

## Foreign Affairs Canada

### Policy Position Paper

#### Topic: FAILED AND FRAGILE STATES

Name of University:	The University of Winnipeg
Name of Course:	Canada in the World
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#### Group Discussion:

Over the last weeks, we have been discussing the issues revolving around human security, failed and fragile States and the role Canada is to play. Specifically, we have talked about the definition of a failed state, the role Canada should play as a force for aid, how Canada is to contribute and to what degree and to what capacity is Canada able to contribute?

Other discussions have included the economics of intervention, the aspect of popular support and intervention, “hearts and minds campaigns” (developing support and maintaining interest in the hearts and minds of the people, on both sides of the fence), multilateral cooperation and actions, “pick and choose” issues (who to provide aid and assistance to), and interestingly, the idea of Canadian expectations: are they self imposed expectations or are they expectations on behalf of the international community.

#### Areas of consensus:

- Canada should play a role as a force for peace and stability in failed and fragile State situations, for reasons of human security.
- Canada should narrow its focus, not over stretch itself in terms of over committing or trying to please everyone; we must ensure our resources match our intentions.
- Canada should make it a priority to become fully briefed on the situation of the failed and fragile states from a diversity of sources (both government and independent organizations) to best determine an appropriate response so, if action is required, our efforts will best come to fruition.
- Canadian foreign policy should set parameters for intervention, developing policy or criteria that outline when and where Canada is to get involved.

- Canada's promise to increase its military capability and readiness is required for it to follow through on these initiatives and expectations. (eg. Canada's integrated START program: Stabilization and Reconstruction Task Force)

An area of specific interest revolved around the question of whether or not it is justifiable to support undemocratic modes of rule in the medium-term in the interest of long-term stability and democracy.

- Stability needs to be accomplished before any progress can be made in the direction of ideological change. Basic needs for food, water, shelter, safety and overall security must be met before people can feel free to stand up for their convictions and engage in political debate. If we must work temporarily with governments that are undemocratic or corrupt in order to satisfy these basic necessities we must ensure that they remain accountable.
- Once stability is achieved the drive towards democracy must be performed by the people rather than by the state(s) that are providing the interim stability. Although a tougher road to trek it will make the change to democracy that much more credible and sustainable; it is by the people and for the people. Enforcing our own idea of democracy and democratic practices (i.e. elections) on the people can be seen as pushing our nation's value system on a very culturally different country, and resistance to that can further fuel anti-democratic practices in these countries which could adversely impact human security.
- Our involvement with failed and fragile states should be based on the core value of human security (freedom from want and freedom from fear) and focus on plans of action related to the collective will of the people as determined through academic institutions, NGO's, grass roots community groups and the individuals themselves.
- While Canada defense policy works primarily towards stabilization, the other two components of the 3D approach, development and diplomacy, aim for the building of democracy. This is in the name of getting the right mix of forces to the right place, at the right time, to the right effect. The 3D approach incorporates both initiatives towards stability and democracy albeit with stability as an immediate priority and democracy as a desired end result.

### **Conclusion:**

The changeover of the undemocratic mode of rule to a democratic government with the assistance of the Canadian government using its developmental and diplomatic techniques from beginning to end will strengthen further relationships between all nations involved. Not only will Canada benefit from this in the end, but the relationships formed will last far beyond the recovery of the previously failed or fragile state and become a permanent relationship that can benefit Canada in the uncharted future. Canada's value of human security demands that we get involved in restoring order in failed and fragile

states, to reach a stable and peaceful environment in which genuine democracy can flourish.