

REPORT FROM THE CONFERENCE
"GLOBAL COMPACT AND UNITED NATIONS INSTITUTIONS"

July 14 - 15, 2000
Tokyo, Japan

Dept. of Foreign Affairs
Min. des Affaires étrangères

3 1 2002

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A group of academics, government officials and leaders of non-governmental initiatives met in the middle of July 2000 in Tokyo to address key issues related to New Diplomacy. The meeting was the second of three looking at the impact of State and NGO initiatives on the mandates and functioning of international institutions. This discussion series is a joint project undertaken by the United Nations University in Tokyo, the Centre on Foreign Policy and Federalism at the University of Waterloo and the Canadian Centre for Foreign Policy Development. It is also supported by the Department of Foreign Affairs and International Trade. The first meeting explored the conceptual complexity and operational realities of the changing international system by looking at the campaign for a global ban on anti-personnel land mines and the efforts to establish a permanent International Criminal Court (September 28-30, 1999, Acton, Ontario). The Tokyo meeting addressed the conceptual shift toward Human Security at the United Nations as well as the possibilities and limits of reforming the United Nations Security Council. The feasibility, effectiveness and legitimacy of codes of conduct and their potential impact on states, non-governmental organisations and business was also assessed. Canadian Foreign Affairs Minister, Lloyd Axworthy, delivered the key note address. Other participants, included: Paul Heinbecker (Assistant Deputy Minister, Global and Security Policy, DFAIT), John English (University of Waterloo), Andrew Cooper (University of Waterloo), Ramesh Thakur (United Nations University), Takeo Uchida (Chuo University, Japan), John Groom (University of Kent, United Kingdom), Anil Sing (Voluntary Action Network India), Deirdre van der Merwe (Institute for Security Studies, South Africa), and Virginian Haufler (University of Maryland, United States). The third and last conference is scheduled to take place in 2001. It will concentrate more specifically on New Diplomacy and the development of international law.

1. OPENING REMARKS

Professors John English and Andrew Cooper (University of Waterloo) opened the second round of the "New Diplomacy" conference and welcomed all the participants. John English reflected on the origins of the Conference which stemmed from his discussions in Japan about the Ottawa process and the apparent disconnect between the Japanese government and civil society. Andrew Cooper thanked Ramesh Thakur (United Nations University) for hosting the event, Steve Lee (Canadian Centre for Foreign Policy Development) for his support and timely publication of the first conference proceedings and others for their participation. According to the discussion in Acton (Ontario), top-down leadership in the international system is no longer tenable. New Diplomacy allows for alternative sources of initiative and innovation from the traditional P-5 or United States-centred leadership. Broad in scope, New Diplomacy is being conducted with a sense of intensity and impatience. While the growing relationship between like-