



Halifax, Quebec, and Victoria

POLICY OPTIONS

General

1. Canada should be involved in peacebuilding and it should be a high priority for the Canadian government and for Canadians. The peacebuilding process is a long-term process; the Canadian government should develop a comprehensive and flexible approach to peacebuilding not only in terms of where to intervene in the world and what types of contributions to make, but also in terms of whom to consult in civil society.
2. The Canadian government should ensure that any peacekeeping/peacebuilding interventions are coherent and strategic and are based on promoting, protecting and reflecting Canadian values, including human rights, rule of law, and multicultural tolerance.
3. The Canadian approach towards peacebuilding should emphasize preventive and sustainable measures. Long-term reconstruction efforts require a sustained investment and should aim to prevent a relapse into conflict.
4. Democratization should be the primary goal of Canadian peacebuilding initiatives. At the centre of this lies the importance of the reconstruction of civil society as a means of fostering indigenous democratic elements. These elements include human rights protection, democratic development and governance, and support in rebuilding criminal justice institutions.
5. Canada brings certain strengths by virtue of its domestic nature. The role Canada has historically played and how it is perceived internationally is a strength that should form the basis of Canada's approach to

peacebuilding. Canadian experience and expertise can strengthen the social/economic sphere, create a political space for civil society to develop, and help democratic development that reflects local values and history.

6. The Canadian government should continue to take a leadership role in international efforts to ban the production and use of landmines. Also, a policy framework should be developed to complement existing Canadian development programming in the areas of landmine victim assistance, clearance and public awareness campaigns.

Capacity Building

1. An inventory of Canadian expertise should be created to enhance communication and coordination among NGOs, government, academics, the private sector, and the general public. Such an inventory could be managed and coordinated through the Internet.

The development of such a network would:

- * facilitate a more consultative peacebuilding process;
- * increase the possibility of a more rounded response in which a number of diverse concerns could be addressed;
- * foster an environment of information sharing;
- * give volunteers access to much needed information while working in the field; and,
- * make more effective use of scarce resources.

2. The Government should produce a "confidence-building manual", using the existing military manual as a model. Such a handbook, written in very plain language, explaining the basic principles of Canadian