



# AUSTRALIA



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**Plenary**  
21 October 2005



## Informal consultations on the Peacebuilding Commission

**Statement by HE Mr John Dauth  
Ambassador and Permanent Representative  
of Australia to the United Nations**

**On behalf of Canada, Australia and New Zealand**



(Check against delivery)

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Mr/Madame Chair

CANZ remains firmly committed to implementing our leaders' decision to make the Peacebuilding Commission fully operational by 31 December.

What our leaders agreed at the Summit must stand. Our task is simply to supplement the outcomes document where that is necessary. We warmly welcome the options paper prepared by our co-Chairs. Using it as a basis for our work, there is no reason we cannot quickly make concrete decision about those modalities of the Commission which are outstanding. CANZ offers the following comments on issues identified in the options paper as not being sufficiently addressed in the Summit outcomes document.

On point one, **institutional location**, CANZ considers our leaders' decision to establish the Peacebuilding Commission should be implemented by concurrent resolutions of the General Assembly and the Security Council. This would recognise the Council's primary responsibility for international peace and security under the UN Charter.

On point three, **involvement of the country under consideration**, CANZ supports option (b). We agree the host country's authorities should play an important role in the peacebuilding process. But, in limited circumstances where those authorities are not functioning, the Commission should not be prevented from doing its job.

On point four, the **agenda** of the Commission should be determined along the lines of option (b). CANZ agrees the Commission should consider matters on the agenda of the Security Council brought before it by that body. But we also believe strongly that any country at risk of lapsing into conflict should be able to request the Commission's advice. The bar for States to seek the Commission's help should not be set too high.

On point six, CANZ prefers the **mechanism for interaction with other bodies** set out in the first bracketed text under option (b), but we would also be willing to look at option (a). Whatever mechanism is adopted, let us not forget the key message we have heard from those in the field: ensuring early cooperation and coordination across the entire UN system will be one of the most important contributions the Commission can make.

On point seven, CANZ considers the **Organisational Committee should compose** seven Security Council members, with the Council to determine election procedures; and seven ECOSOC members, elected from regional groups according to procedures determined by ECOSOC. We support the inclusion of five of the top ten providers of assessed contributions to UN budgets and voluntary contributions to UN funds programs and agencies, to be determined from a list provided by the Secretary-General. Finally, seats should be given to three of the top ten providers of military personnel and civilian police to UN missions, also to be determined from a list provided by the Secretary-General.

On point seven (b), the **tenure** of members of the Organisational Committee is not as simple an issue as it might seem, and requires further thought. Difficulties arise because of the differing terms which States serve on the UN bodies from which Organisational Committee members will be drawn.

While CANZ has views on each of these modalities of the Peacebuilding Commission, our main priority is to see the Commission up and running on time. We are ready to show flexibility to that end. We trust other States will take the same approach. Above all, CANZ wants the Peacebuilding Commission to commence its vital work to support fragile States.