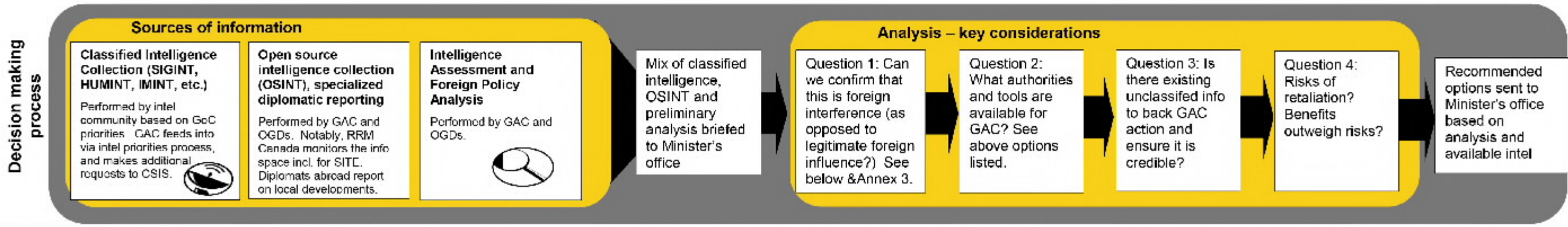
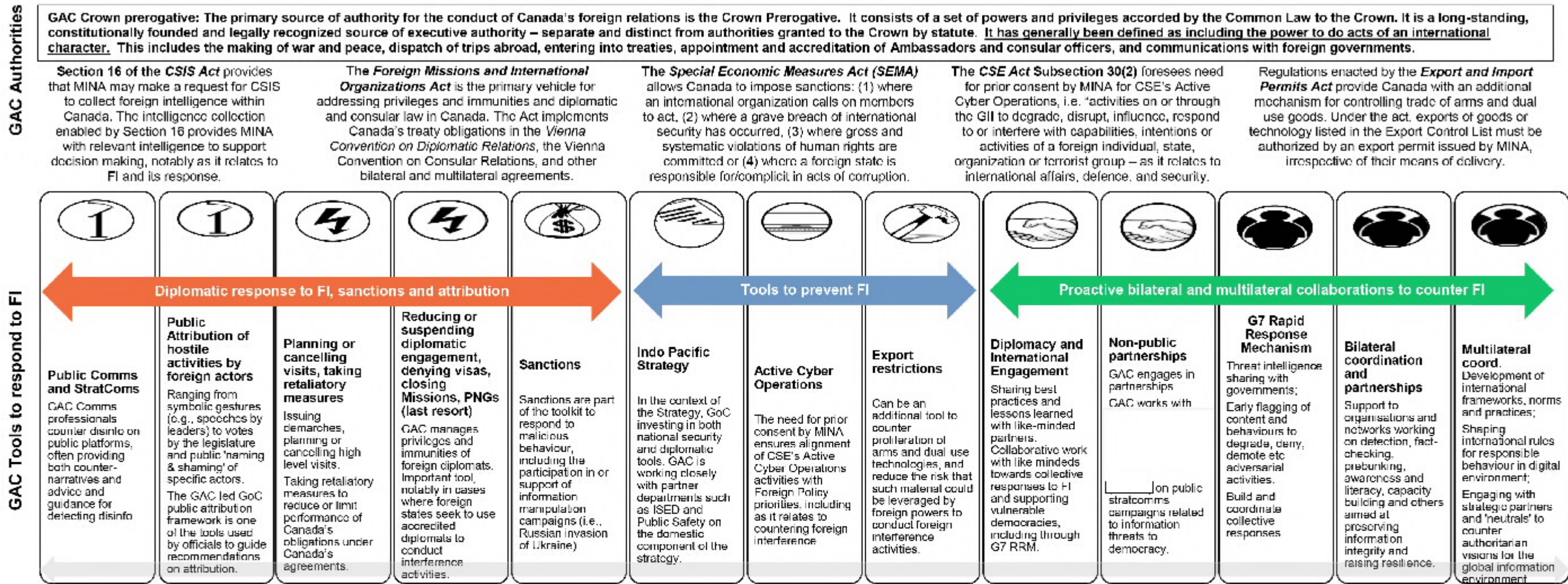


Countering Foreign Interference: Components of an Effective Response by GAC



Foreign interference vs legitimate foreign influence

Foreign interference
Covert activities perpetrated by a foreign state, or proxy, that are harmful to Canada's interests and are clandestine and deceptive, or involve a threat to a person. Can include harassment & intimidation of Canadian communities to instill fear, silence dissent and pressure political opponents. Involves attempts to covertly influence decisions, events or outcomes to better suit their strategic interests.

Malign foreign influence
Efforts undertaken by or at the direction of a foreign power to influence government policy or public opinion through covert or non-transparent means. Such efforts typically involve the use of established legitimate and transparent channels, without disclosing foreign government ties.

Legitimate foreign influence (i.e. what diplomats normally do)
Acceptable diplomatic conduct, which would be considered legitimate foreign influence, extends to overtly pressuring, encouraging or convincing host governments in various ways to alter their course of action, legislation, or else, to advance one's own national interest or promote one's own values - even if this is perceived as being against domestic interests.