



Forum of Federations

The Global Network on Federalism and Devolved Governance

Roundtable on Public Safety in Federal Systems

Ottawa, 22 March 2012

Forum of Federations and

Gimenez Abad Foundation (Saragossa, Spain)

in collaboration with

the Institute of Intergovernmental Relations, Queen's University and

the Royal Military College of Canada

Introduction

Through 2013, the Forum of Federations (www.forumfed.org), an international governance organization founded by the Government of Canada and supported by nine partner governments, along with Spain's Gimenez Abad Foundation, is managing a joint research program on "Public Safety in Federal Systems". The Forum is concerned with the contribution federal and devolved forms of governance make to the maintenance and construction of democratic societies and governments. Its program on Public Safety focuses on *national security, counter-terrorism, emergency preparedness and law-enforcement* with a view to build a body of knowledge and research in an area of great interest to many governments. This issue has thus far received little systematic, comparative attention, with little being done to gauge the way federal systems have evolved in response to the security challenges over the past decade, and learn from other countries' experiences, and identify best practices.

The Program brings together scholars and practitioners on public security and intergovernmental affairs from nine federations (Brazil, Canada, Germany, India, Mexico, South Africa, Spain, Switzerland, and United States), providing a fora that enables authors to draw comparative conclusions on challenges and innovations of intergovernmental and interdepartmental co-operation. To further the dialogue and communicate findings, a Round Table Workshop will be held in Ottawa on 22 March 2012, followed by an international conference in Saragossa in November 2012. The findings of the conference will subsequently be published.

The Round Table Workshop

The Ottawa workshop, will serve two purposes. First, it will provide a platform for country-study authors from the United States, Mexico, South Africa, Spain, and Canada to exchange ideas and to present some initial findings and observations with respect to of the interaction between public security and federal arrangements in their countries. Second, the workshop will provide an opportunity for national-security, emergency-preparedness, counter-terrorism, and law-enforcement practitioners, decision-makers, and policy analysts from inter-governmental affairs and Canada's federal, provincial, and municipal security community to benefit from global practice and lessons learned elsewhere and to interact with the authors, provide input into the project, and offer their suggestions on making the publications as relevant as possible.

Interacting with experts from different parts of the world in a closed-door, informal setting allows for a collection of diverse information and knowledge on public security to be transformed through collective dialogue, interpretation, and challenge. The value of adding progressively greater meaning will allow the Canadian participants to understand more about the challenges of providing public security in different federal polities, and the way they are harnessing federal synergies to mitigate threats to public safety. It will also allow them to gain more general insights into the security communities of the other countries, and build their networks and forge new relationships with the country-study authors who have extensive contacts and relationships with bodies dealing with public safety and inter-governmental affairs in their respective countries. Canadian participants can expect to benefit from a better understanding, and perhaps share a common operational picture of the way other federal countries address issues of public safety from their experience when confronted with similar challenges. The ultimate objective is to use a comparative approach to build a common body of knowledge that can underpin policy development, institutional, and security-sector reform.



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Public Safety in Federal Systems Agenda

08:00 Breakfast (provided) and Registration

08:30 **Welcome & Introduction**

- **Welcome:** Felix Knuepling, Head, Programs and Partnerships, Forum of Federations
- **Introductory Remarks:** Dr. Christian Leuprecht, Associate Professor, Department of Political Science and Economics, Royal Military College, Kingston

SESSION I

Practice observed: Environmental scan of the way different federal and multilevel governance systems are responding to threats to public safety

Scope: Not all federal countries face the same threats, and countries distinguish themselves by virtue of institutional and policy heterogeneity. What commonalities and differences exist in the way federations cope with threats?

Objective: Environmental scan of each country's cabinet organization, national security (centralized vs. decentralized), relative maturity of programs of public safety.

Outcomes: Establish the way federal systems respond to common threats and risks

08:45 **Issues for Discussion:**

- Overview of the federal arrangement in a given country (nature, official framework, the reality on the ground, etc.)
- Environmental scan of the threat(s) to public safety, touching on domestic/international dimensions to create conceptual space for examining the federal system and its complexities
- Mechanisms deployed by various levels of government (federal, provincial, municipal) to counter such threat(s): financial, personnel, policy innovations, constitutional amendments, etc.

Presentations by:

- Edgar Mohar, former as Secretary of Citizen Security and Safety for the State of Queretaro, on Mexico
- Dr. Nico Steytler, Community Law Centre, on South Africa
- Dr. Richard Kilroy jr, National Defense University, on the United States
- Mario Koelling, Gimenez Abad Foundation, and Centre of Political and Constitutional Studies, on Spain

(15 minutes per presentation)

Discussion followed by Concluding Statements by Session Chair

10:15-10:45 **Coffee / Networking Break**

10:45 **SESSION II**

Lessons learned: Examining the interaction between federalism and threats to public safety and implications for policy development and security-sector reform

Scope: The bulk of security, intelligence and “surge” capacity tends to be federal, but first responders tend to be local and subnational. This raises issues including, but not limited to, collective-action and co-ordination problems, transaction costs, accountability and both vertical and horizontal asymmetry. What are the challenges and opportunities?

Objective: Ascertain distinctly federal dimensions of public safety and the implications for policy and institutional reform

Outcomes: Identify what is working where, and why, as well as common challenges and the extent to which these challenges are related to federalism

Issues for Discussion:

- Aspects of a country’s federal system that have helped in mitigating threat(s) to public safety (such as flexibility, space for decision making at the site of the threat, customized responses to threat, etc.)
- Aspects of arrangement country’s federal system that have hindered countering threat(s) to public safety (mandate overlap, diffusion of responsibility, policy coherence challenges, etc.)
- General implications for policy development and security-sector reform

Presentations by the international experts (15 minutes per presentation)

- Edgar Mohar, former as Secretary of Citizen Security and Safety for the State of Queretaro, on Mexico
- Dr. Nico Steytler, Community Law Centre, on South Africa
- Dr. Richard Kilroy Jr, National Defense University, on the United States
- Mario Koelling, Gimenez Abad Foundation, and Centre of Political and Constitutional Studies, on Spain

Discussion followed by Concluding Statements by Session Chair

MORNING WRAP-UP: Draw comparative conclusions; identify challenges, and gaps in knowledge

- **Lunch provided**

14:00 **STEERING COMMITTEE MEETING (internal)**

- **Objective:** Thematic discussion of draft papers
- **Outcomes:** Identify strengths and weaknesses of draft papers, gaps, and review template

Agenda:

Summarize the needs and question of security-sector stakeholders

Assess strengths and weaknesses of chapters thematically

Identify topics that should be expanded or curtailed

Review template

Identify common themes and research question

Identify comparative data to include in each chapter

Identify challenges that arose in the process of research/writing