



Strengthening Multilateral Cooperation: The United Nations at 70

Group of 78 ANNUAL POLICY CONFERENCE

**September 25-27, 2015
Cartier Place Suite Hotel
180 Cooper Street, Ottawa**

Ever since the statement issued by the original 78 signatories in November 1981, the hallmark of the Group of 78 has been to promote the three inter-related objectives of peace, equitable development, and “strengthening the United Nations” as the pre-eminent forum through which world problems can be addressed and solved. Seventy years after the birth of the UN, these objectives seem as compelling as ever, but their achievement remains daunting. The Group of 78’s 2015 Annual Conference will focus on the critical importance of the UN, assessing its performance and its prospects for effectiveness in the future, particularly in the spheres of peace and equitable development.

Speakers and participants at the conference will examine the following questions and develop policy recommendations to guide Canadian foreign policy:

- How can we “strengthen the United Nations” in carrying out its mandate to halt conflict and support economic and social development? What part of this mandate does it do well, and how could it do better?
- How can the UN’s support for equitable development and for peace and security be made more mutually reinforcing? What are the prospects for the new sustainable development goals in this regard?
- On which issues and by what actions should Canada provide leadership or take significant initiatives for peace building and on economic and social development through the United Nations system?



The Group of 78
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Please visit the Group of 78 web site www.group78.org for further details about registration, program updates and conference speakers.

Program

Friday September 25

- 5:30 – 6:00 pm. Registration and cash bar
- 6:00 – 10:00 pm. Dinner and Keynote Address: José Antonio Ocampo
“Fulfilling the UN’s role as the pre-eminent forum for multilateral co-operation.”
Moderator: Roy Culpeper

Saturday September 26

- 8:00 – 9:00 am. Registration
- 9:00 – 10:30 am. Panel 1
“Strengthening the UN’s role in conflict prevention and resolution”.
Moderator: Alistair Edgar
Speakers: Doug Roche, David Petrasek
- 11:00 – 12:30 pm. Panel 2
“Equitable development and sustainable peace: reinforcing the synergies”.
Moderator: Kathryn White
Speakers: Carolyn McAskie, John Packer
- 12:30 – 2:30 pm. Luncheon Address: Peggy Mason.
“A Canadian Security and Defence Policy for the 21st century: Role of the UN”
Moderator: Manfred Bienefeld
- 3:00 – 5:00 pm. Panel 3
“Canada and the UN system: renewing our multilateral commitments”
Moderator: Fergus Watt
Speakers: Scott Staring, Paul Heinbecker, Marie Clarke Walker

Sunday September 27

- 8:30 – 10:00 am. Conference Summary Discussion and Wrap-up
- 10:00 – 11:30 am. Group of 78 Annual General Meeting