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## Opening Remarks

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On behalf of all the staff at the Pearson Peacekeeping Centre, I would like to extend a very warm welcome to participants in *Cornwallis VII: Analysis for Compliance and Peace Building*. It has been our pleasure over the years to provide the venue for the Cornwallis Group's annual gatherings. We like to think that our Nova Scotian hospitality contributes to the success of the proceedings.

As this year's event coincides with the beginning of my term as President of the PPC, I would like to take the opportunity to talk to you a little about my vision of the field of peace operations and of the role of the Pearson Centre. With regards to the field of peace operations, I would like to address the questions of why, what and who. Firstly, **why** is it important for the international community to continue its commitment to helping war-torn regions of our globe emerge from conflict? In my opinion, it is a question of enlightened self-interest. We live in a highly interconnected and interdependent world. No amount of internal domestic security can prevent terrorist attacks. Our best strategy for protecting our own security is to be proactive in addressing the situations that become fertile ground for terrorist ideas. For me, a key lesson from the tragic events of September 11 is the need for the international community to increase its commitment to playing a role in the search for long-term sustainable solutions.

Peace operations today are multidisciplinary, complex and increasingly dangerous endeavors. The clear lines that existed during the era of classical peacekeeping have become quite blurred. Today when we refer to Peace Building, we recognize that peace is much more than the absence of war. Our sense of **what** we are attempting to do has changed. We recognize that peace is something that must be constructed, and, like any construction job, it requires blueprints, skilled professionals and craftspeople, resources and coordination.

During my 13 years in Central America, where I had the privilege of contact with three peace processes, I came to understand the importance of reflecting on the question of **who**. There are clearly two categories of who — the international community on the one hand, and local, national, and in some cases, regional actors on the other. If "peace" is to be sustainable, it cannot be imposed from the outside. The protagonists of the design, planning and implementation process need to be those most directly affected by the outcome. The role of the international community becomes one of creating the enabling conditions. The toll in human suffering in regions torn by conflict is enormous. The existence of a peace instrument provides a window of opportunity. If adequate support is not provided in a timely fashion, that window can close.

The Pearson Centre has a diverse program that covers all facets of peace operations — from tactical civil military relations to courses in human rights. We carry out education and training programs at our two campuses (Cornwallis and Montreal), in major Canadian cities, and around the world. The Centre has conducted training programs in twenty different countries to date. We regularly program in English, French, and Spanish, and will soon complete our first training package in Japanese. Since its creation, the Pearson Peacekeeping Centre has trained over 4000 professionals from 137 different countries.

As Canada's national peace operations training centre, the Pearson Peacekeeping Centre:

1. Provides education and training to military, police and civilians in order to better prepare them for complex, multidisciplinary missions. Our training is conducted both in the classroom and through simulation exercises. Training increases effectiveness and ensures due diligence with regards to personal safety in the field. No one should go into a peace operations theatre without adequate training.
2. Builds capacity of a new generation of countries that contribute to peace operations to conduct their own peace operations training. The African focus of the Pearson Peacekeeping Centre's initiatives is in keeping with Canadian and United Nations priorities.
3. Provides field support to specific peace processes.
4. Acts as an Ambassador for Canada.
5. Creates forums that bring diverse actors together on key issues.
6. Mentors the next generation.

Working with the UNV and other recruitment organizations, the Pearson Peacekeeping Centre has developed a foundation course for entry-level professionals. Participation in our internship programme is often an important stepping stone for young people seeking international careers. Like external faculty, there are former interns to be found in every field mission and in critical posts in governments and international organizations. Since 1998, the PPC has had 176 interns from 37 countries.

The Pearson Peacekeeping Centre is committed to adapting its programming to the evolving profile of international peace operations. To this end, we are engaged in dialogue with the Canadian government, various departments within the United Nations, and other actors. When thinking of the Pearson Peacekeeping Centre, we want them to think of quality, relevance, and partnership.

I would like to thank the organizers of the Cornwallis Group for this opportunity to address you today. We hope that your time with us will be both productive and enjoyable.