

Canadians and Human Security

THE NATIONAL FORUM GIVES CANADIANS A VOICE

Human security

The nationwide consultations generated specific, concrete ideas on how Canada and the United Nations could address human security issues. Meeting in Saint John (New Brunswick), Montréal and Vancouver in January 1999, National Forum participants recommended that the UN:

- examine the impact of sanctions on civilians;
- do more work on landmines and small arms; and
- give more attention to international crime, crimes against women, the alleviation of poverty, and food and water security.

In addition, advice was provided by the Ottawa Group on Small Arms, which looks at various approaches to small arms challenges, including security, disarmament, development, gun control, policing, health and human rights. The Group's work is the subject of an hour-long program produced in September 2000 by Knowledge Network, British Columbia's public educational television broadcaster (video available from CCFPD).

For four years, Canadians have contributed to the development of Canada's human security policies in partnership with the Canadian Centre for Foreign Policy Development (CCFPD). The Centre organized two major events that engaged hundreds of people across Canada: the 1999 National Forum on Canada and the UN Security Council, and the 2000 National Forum for Youth on War-Affected Children.

The Security Council

The 1999 National Forum participants also recommended that Canada push for change at the UN Security Council, particularly:

- greater Security Council transparency (open meetings and reports to the General Assembly);
- NGO participation in Security Council work; and
- better early warning of conflicts and increased peacekeeping capacity.

Since then, the Security Council has reviewed sanctions and addressed a wide range of human security issues. Further, Canada has led open Security Council meetings and NGO consultations.



Canadian Centre
For Foreign Policy
Development

War-affected children

Last summer, in preparation for the September 2000 Winnipeg International Conference on War-Affected Children, war-affected and other Canadian youth demanded that attention be given to the problems and needs of war-affected children around the world. Meeting in Halifax, Montréal, Toronto, Winnipeg, Vancouver and Gimli (Manitoba), the National Forum youth drew on their own experience to formulate the following recommendations:

- Take a critical approach to sanctions that harm children, not government leaders.
- Divert funding from war to education.
- Arrest and punish all war criminals.
- Help community organizations in war zones.
- Control gun sales and the arms trade to cut off the supply of small arms to war makers.

These recommendations were included in the Agenda for War-Affected Children, adopted by the Conference. They will be further pursued in international action leading up to the UN General Assembly's Special Session on Children in September 2001. ●—

CCFPD events in 2001

April 30 to May 4

Graduate Student Seminar

Theme: **Canada-U.S. Relations**

May 4

Academic Roundtable

Theme: **Canadian Foreign Policy:
Values? Interests?**



For more information and reports on human security issues, e-mail the Canadian Centre for Foreign Policy Development (info.ccpd@dfait-maeci.gc.ca) or visit the "Publications" section on the CCFPD's Web site (www.cfp-pec.gc.ca/Publications/publ-e.htm). To read the 1999 National Forum Report, visit: www.cfp-pec.gc.ca/NationalForum/nati-e.htm