

**REMARKS BY H.E. MR. PAUL HEINBECKER
BEFORE THE SECURITY COUNCIL
OPEN DEBATE ON “NO EXIT WITHOUT STRATEGY”
NOVEMBER 15, 2000**

Mr. President,

Let me begin by welcoming you to the Security Council and thanking you for presiding over today's debate.

Your presence reflects the strength of your commitment to a more effective Security Council, a goal for which the Netherlands has worked tirelessly and effectively throughout its current term on this body.

I would like to commend you for your initiative on “No Exit Without Strategy”.

It tackles a very important issue -- ensuring that the ultimate goal of any peacekeeping mission is to strengthen the prospects for sustainable internal peace and decrease the likelihood of resumption of violent conflict.

Canada believes that in order to achieve this goal, our focus must encompass the political and socio-economic context of conflict, including aspects of the rule of law and the human rights situation, rather than solely its military or humanitarian aspects.

It means building on traditional concepts of peacekeeping and working towards a broader, more integrated view of peace support.

In this respect, we encourage the Security Council to include long-term peacebuilding strategies when planning missions and drafting their mandates.

Long-term, peaceful resolution of conflict requires a collaborative and inclusive approach with other UN bodies, international organizations, member states and non-governmental actors.

Canada has always maintained that elements of peacebuilding should be integrated into a mission's mandate from the very beginning.

Canada remains fully engaged in international efforts to conduct peacekeeping operations that integrate military peacekeeping, civilian police, human rights components, humanitarian aid and the development aspects of peacebuilding.

In this respect, we will continue to promote an enhanced capacity of the United Nations to respond to crises rapidly, effectively, and in an integrated manner.

We have also stressed the need for peacekeeping mandates to be shaped by requirements on the ground, including long-term conflict resolution, and not by outside political or financial considerations. Mandates must also be matched by the necessary resources.

Recent experiences of peacekeeping have taught us that undue focus on keeping costs down, while perhaps cheaper in the short run, are more costly later on if missions fail to achieve their objectives.

The Council must have the staying power to ensure that the international community's investments in peace are not lost because of short-sighted political expediency.

The Council must also be judicious in deciding where to make those investments in peace.

Put another way, there should be no "entry without strategy" either.

A key consideration in this regard, and one which was pointed out in the useful paper you prepared to help frame today's discussion, is the disposition of parties on the ground, in particular their disposition towards peace.

Without a peace agreement, or if military options continue to be pursued in spite of one, the Council should think twice before agreeing to deploy a peace mission.

Attempts to import solutions from outside will only go so far if the will to pursue peace is not shared within the societies in question.

The pursuit of peace in a country torn by internal conflict poses special and complex challenges.

One of the lessons we are learning in the pursuit of sustainable and durable peace in countries emerging from conflict is to ensure an indigenous capacity to manage conflict without violence.

Peacebuilding is a key instrument in the pursuit of this goal, as it aims at building human security, a concept which includes democratic governance, human rights, the rule of law, and sustainable development.

While peacebuilding is an evolving concept, it consists basically of a set of measures to create a sustainable environment for human security.

Peacebuilding may involve conflict prevention, conflict resolution, as well as various types of post-conflict reconstruction varying from the immediate to the long-term.

To this end, we fully support the Brahimi panel's recommendations aimed at enhancing the Council's ability to address the root causes of conflict as the greatest deterrent to violent conflict.

Moreover, in a world where crises evolve quickly, the need for integrated planning of a multidisciplinary core mission is crucial from the very onset of the operation -- this includes all relevant players such as the military, civilian police, international humanitarian and human rights agencies, and other civilian experts.

In this respect, we welcome the report's recommendation to enhance the Secretariat's early warning capabilities linked to information gathering and analysis in the establishment of the Information and Strategic Analysis Secretariat.

We also welcome the recommendation to create Integrated Mission Task Forces to improve the UN's support and planning capacities, which will enable the Council to better plan for the long-term implications of new mission mandates.

We also welcome the Secretary-General's decision to formulate a plan on strengthening the UN's capacity to develop peacebuilding strategies.

We look forward to the Secretary-General's report on conflict prevention, due this coming Spring, and trust that it will include practical suggestions for both States and the UN family to develop practical and pragmatic strategies.

Canada has been very active in finding ways to strengthen peacebuilding initiatives, and in 1996 we launched our own Peacebuilding Initiative aimed at assisting countries in conflict in their efforts towards peace and stability.

It also promotes Canadian peacebuilding capacity and Canadian participation in international peacebuilding initiatives.

These objectives are interactive and interdependent, and include activities such as: enhancing Demobilization, Disarmament and Reintegration activities; supporting national and community-based small arms reduction and disposal efforts; addressing the protection, welfare and rights of war-affected children; promoting reconciliation between affected populations, including displaced populations; and factoring the gender dimension into development assistance, and in pursuing women's equality as an international human rights issue. Canada would be pleased to lend its support to the UN in the development of this plan, as we are committed to working together with all of our partners to build a new framework for the

management of contemporary conflict to help build a peaceful world.

Efforts under our Peacebuilding Initiative build upon and reinforce our traditional commitment to the UN and to multilateral peacekeeping.

Canada takes an integrated approach to its peacebuilding programmes, and we work to achieve coherence in the peacebuilding responses of the international community, through coordination with other donors, with the United Nations, and with regional organizations.

Canada supports existing efforts to sustain UN peacekeeping interventions, in particular follow-on UN peacebuilding offices and missions in places such as Liberia, Central African Republic, Guinea-Bissau and Haiti.

These initiatives not only help sustain our investments in peace, but more importantly, they demonstrate a continuing commitment of the international community to build lasting peace in the countries concerned by involving them directly in peacebuilding efforts.

Finally, I would like to highlight the importance that external support for peacebuilding should supplement, not substitute, local efforts to achieve a sustainable peace.

An effective peacebuilding response requires international co-ordination among various types of actors, including the UN, its specialised agencies, international financial institutions, non-governmental organizations, peacekeeping forces, civilian experts, and affected populations themselves.

Thank you, Mr. President.