERNATIONAL PEACE OPERATIONS

September 12, 2000
Ottawa

On September 12, 2000, the Canadian Centre for Foreign Policy Development brought together NGOs, government officials, experts, and professionals to explore how to broaden the range of resources and professional expertise involved in peace-support operations. The roundtable focussed particularly on three sectors: justice, public administration and child protection. Participants included Justice Ellen Macdonald (Ontario Superior Court), Paul Larose-Edwards (CANADEM), Marianne Wightman (Deployment for UNMIK), Susan Brown (CIDA), and Peter Oldham (Deputy Director, Regional Security and Peacekeeping Division, DFAIT).

I. Summary of Key Recommendations

Key issues and recommendations from the day-long roundtable:

1. In order to facilitate the involvement in peace-support operations and peacebuilding of Canadian judges (and the judicial/legal community in general), public servants, and other Canadians, systemic barriers to their participation should be examined. Participants were especially concerned about an age limit imposed by the UN, barring people over 63 years of age from participating in peace-support operations. Some recommended that immediate steps should be taken by the Canadian government to address this issue.
2. An enabling environment for civil servants (and others) wishing to contribute to Canadian peace-support operations should be created. Outreach will be important to foster willingness to contribute for those inside and outside the government.
3. There are vast resources in Canada from which to develop rosters of child protection experts for peace-support operations. Other possible areas of Canadian expertise could include disarmament, demobilisation, and re-integration and re-training of ex-combatants. Canada could also develop a niche in building capacity before elections. Some pointed out that rather than electoral monitoring, which, in their opinion, rarely accomplishes much in the longer-run, Canada could facilitate power sharing negotiations between conflicting parties standing for election.
4. Issues and recommendations related to the overall governance of peace-support operations were discussed at length, including:
 - Developing rosters
 - Management of candidates at home