

Canadian Foreign Policy and Peacebuilding Quebec Report

The National Forum on Canada's International Relations was held on November 16 at Laval University. Organized by the Quebec Institute of Advanced International Studies, Laval University and the Raoul-Dandurand Chair in Strategic and Diplomatic Studies, University of Quebec at Montreal, participants included representatives from the academic community, the media and the NGOs.

The objectives of the Forum were to explore the question of peacebuilding and Canadian foreign policy, and to develop recommendations for the Minister of Foreign Affairs and his department. It should be noted that there was wide representation from nongovernmental organizations at the Forum. Participants agreed to focus their discussions on the questions of the feasibility of the "White Helmet" concept and official development assistance in peacebuilding. The report is divided into three sections:

Workshop 1

Feasibility of the White Helmet Concept
Mechanisms and Coordination at the National Level;

Workshop 2

Official Development Assistance in Peacekeeping;

Annex I

Replies to Questions Prepared by the Canadian Centre for Foreign Policy Development in Anticipation of the Winnipeg Forum

Workshop 1

Feasibility of the White Helmets Concept Mechanisms and Coordination at the National Level

RECOMMENDATIONS

Feasibility of the White Helmets Concept

- 1) Whereas Canada has decided to establish its own civilian peacekeeping force, participants at the Forum in Quebec City encourage it to continue in this vein and to begin with all of its partners an exhaustive study on the concept of "White Helmets" and on the conditions surrounding their deployment. The study should also examine the capabilities of public and private Canadian organizations operating in this field.

Mechanisms and Coordination at the National Level

- 1) We recommend that the Canadian government propose and set up a permanent coordination structure including civilian and military personnel and representatives, and public and private participants, to maintain and promote peace, human rights and sustainable development.
- 2) This body would meet both periodically, by statute, and on a timely basis, when serious crises arose in the world. We recommend that