



Hallifax, Quebec, and Victoria

- bringing together government, NGOs, business, academics and others to identify potential crises and explore short-term options;
- formation of a crisis working group to offer advice on the use of Canadian civil peacebuilding capacities in breaking crises.

While some participants argued for the creation of a structured organization, others recommended an informal approach to soliciting public input into peacebuilding policy and operations. All participants agreed that an enhanced public consultation process should engage not just experts, but the general public and youth in particular.

Peacekeeping and Intervention

Recommendations

Participants felt that the key issues for Canadian peacekeeping policy were the role of the Government in different types of intervention, the role of the military, the role of NGOs, and the best means to enlist public support for intervention and peacekeeping missions.

Participants also felt that Canadian peacekeeping operations should reflect Canadian values and principles. Aspects of the Canadian experience singled out by participants included an equal role for women, a diverse civil society that includes a central role for business, and the objective of sustainable development.

Policy Options

- A value-led Canadian foreign policy should not limit peacebuilding interventions to interstate conflict. Environmental disasters, inter-ethnic conflicts and large-scale human rights violations may warrant intervention.
- Since intervention and peacekeeping ultimately involve some consideration of human security, there should be an emphasis on training peacekeeping personnel in race relations, gender issues and the social dimensions of economic inequality. To this end, a new generation of Canadians, male and especially female, should be encouraged to enlist in the Armed Forces.
- NGOs should play an important role in all aspects of peacekeeping. In particular, the military should utilize NGO resources for intercultural education, including the problems of refugee care, the unique problems of the disabled and other human security-related areas of NGO expertise.
- Government can play an important role in strengthening the relationship between NGOs and the private sector to help fund peacebuilding.
- Canadians need to be informed about the limitations of Canada's peacekeeping resources and capabilities, as well as the important role peacekeeping plays in a foreign policy that is helping to build a stronger economy and promote national unity.