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For Immediate Release

UN High level meeting on peace and security – Is Canada back?

Ottawa -- A United Nations General Assembly [High-level Thematic Debate on the UN, Peace and Security](#), taking place May 10-11 in New York, marks an important opportunity for Canada to signal a renewed commitment to the UN's efforts to restore peace in many conflict-affected parts of the world.

The two-day meeting follows three UN-led review processes:

- On peace operations, including both the [High-level Independent Panel on Peace Operations](#) and the [Secretary-General's report on the future of UN peace operations](#);
- The [Peacebuilding Architecture Review](#) (a mandated 10-year review of the UN's Peacebuilding Commission and related machinery); and
- [The Global Study on the implementation of Security Council Resolution 1325 \(2000\) on women, peace and security](#).

Although organized independently, each with a mandate to review different aspects of the UN's peace and security machinery, these three in-depth stock-taking exercises have also given rise to a new vision of a better coordinated, system-wide response to threats to international peace. "Sustainable peace" is the term for this emerging framework that is intended to reflect a more integrated approach, linking the UN's activities from conflict prevention, mediation and conflict resolution, peacekeeping operations and post-conflict peacebuilding.

"Conceptually this makes sense," says WFM – Canada Executive Director Fergus Watt. "However, the reality is that governments have not provided sufficient support for many of these activities. There is a lack of priority given to conflict prevention compared to the focus on responding to crisis. And there is a worrying shortage and unpredictability of funding for post-conflict peacebuilding. The UN may be moving toward a more holistic approach to its peace and security responsibilities, but it's up to governments, including Canada, to step up and provide the resources and commitment to make the system work."

The two-day meeting, including a ministerial segment May 10, offers Canada's Stéphane Dion the opportunity to outline precisely how Canada intends to contribute. To date, some Canadian

officials have indicated that Canada's contributions to peace operations will soon increase, while others in the government of Canada have seemed less certain.

“Supporting UN peace and security efforts remains popular among Canadians,” says Watt.
“However, many are still waiting to see what Canada will do, in terms of tangible commitments, to give meaning to the government's rhetoric.”

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FOR MORE INFORMATION:

The World Federalist Movement – Canada (WFMC, www.worldfederalistscanada.org) is a longstanding non-governmental organization advocating more effective and accountable global governance. WFMC publishes an annual [fact sheet on Canada and UN Peacekeeping](#).

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