Achieving a better understanding of building the rule of law in peacekeeping settings is urgent and will become a larger issue as the military deployments of the early 2000s consolidate and pressure for drawdown mounts.

Conclusion

Balancing heavy military deployments in difficult political and operational contexts while managing the transitions from heavy peacekeeping presences to longer-term peacebuilding operations will remain a central task of the year ahead. Meanwhile, the reform initiatives taken up in 2009 will take yet on more saliency as the impacts of the global financial crisis continue to demand that the global peacekeeping architecture does its job more efficiently and with fewer resources at its disposal. Achieving the ambitious goals that they set will only be possible with shared understandings of both the purposes of peacekeeping and the necessary means to meet those ends.