



Alliances and Affiliations

UNITED NATIONS

The United Nations is the only multilateral organization whose membership approaches universality and whose agenda encompasses all areas of human activity, in every region of the world. That is why it is so important to Canada.

It is also the forum in which grievances are aired and, with member state consensus, resolved. The UN's ability to live up to its potential and founders' ideals, is almost exclusively determined by the 191 countries that collectively constitute the United Nations. Our successes are its successes; our failures, its failures. This organization can only accomplish what its member states allow it to.

The UN's basic purposes and its other underlying principles have guided Canadian foreign and defence policy since 1945. Over the past half-century, Canada has made a significant, constructive and sustained contribution in all areas of UN activity: peace and security, development assistance, human rights, and social, economic and environmental affairs. As the cornerstone of a rules-based international system, the UN is a vital forum through which we have sought to influence world affairs, defend our security and sovereignty within a stable global framework, promote our trade and economic interests, and protect and project Canadian values such as fairness, equal opportunity and respect for human rights.

The promotion of human rights and justice, the prevention and abatement of environmental degradation, the alleviation of poverty, and the promotion of development and human security on a global basis - these can be achieved only through multilateral discussion and negotiation. The sole global forum available is the UN. It is therefore no surprise that support for the UN is deeply entrenched throughout Canadian society.

SOURCE:

<http://www.canadianally.com/ca/global/alliances-un-en.asp>

North Atlantic Treaty Organization (NATO)



Canada has been a member of North Atlantic Treaty Organization (NATO) since it was founded in 1949, with the signing of the North Atlantic Treaty in Washington DC. Since then, NATO has been a cornerstone of Canada's relations with Europe. NATO is a collective security organization comprising most of the world's large, developed and wealthy democracies, and as such is well placed to maintain a stable security environment for the benefit of all.

NATO stands alone among multinational security organizations in its ability and willingness to translate good intentions into lasting results. Because all decisions in NATO are taken on the basis of consensus of all members, Canada has an equal voice in high-level decision-making. From a military perspective, Canada derives enormous benefits from NATO membership in terms of achieving and maintaining interoperability with the armed forces of our Allies.

During deliberations leading to the North Atlantic Treaty, Canada worked to ensure a commitment to non-military cooperation. As a result of Canadian efforts, Article 2 of the Treaty includes a commitment by members to help develop peaceful and friendly relations - it is often referred to as the Canadian Article. The cooperation envisaged by Article 2 underlies much of the activity with Partners which NATO has carried out since the end of the Cold War. Following the terrorist attacks on the United States on September 11, 2001, the North Atlantic Treaty Organization (NATO) responded by invoking Article 5 of its Charter for the first time in the alliance's more than 50-year history. Article 5 is commonly known as the collective defence article. If a NATO ally is the victim of an armed attack, it provides that each and every other member of the alliance will consider this act of violence as an armed attack against all members and will take the actions it deems necessary to assist the attacked ally-- a clear demonstration of tremendous solidarity within the alliance.

SOURCE:

www.canadianally.com/ca/global/alliances-nato-en.asp

Global Role

International Missions

In addition to defending Canada, helping to secure North America, and addressing threats to national security as far away from North American borders as possible, the Canadian Forces also respond to international security concerns. More than 3,800 Canadian soldiers, sailors and Air Force personnel are deployed overseas on operational missions. On any given day, about 8,000 Canadian Forces members - one third of Canada's deployable force - are preparing for, engaged in or returning from an overseas mission. Since 1947, the CF has completed 72 international operations. That figure does not include current operations, or the many CF operations carried out in Canada.

Peace Support Initiatives



Peacekeeping is an important aspect of Canada's national heritage and a reflection of our fundamental beliefs. It is a dynamic concept that responds to changes in the international environment in order to continue to develop security for people affected by war. Canada builds on our established peacekeeping tradition to make strong and imaginative contributions to international peace and security.

Peacekeeping is also a significant component of Canada's foreign policy and our contribution to the multilateral security system. Fifty years of experience in peacekeeping and participation in an overwhelming majority of peacekeeping missions mandated by the United Nations Security Council has established an international reputation for Canada.

Since 1947, more than 100,000 Canadian Forces members have taken part in peacekeeping and peace enforcement missions in hot spots all over the world. These missions have been conducted under the auspices of the United Nations and NATO, and within coalitions of like-minded countries. Since 1990, the Canadian Forces have had to deal with an accelerated operational tempo, as overseas missions multiplied - from the Balkans to East Timor, including Haiti, Africa and Afghanistan.

SOURCE:

<http://www.canadianally.com/ca/global/role-en.asp>



Canada's 9/11 Response

Immediate Response

In the aftermath of September 11, 2001, the Department of National Defence (DND) and the Canadian Forces (CF) stood united with the United States and our North Atlantic Treaty Organisation (NATO) allies in responding to this global threat, and in defending our security, our values and our shared respect for the rule of law. At the height of the operation in Afghanistan, Canada was the fourth largest contributor to the international coalition. The Canadian Forces responded rapidly across a wide range of activities in coordination with a number of government departments, specifically:

- Through an immediate recall of personnel, the CF implemented **an increased level of readiness** at home and abroad.
- Canada's North American Aerospace Defence Command (NORAD) commitment was increased by the addition of **CF-18 fighter jets placed at strategic locations throughout the country**
- The CF assisted a number of civil authorities and agencies to **provide relief to 23,921 passengers aboard 142 civilian flights** diverted from the United States to six Canadian airports.
- **Re-routed travellers and aircrew were hosted at CF facilities** in Goose Bay, Gander and Stephenville, Newfoundland; Halifax, Shearwater and Aldershot, Nova Scotia; and Winnipeg, Manitoba.
- CF aircraft were involved in the **transport of people and supplies** to help cope with the flood of passengers.
- Public Safety and Emergency Preparedness Canada (PSEPC) **increased staff levels and enhanced monitoring** through the Government Emergency Operations Coordination Centre. PSEPC also enhanced its surveillance for related cyber events.
- **The Disaster Assistance Response Team (DART) was mobilized** at 8 Wing Trenton, Ontario and ready to deploy to any site in the US within hours.

Strengthening Relationship

The United States is Canada's most important ally and defence partner. Defence and security relations between the two countries are longstanding, well entrenched and highly successful. Defence cooperation with the U.S. maximizes the security of Canadians. The terrorist attacks of September 11, 2001 underline the need to continue working together effectively to counter new threats to the continent.

Canada has pledged its solidarity with the United States in the fight against terrorism. We are engaged in an ongoing diplomatic campaign to build and maintain broad international support for the fight against terrorism. This is a multi-layered effort with political, security, legal, financial and humanitarian dimensions. At a series of important bilateral visits and international meetings, Canada has emphasized its commitment to fighting terrorism, reinvigorating the Middle East Peace Process and maintaining international support for the coalition.

There currently exist between Canada and the U.S. over 80 treaty-level defence agreements, more than 250 memoranda of understanding between the two defence departments, and approximately 145 bilateral forums in which defence matters are discussed.

Military Contribution

Canada's military has made and continues to make a significant contribution to the international campaign against terrorism:

- Canada has deployed 12,000 military personnel in the War on Terror since October 2001.
- Canada was the first US ally to deploy to the Northern Arabian Sea/Persian Gulf after 9/11.
- A Canadian Lieutenant-General (Rick Hillier) commanded NATO's 6,500 International Security Assistance Force (ISAF) troops in Kabul in 2004.
- 18 Canadian Warships have been deployed to date in the War on Terror.
- Canada has deployed UAVs, CC-150 Polaris Strategic Airlift, CC-130 Hercules Tactical Airlift, CP-140 Aurora Maritime Patrol aircraft, and CH-124 Sea King Maritime Helicopters to the War on Terror.
- The United States Government has awarded 30 US Bronze Stars to Canadian service personnel in the War on Terror.

SOURCE:

<http://www.canadianally.com/ca/terror/response-en.asp>

FACTS WHICH MAY SURPRISE YOU

Military

Since October of 2001, Canada has deployed 18 warships and 12,000 troops to the Persian Gulf and Northern Arabian Sea in support of the War on Terror.

WW1

- Canadian BILLY BISHOP was the British Empire's highest scoring WW1 ace (a fighter pilot who shoots down more than five enemy planes) with 72 confirmed victories. He was the third most successful ace of the entire war behind France's René Fonck and with 80 recorded victories, Germany's famous "Red Baron" (Manfred von Richthofen).
- The Battle of Vimy Ridge, 9-12 April 1917, was the first truly successful allied offensive operation of World War One. It was carried out completely by the Canadian Corps of four divisions. While the Canadians sustained 10,000 casualties, the effort established the nation's soldiers as specialists in the assault role - and was a defining moment in the development of Canada's national identity. Previous allied assaults on the 11 kilometre ridge had proven costly - 150,000 French troops alone.
- Canada suffered 233,000 killed and wounded from its deployed force of 418,000 soldiers, sailors and airmen.
- "The Canadians", wrote Lloyd George [British Prime Minister], "played a part of such distinction that thenceforward they were marked out as storm troops; for the remainder of the way they were brought along to head the assault in one great battle after another. Whenever the Germans found the Canadian Corps coming into the line they prepared for the worst."
- Canada had a staggering total of 185 aces who shot down 5 or more enemy aircraft in WWI, and a full two dozen of them shot down twenty or more planes.
- In 1915, as a medical officer serving with the Canadian Expeditionary Force (CEF) in Belgium, South African War veteran John McCrae, a doctor and teacher from Guelph, Ontario, wrote the poem "[In Flanders Fields](#)", which quickly came to symbolize the sacrifices of all who were fighting in the First World War. It continues to be a part of Remembrance Day ceremonies in Canada and other countries throughout the world.

WW2

- Canada had more than one million people in uniform during WWII - from a population of just 11 million.
- 25% of the British Royal Air Force were Canadian flyers.

- Royal Canadian Air Force Squadrons fought in the Battle of Britain.
- Canada participated in WWII from September 1939 until victory in Europe and Japan in 1945
- 14,000 Canadian troops stormed one of the D Day Beaches - Juno Beach.
- Canadian troops invaded Sicily in 1943 along with US and British troops. (76,000 Canadians served in Italy)
- The Royal Canadian Navy played a crucial role in the Battle of the Atlantic.
- At War's end the Canadian Navy was the 3rd largest Allied Navy; the Air Force was the 4th largest.

Korean War

- 26,791 Canadians fought in the Korean War.
- 2 Battalion, Princess Patricia's Canadian Light Infantry was awarded a US Presidential Citation for valorous actions and exceptional meritorious conduct for actions at the Battle of Kapyong in April 1951 where despite being completely surrounded by enemy units for 48 hours, the Canadians along with 3rd Battalion, Royal Australian Regiment and Company A, 72nd Heavy Tank Battalion (US), held the front line to allow US and South Korean forces to re-establish defensive positions.

Gulf War One

- 4,500 Canadians served during the 1990-1991 Gulf War (2,700 during combat).
- Canada provided Three War ships, Strategic and Tactical Airlift, an Air to Air Refueler, a Field Hospital and Composite CF 18 Fighter Squadron.
- Canadians were based in Saudi Arabia, Qatar and Bahrain

Balkans

- Canada has deployed 40,000 troops to the Balkans since 1991 with the European Community Monitoring Mission, United Nations and NATO.

Kosovo

- Canada carried out 10 percent of the NATO bombing raids during the 1999 Kosovo Campaign.

War on Terror

Following the attacks of September 11, Canada introduced the Anti-Terrorism Act, which included significant measures designed to identify, prosecute, convict and punish terrorists; and detect and deter the financing of terrorist activities.

- Canada was the first US ally to deploy to the Northern Arabian Sea/Persian Gulf after 9/11.
- 18 Canadian Warships have been deployed to date in the War on Terror.
- The United States Government has awarded 30 US Bronze Stars to Canadian service personnel in the War on Terror.
- Canada has deployed 18 Warships and 12,000 troops as part of the War on Terror.

Resources

- 20%: Percentage of World's fresh water supply is located in Canada.
- The number of barrels of proven Oil reserves in Canada is 180 billion; second only to Saudi Arabia (U.S. Department of Energy). Actual reserves may be 315 billion barrels alone in Canada's Tar Sands Oil Field according the Canadian Association of Petroleum Producers.
- Canada supplies more than One-third of the uranium used in U.S nuclear power plants, generating almost 6% of total U.S. electricity supply.
- In 2002, Canada supplied the U.S. with 17% of its imports of crude and refined oil products - more than any other foreign supplier at over 1.91 million barrels per day.
- In 2001, 94% of U.S. natural gas imports came from Canada. Canadian natural gas supplied 37% of the demand in the Western U.S., 41% in the Midwest, and 33% in the Northeast.
- Canada is the third-largest producer of natural gas and the ninth-largest producer of crude oil in the world.
- Canada supplies over 50% of the world's total supply of medical isotopes (used for 100 different medical procedures)

Trade

- The US and Canada are each other's largest trading partners - US \$1.3 billion in trade crosses the Canada-US border every day
- The trade market in Canada for US goods is larger than all 25 members of the European Union combined
- US trade with the province of Ontario alone is bigger than with all of Japan
- 5 ½ million US jobs depend on Canadian imports from the US

- Canada is the leading foreign source of energy to the US, including oil.
- The 2004 KPMG Competitive Alternatives international business cost is the fifth consecutive report of its kind to rank Canada the lowest-cost G7 country in which to do business.

Miscellaneous

- Canada is composed of 5 ½ Time Zones. ([Summer](#) / [Winter](#) Time Zones of Canada)
- 33,000 US-bound air passengers were re-routed to Canadian airports on 9/11. Virtually all were hosted in Canadian communities and military bases for several days. [Gander, Newfoundland \(population 10,000\) had 6,656 guests for 3-4 days.](#)
- The Paramount theatre in Montreal is the most attended and most lucrative movie theatre in North-America.
- Canada has over 2 million lakes.
- 75% of Canada's population lives within 160 kilometres (100 miles) of the US border.
- Canada is the leading foreign source of energy to the US, including oil.
- Montreal, Quebec's largest city, is the second largest French-speaking city in the World.
- Hockey, basketball, lacrosse and football were invented by Canadians.
- A few Canadian inventions include the AM radio, Canadarm, the ski-doo, IMAX film technology, the zipper, The Blackberry, Insulin, Java programming language, Plexiglass, the G-Suit, Green Garbage Bags, the Hydrofoil, Pabulum, Walkie-Talkie.
- Winnie the Pooh (named after the city of Winnipeg by a Canadian soldier on his way to the Great War and brought overseas with the troops) is based on a real bear cub from White River, Ontario that author A.A. Milne and his son visited at the London Zoo.
- Toronto's CN Tower is the world's tallest freestanding structure.
- The West Edmonton Mall in Alberta is the world's largest shopping center.
- 252 jets were rerouted to Canada on September 11, 2001.

SOURCE:

<http://www.canadianally.com/ca/about/facts-en.asp>

Free Trade

Free trade is trade between nations that is not hindered by tariffs or other obstacles. Tariffs are taxes that nations importing or buying goods from other nations place on such goods. Other obstacles might be import quotas, which limit the quantity of a product that may come into a country, or export taxes, which a country selling goods abroad puts on those goods to raise their price.

On January 1, 1989, a free trade agreement between Canada and the United States came into effect. The agreement provides for all tariffs on trade between the two countries to be removed, some immediately, and the rest over a period of five to ten years. Some import quotas were initially allowed on a few agricultural products (such as chickens, turkeys and dairy). The two countries, as members of the new World Trade Organization and in accordance with trade negotiations, have replaced these quotas with tariffs.

The Canada-US agreement was replaced by the North American Free Trade Agreement (NAFTA), which includes Mexico, in January 1994. This agreement applies most of the provisions of the earlier Canada-US agreement to trade with Mexico. Mexico has, however, placed some limits on the sharing of its natural resources with Canada and the US. The three countries also negotiated two side agreements on the environment and labor.

NAFTA is actually much more than a free trade agreement. It also provides for each of the member countries to reduce restrictions on corporations wishing to buy or start businesses in member countries. Each nation is to treat the other nations' business firms operating within its borders the same way it would treat businesses owned by nationals. The three nations have also agreed to work towards harmonizing qualifications for professional people (such as architects), national standards for health and safety and product standards.

Canada and the US have also agreed to share with each other their natural resources if shortages arise in the future. This is a major commitment for Canada, which exports a large proportion of its oil and gas and many metals to the US. Canada is the most important foreign source of many raw materials for the US. NAFTA also provides set procedures for the settlement of trade disputes between member nations.

A trade agreement between Canada and the US had been discussed for many decades. A limited arrangement, covering only a few products, was first negotiated in 1854 but ended 12 years later. In 1911 a deal was signed by the two countries but was rejected by the Canadian electorate in a federal election called over the issue. Shortly after World War II, Canadian officials entered secret trade negotiations with the US government. These were later abandoned, however, amid fears that the Canadian electorate would not support such a deal. The current trade agreement was initially completed on October 4, 1987. Much debate followed and the 1988 Canadian election was fought primarily on this issue.

Various predictions about the impact of the free trade agreement on Canada have been

made. Because so many other changes have taken place in the domestic and international economies, it is difficult to isolate the effects of free trade.

Some economists had forecast that the productivity of Canadian manufacturing would rise to equal that of its American counterpart. This has not happened and Canadian manufacturing output remains about 25% below the US level. Although Canadian trade with the US has markedly increased, the gains in income attributable to free trade are probably small.

SOURCE:

<http://www.canadianencyclopedia.ca/index.cfm?PgNm=TCE&Params=J1ARTJ0003054>

Canada and the United Nations

Introduction

The United Nations is the only multilateral organization whose membership approaches universality and whose agenda encompasses all areas of human activity, in every region of the world. That is why it is so important to Canada.

It is also the forum in which grievances are aired and resolved through agreements between member States. The UN's ability to live up to its potential and founders' ideals, is almost exclusively determined by the 191 countries that collectively constitute the United Nations. Our successes are its successes; our failures, its failures. This organization can only accomplish what its member states allow it to.

Canadians & the United Nations

Canada has been an active and committed participant in the United Nations since its founding in 1945 in San Francisco, where Canada played a key role in the drafting of the Charter. Individual Canadians have played vital roles within the United Nations, and many of the Organization's great accomplishments have had a Canadian dimension. For example, fifty years ago John Humphrey was the principal author of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights; Lester Pearson helped to invent the concept of peacekeeping, winning the Nobel Peace Prize for his efforts to resolve the Suez Crisis of 1956; and Maurice Strong chaired both the 1972 United Nations Conference on the Human Environment, in Stockholm, and the 1992 United Nations Conference on Environment and Development, in Rio de Janeiro, and also served as founding Executive Director of the United Nations Environment Program. Canadians have occupied key positions within the United Nations System, including the Presidency of the General Assembly (Lester Pearson, in 1952-53). In January 1998, a Canadian, Louise Fréchette, was appointed the first-ever UN Deputy Secretary-General and on July 1, 2004 Madame Justice Louise Arbour became High Commissioner for Human Rights.

Canada's commitment to the United Nations

The UN's basic purposes and its other underlying principles have guided Canadian foreign and defence policy since 1945. Over the past half-century, Canada has made a significant, constructive and sustained contribution in all areas of UN activity: peace and security, development assistance, human rights, and social, economic and environmental affairs.

As the cornerstone of a rules-based international system, the UN is a vital forum through which we have sought to influence world affairs, defend our security and sovereignty within a stable global framework, promote our trade and economic interests, and protect and project Canadian values such as fairness, equal opportunity and respect for human rights.

The promotion of human rights and justice, the prevention and abatement of environmental degradation, the alleviation of poverty, and the promotion of development and human security on a global basis can all be advanced significantly through multilateral discussion and negotiation. The UN is the sole global forum. Support for the UN is deeply entrenched throughout Canadian society.

The UN remains as relevant to Canada today as it was in 1945, if not more so. The 1995 Foreign Policy White Paper, *Canada and the World* put it unambiguously:

"The UN continues to be the key vehicle for pursuing Canada's global security objectives. Canada can best move forward its global security priorities by working with other member states. The success of the UN is fundamental, therefore, to Canada's future security."

Canada has participated in many UN peacekeeping operations. The UN remains a vital instrument through which Canadians and others are working to bolster human security by ridding the world of anti-personnel mines, halting the traffic in small arms and light weapons or putting an end to the conscription of children as soldiers. Most recently, Ambassador Philippe Kirsch of Canada chaired the negotiations leading to the establishment of the International Criminal Court. Ambassador Kirsch was subsequently elected as a Judge of the ICC and is serving as its first President.

Canada gives particularly strong support to the ongoing process of UN reform, in order to help ensure that the organization remains responsive to the interests and concerns of its membership, and capable of dealing with threats to global security. To this end, Canada is pledged to work to strengthen the UN's capacity for preventive action, enhance the UN's rapid reaction capability, improve the functioning of its decision-making bodies and put the organization on a sounder financial footing.

Public opinion surveys consistently show that Canadians have a high regard for the United Nations. The United Nations has demonstrated the ability to adapt, institutionally and operationally, as new issues have emerged and as relations between countries continue to evolve. The United Nations remains crucial to Canada and essential to the conduct of diplomacy in an ever more inter-dependent world. It is a precious resource that Canada is committed to preserving.

Canada's Financial Contribution to the United Nations

Canada continues to rank as 7th largest contributor to the UN regular budget. Under the current (2004-2006) UN Scale of Assessments, Canada pays 2.813% of the UN regular budget and the UN peacekeeping budget. For 2004, Canada's assessed contribution to the UN regular budget is US\$40.6 million (approx. CDN\$53.1 million). For the period 1 April 2003 to 31 March 2004, Canada's assessed contribution payments to UN peacekeeping operations totalled CDN\$77.8 million. Canada has always been prominent in calling for all Member States to honour their financial obligations in full and on time, as we have consistently done.

Canada's Diplomatic Missions to the United Nations

Canada has seven diplomatic missions accredited to the UN.

The Permanent Mission of Canada to the United Nations in New York is responsible for overall relations with the United Nations and delegations of member countries, including the Security Council and the Department of Peacekeeping Operations.

The Permanent Mission of Canada to the Office of the United Nations in Geneva is responsible for relations with the UN offices in Geneva, including the High Commissioner for Refugees, the High Commissioner for Human Rights and the Conference on Disarmament.

The Permanent Delegation of Canada to the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization in Paris is responsible for Canada's relations with UNESCO.

The Permanent Mission of Canada International Organisations in Vienna is responsible for relations with the UN offices in Vienna, including the International Atomic Energy Agency.

The Permanent Mission of Canada to the United Nations Centre for Human Settlements (HABITAT) and to the United Nations Environment Program (UNEP) is in Nairobi.

The Permanent Mission of Canada to the Food and Agriculture Organization in Rome is responsible for relations with the FAO, the World Food Program, and the International Fund for Agricultural Development.

The Permanent Mission of Canada to the International Civil Aviation Organization in Montreal is responsible for relations with the International Civil Aviation Organization.

Following are some of the major sectors of UN activity in which Canada has been, and will continue to be, particularly active.

Canada at the Security Council

Canada has six times been elected to the powerful UN Security Council, serving terms in 1948-49, 1958-59, 1967-68, 1977-78, 1989-90 and in 1999-2000. During its last tenure on the Council, Canada's priorities revolved around issues of human security, such as the protection of civilians in armed conflict, war-affected children, conflict prevention, peace building, mass refugee flows, illicit small arms trafficking, gross human rights abuses, and failures of governance and the rule of law. Canada also played major role in improving the effectiveness of sanctions, especially in Africa, and in promoting changes to the Council's working methods intended to improve its transparency and accountability to UN members.

Peacekeeping and Peace Support Operations

Since its beginnings in 1956, peacekeeping has become an integral and high-profile component of UN operations. Since 1957, when Lester B. Pearson was awarded the Nobel Peace Prize for his leadership in developing the concept of peacekeeping,

Canadians have felt a commitment to peacekeeping and have accepted frequent requests to join the Blue Berets in operations around the world.

One of a growing group of countries to which the UN regularly turns when it requires peacekeeping advice and expert military contributions, Canada has participated in almost all the peacekeeping operations mandated by the UN Security Council-- in Cyprus, Bosnia, Haiti and elsewhere.

Canadians have served in more than 30 separate missions. Among them have been men and women from the Canadian Armed Forces, police forces across Canada, Elections Canada, the Canadian Red Cross, and other governmental and non-governmental agencies based in Canada.

In 1994, Canada established the Lester B. Pearson Canadian International Peacekeeping Training Centre in Cornwallis, Nova Scotia. The Center offers instruction in the theoretical foundations of peacekeeping, as well as its more practical aspects.

In 1995, at the 50th session of the UN General Assembly, Canada presented a groundbreaking study on a UN rapid reaction capability: Towards a Rapid Reaction Capability for the United Nations. The study urged the UN and its members to develop a rapid deployment capability, which could be swiftly mobilized to respond to humanitarian crises. It also recommended the establishment of an operational-level headquarters for force deployment.

In 2000, the Report of the Panel on United Nations Peace Operations, chaired by Lakhdar Brahimi, advocated a series of changes aimed at enhancing the effectiveness of peace missions, notably a clearer and more realistic mandate and a soundly constructed system, governing the entire process from design to execution. The report also recognized the increasing complexity of international engagement in resolving conflict and post-conflict reconstruction.

Reflecting these changes, peacekeeping today is less about separating warring factions and more about establishing security and stability to ensure the integration of peace building and reconstruction efforts. Canada has played a very active role in this process, increasing the role of civilians and police in missions, working in partnership with international military forces.

Lately, peacekeeping and peace support operations have not been the sole prerogative of the United Nations. Regional organizations mandated by the UN are now also playing a very active role in peace support. While Canada continues to remain actively engaged in peacekeeping operations, there are advantages to deploying with organizations mandated by the UN, but with more robust capabilities like Canada's current role in NATO operations in Afghanistan. Canada has also supported the preparation of regional organizations for peacekeeping and peace support operations such as the Africa Union, the Economic Community Of West African States and the Organization of American States.

Peacebuilding and Human Security

Canada's traditional role as a peacekeeper is today being complemented by our leadership in responding to two of the most significant challenges we face in the post-cold war world: peacebuilding, or building sustainable peace in countries prone to recurring cycles of violence; and human security, or promoting the safety and security of people.

Canada was one of the first countries to promote the concept of peace building in 1996, when it launched the Canadian Peacebuilding Initiative. Because peacebuilding lies at the intersection of international security and development, the initiative is a joint undertaking of Foreign Affairs Canada and the Canadian International Development Agency. It has two objectives: to assist countries in conflict in their efforts toward peace and stability, and to promote Canadian capacity and participation in international peacebuilding initiatives.

A key goal of the peacebuilding initiative is to improve co-ordination among international actors. This involves strengthening the UN's capacity to prevent conflict, to respond rapidly when conflict erupts and to provide for post-conflict reconstruction.

Under the initiative, Canada has worked to improve UN capacity to respond to these challenges. Among other things, it has contributed to the UN Trust Fund for Preventive Action and the Trust Fund for Children and Armed Conflict, and has promoted strengthening the role of Special Representatives of the Secretary-General, and the conflict prevention capacity of regional organizations and the UN itself.

Canada has also supported the UN Lessons Learned Unit's work to develop guidelines for demilitarization, demobilization and re-integration of combatants in post-conflict situations. At home, Canada has developed a national roster of Canadian civilians who are available on short notice to provide assistance and expertise to international peace support operations organized by the UN and regional organizations.

Canada believes that promoting human security is an important dimension of the UN's role. One of the human security initiatives launched by Canada at the UN is our effort to enhance the protection of civilians in armed conflict. Under Canada's presidency in February 1999, the Security Council debated this issue and called on the Secretary-General to prepare a report. Issued in June 2001, the Report on the Prevention of armed conflict contains concrete recommendations for protecting civilians in conflict situations. Canada and other countries are now working toward implementation of the recommendations.

Non-Proliferation, Arms Control and Disarmament

As we seek new tools for the UN to respond to threats to security, we must not relax our efforts in traditional areas of concern, such as non-proliferation, arms control and disarmament. With the indefinite extension of the Nuclear Non-Proliferation Treaty in 1995 and the entry into force of the Comprehensive Test-Ban Treaty in 2001, the

international community took a historic and definitive step forward on nuclear disarmament. Canada is firmly committed to pursuing the goal set out in the Test-Ban Treaty of reducing and ultimately eliminating nuclear weapons.

We are equally concerned that there be no relaxation in the international condemnation of chemical and biological weapons, and in support for treaties dealing with them. Nor should the international community neglect the threats to security arising from excessive and destabilizing accumulations of conventional weapons. We believe that more can and should be done at the multilateral level to address such concerns, including issues related to small arms and light weapons.

Environment and Sustainable Development

Solving environmental problems is a top international priority for Canadians and for the Government of Canada. Canada has played a leading or important role on many environment and sustainable development issues over the past decade. For example, Canada is a leader on the issue of biodiversity, and was one of the first countries to ratify the Convention on Biological Diversity. Montreal was chosen as the site for the Permanent Secretariat of the Convention.

At the World Summit on Sustainable Development (WSSD) in Johannesburg (August 26-September 4, 2002), Canada played an active role on the full gamut of economic, social and environmental issues under discussion. Canada was at the centre of the final issue to be resolved, ensuring appropriate treatment of human rights in the section on health. The Prime Minister's presence and speeches to the Plenary and to the Business Action for Sustainable Development Forum attracted widespread attention, especially the announcement that a proposal to ratify the Kyoto Protocol was to be submitted to the Canadian Parliament before the end of 2002. Canadian government departments and agencies are currently encouraging follow-up/implementation of WSSD commitments in their own areas of responsibility.

At the United Nations Conference on Environment and Development (UNCED) in 1992, Canada played a strong role in developing the Forest Principles. Since then, Canada has launched the International Model Forest Programme, the Montréal Criteria and Indicators Process, and the Intergovernmental Working Group on Forests (co-sponsored with Malaysia), and was an active participant in the Intergovernmental Panel on Forests (1995-1997) and the Intergovernmental Forum on Forests (1997-2000), sponsored by the UN Commission on Sustainable Development. Canada is also a leading proponent of a comprehensive global legally binding instrument on sustainable forest management. In order to support the Intergovernmental Forum on Forests's deliberations, Canada and Costa Rica launched an initiative to provide a neutral forum for countries and interested parties to express their views on the potential elements and relative merits of international legally binding instruments.

The year-long process included a series of eight regional meetings and a final meeting held in Ottawa in December 1999. Canada has been an active participant in the [United Nations Forum on Forests](#) since its establishment in 2000.

A further example of Canada's weight on environmental issues is our key role on international ocean issues. On November 7, 2003, Canada ratified the [United Nations Convention on the Law of the Sea](#) (UNCLOS) and is now an active participant to Meetings of States Parties to the Law of the Sea Convention and sessions of the International Seabed Authority. In addition, Canada continues to be an active participant in the [UN Informal Consultative Process on the Law of the Sea and Oceans Affairs](#).

Canada has also supported the drafting of an Ocean Charter, which has now been endorsed by UNESCO, and was instrumental in securing the [UN Agreement on Straddling Stocks and Highly Migratory Stocks](#).

Human Rights

Since the end of the Second World War, Canada has been a consistently strong voice in the world's councils for the protection of human rights and the defence of democratic values. From the drafting of the [Universal Declaration of Human Rights](#) over 50 years ago through actions taken in a vast range of forums and circumstances, Canada has always been there.

Canada is an active participant in the annual meetings of the UN Commission on Human Rights in Geneva, and it regularly co-sponsors a number of resolutions. Sometimes these are on specific countries where the human rights situation is particularly serious. They may also be on issues Canada feels strongly about, such as violence against women, freedom of expression or impunity.

Other Canadian initiatives have included efforts to ensure consideration of human rights issues in all UN activities, leadership in establishing the position of the [Office of the High Commissioner for Human Rights](#) (UNHCHR), and support for the increasing number of human rights field operations of the Office of the High Commissioner for Human Rights, including units attached to UN peacekeeping operations.

Canada also played a significant role in establishing the [International Criminal Court](#). It actively took part in the preparatory discussions and chaired the June 1998 international negotiating conference. Canadian judge Philippe Kirsch is the current president of the court. He was elected in 2003 for a term of three years.

Canada's contribution helped bring about an international court in which to try cases of genocide, crimes against humanity and other war crimes.

Canada plays a major role as well in the preparation, debates and follow-up of various UN world conferences concerned with human rights - for example, the 1993 Vienna World Conference on Human Rights and the 2001 Conference on Racism.

As a signatory of all the principal UN treaties on international human rights, Canada regularly submits its human rights record to review by UN monitoring bodies.

By working through the Canadian International Development Agency, via bilateral assistance as well as participation in the UN funds, programmes and special institutions, Canada continues to help societies build human rights capacity through strengthening the electoral process, the judicial system, legislatures and independent media.

Women

The promotion and protection of women's human rights is an integral part of Canada's foreign policy. Canada has been at the forefront of major UN commitments in this area, introducing the first-ever resolution aimed at integrating the human rights of women in the UN which was adopted by consensus at the Commission on Human Rights on International Women's Day, March 8, 1993.

Later that same year Canada was instrumental in drafting a strong UN Declaration on the Elimination of Violence against Women. In 1994, Canada played a lead role in establishing the position of Special Rapporteur on violence against women, whose mandate to study violence, its causes and consequences was most recently renewed in April 2003 under the Canadian-led resolution on the Elimination of Violence Against Women at the Commission on Human Rights.

Canada ratified the UN Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination Against Women (CEDAW) in 1981 and, on October 18, 2002, acceded to the Optional Protocol to CEDAW.

Canada has also been a long-time advocate for integration of gender perspectives in the UN's humanitarian, armed conflict and peacebuilding areas, including through our work in the context of the International Criminal Court, the Security Council and follow-up to the Security Council resolution 1325 on women, peace and security.

Children

A Canadian priority, and a key element in our efforts to improve human security, is strengthening respect for children's rights, particularly by eliminating exploitative child labour, the sexual exploitation of children, the widespread use of child soldiers and the victimization of children in armed conflict.

At the multilateral and bilateral levels, Canada is working in partnership with developing countries to protect children, strengthen their rights and assist victims of the sex trade. Canada supports the negotiations of an International Labour Organization (ILO) convention on the elimination of exploitation of child labour, and it also supports the ILO's International Programme for the Elimination of Exploitation of Child Labour.

Indigenous Peoples

In partnership with like-minded states and organizations of Indigenous peoples, Canada is working hard at the UN to promote and protect the fundamental freedoms and human rights of Indigenous peoples and individuals.

At the Working Group on the Draft UN Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples, Canada has played a lead role with a view to achieving adoption of the Declaration by the UN General Assembly before the end of the International Decade of the World's Indigenous People in 2004. Canada supported the establishment of a Permanent Forum on Indigenous Issues within the UN system which was a major goal of the International Decade. Established in 2002, the Permanent Forum is an advisory body reporting to the Economic and Social Council composed of sixteen experts (one of whom were provided by Canada) which discusses indigenous issues in the areas of development, culture, the environment, education, health and human rights. The Permanent Forum provides advice and recommendations, raises awareness and promotes the integration of indigenous issues within the UN system, and prepares and disseminates information.

UN Reform

The forces of globalization have in recent years presented the United Nations with challenges and pressures unimagined by its founders. Canada believes that efforts must be continued to reform the UN in order to ensure that it remains credible and relevant to the lives of individuals.

Renewing the United Nations: A Programme for Reform, a document presented by Secretary-General Kofi Annan before the United Nations General Assembly in July 1997, proposes the most extensive and far-reaching reforms in the history of the international body. Mr. Annan published a second package of reform in September 2002.

The reform process should help enhance the credibility and effectiveness of the UN. Canada's reform efforts at the UN have focussed on making the United Nations more effective, not simply less expensive. These efforts include simplifying the structure of the UN Secretariat services involved in development, strengthening the Economic and Social Council, reducing overlap in UN specialized agencies, reviewing the UN's funds and programs to ensure better co-ordination of their activities in the field, and streamlining the UN machinery in the economic and social fields so that the efficiency savings achieved may be devoted to the UN's development activities. The principles of multilateral co-operation embodied in the United Nations are best articulated in the Millennium Declaration, which is solidly based upon its Charter.

SOURCE:

http://www.dfait-maeci.gc.ca/canada_un/cdn_un-en.asp

ADDRESS BY CANADIAN PRIME MINISTER PAUL MARTIN AT THE UNITED NATIONS

SPEECH BY THE PRIME MINISTER

September 22, 2004
New York, New York

Mr. President, I want to talk today about UN reform, particularly about the way we should serve and the way we do business if the United Nations is to play the role we want it to, in the 21st century.

The world is organized into independent states, and the primary obligation of the governments is to look after their own people. This presents us with a fundamental dilemma. For unless we also act collectively on the basis of our common humanity, the rich will become richer, the poor will become poorer, and hundreds of millions of people will be at risk. Thus we need institutions whose primary obligation is to our common humanity.

Herein lies the importance of the United Nations. It comprises member-states, but its mission is indeed to serve the world's peoples. Its charter makes this very clear: and I quote: "we, the peoples of the United Nations (are) determined to reaffirm faith in fundamental human rights, in the dignity and worth of the human person, in the equal rights of men and women".

Others quite properly will talk to you about structural reform.

What I want to talk to you about today, are reforms designed to put our common humanity at the center of the UN's agenda. Canada sees five areas where bold steps are required. The first area is the responsibility to protect the need to develop the rules and political will that would allow the international community to intervene in countries to prevent a humanitarian catastrophe.

Darfur is a human tragedy of immense proportions. We welcome the Security Council's support for expanded African Union engagement there, though we think the international response should be more robust. The African Union has agreed to lead this effort. Canada is offering \$20 million to assist, and we call on others to join in. It is good that the international community is finally moving, but it has taken far too long.

The Security Council has been bogged down in debating the issue. They have looked at



September 21, 2004: Prime Minister Paul Martin shakes hands with Afghanistan President Hamid Karzai at the United Nations General Assembly in New York City. Photo by Dave Chan - PMO.

whether Darfur is a “threat to international peace and security”. They are considering whether the tragedy qualifies as genocide, because either could provide justification in international law for intervention. The fact is though that while the international community struggles with definitions, the people of Darfur continue to suffer. They are hungry, they are homeless, they are sick and many have been driven out of their own country. Tens of thousands have been murdered, raped and assaulted. War crimes and crimes against humanity are being committed.

We must not let debates about definitions become obstacles to action. We should not have to go through such painful debates to figure out how to respond to humanitarian catastrophe. We need clear principles that will allow the international community to intervene much faster in situations like Darfur.

Our common humanity should be a powerful enough argument, and yet that is precisely what is missing. Put simply, there is still no explicit provision in international law for intervention on humanitarian grounds. The “Responsibility to Protect” is intended to fill this gap. It says that we should have the legal right to intervene in a country on the grounds of humanitarian emergency alone when the government of that country is unwilling or unable to protect their people from extreme harm as a result of internal war, repression or state failure.

The primary responsibility for the protection of a state's own population lies with the state itself, and we are not arguing for a unilateral right to intervene in one country whenever another country feels like it. It is always preferable to have multilateral authority for intervention in the affairs of a sovereign state. What we seek is the evolution of international law and practice so that multilateral action may be taken in situations of extreme humanitarian emergency.

International law is moving in the right direction. Existing instruments such as the Convention on Genocide and human rights treaties do acknowledge states' obligations to their people. The establishment of the International Criminal Court and criminal tribunals are further steps forward. Thus customary international law is evolving to provide a solid basis in the building of a normative framework for collective humanitarian intervention. To speed it along, member-states should now adopt a General Assembly Resolution recognizing the evolution of sovereignty to encompass the international responsibility to people.

The Security Council should establish new thresholds for when the international community judges that civilian populations face extreme threats; for exploring non-military and, if necessary, proportionate military options to protect civilians. The responsibility to protect is not a license for intervention; it is an international guarantor of political accountability.

The second area is the responsibility to deny, it encompasses the need to ensure that

weapons of mass destruction do not spread to states or terrorists prepared to use them under any circumstances, and especially against innocent civilians. Non-proliferation and disarmament remain fundamental pillars of the UN's commitment to international peace and security

In both cases multilateralism has been challenged by dramatic changes in the security climate, and there is a clear need to make our systems stronger and more responsive. Strict verification is the key.

The UN's nuclear watchdog, the International Atomic Energy Agency, needs stronger tools and political support. We need more rigorous controls on sensitive nuclear technology, and the Security Council must be prepared to deal with non-compliance effectively. The fact is that determined proliferators such as North Korea have been able to circumvent their treaty obligations. Iranian nuclear ambitions represent a serious proliferation risk. We need a multilateral watchdog to assist the Security Council in resolving weapons-related issues in states of concern.

The UN should establish a permanent inspection and verification mechanism that can reinforce and supplement existing verification systems.

More generally, and to show how far we have to go on the disarmament agenda, and on the responsibility to deny, the UN Conference on Disarmament, charged with the responsibility for negotiating new multilateral instruments, has not even been able to agree on a work plan since 1998. The conference must get back to productive work.

Mr. President, the third area is the responsibility to respect human beings, their dignity, their freedom and their culture. I would like to talk about a broader notion of human rights, one that can encompass individual rights, the protection of collective rights, and pluralism as reflected in the concept of cultural diversity. In fact, the recent UNDP report on human development stresses that cultural diversity is also tied in with freedom. That is why we favour a UNESCO instrument on cultural promotion.

Since the United Nations Charter and the Universal Declaration of Human Rights, humanity has made remarkable strides in the area of human rights. Conventions are now in place to protect a number of rights: civil, political, economic, social and cultural.

But we must remain vigilant in the face of new forms of abuse, such as international trafficking of people and the child sex trade.

In addition to the protections afforded individual rights, various conventions have also been concluded to better protect minorities, to denounce racial discrimination and to combat marginalization.

Nevertheless, it is apparent that the most divisive conflicts result more often than not from attempts by one group to prevent other groups from realizing their perfectly

legitimate aspirations from an economic, religious, social or political standpoint. Entire communities are threatened. Violence, civil strife and even failed States ensue. Kosovo, Bosnia, the Great Lakes region in Africa, and today Darfur are the most chilling examples. The international community must take vigorous action to protect the individual as well as minority communities. It is not enough to simply possess various legal instruments – they must be put into practice. Institutions responsible for human rights must reveal to the entire world those guilty of abuse, be they armed groups, communities or governments, and take the necessary measures to bring a halt to this abuse.

The United Nations is our moral conscience. The time has come for us to act.

The fourth area is the responsibility to build. The objectives of the Millennium Summit on poverty, disease and global insecurity will come to naught if we do not follow up on the Monterrey consensus, to wit: genuine development requires a holistic approach to such issues as debt, market access and social investment.

That being said, as we have seen in Haiti, all the aid in the world will have only a fleeting effect if a country does not have functioning public institutions. We must build countries' governance capacities and take the time to do it right. The same is true for economic institutions. Those that work well marshal the creative energies of local entrepreneurs.

That is the message of the UN Commission on the Private Sector and Development: a thriving economy is the product of citizens' trust in their country's public institutions. In a nutshell, development depends on governance.

Lastly, there is responsibility for the future, which is to say the obligation we have to leave a better world for our children. This is no small challenge. It involves all aspects of our common heritage – health, the environment, oceans, space.

The new pandemics demand our most urgent attention. AIDS, SARS and the Ebola virus are sounding a terrifying alarm. But scientists are predicting even worse diseases. The World Health Organization must bolster its surveillance systems. It must do a better job coordinating its actions with those of other UN bodies.

Beyond health issues lies the whole question of managing our environment. It is gravely threatened. Only international cooperation and technical assistance can bring lasting solutions to such problems as access to clean air and water.

Furthermore, we need an oceans policy that allows us to rebuild our fish stocks. But access to fisheries must be better regulated under international law. Simply put, the pillage of these global resources must stop.

Space is our final frontier. It has always captured our imagination. What a tragedy it would be if space became one big weapons arsenal and the scene of a new arms race.

In 1967, the United Nations agreed that weapons of mass destruction must not be based in space. The time has come to extend this ban to all weapons.

Mr. President, I have talked today about responsibilities; let me mention one more—the responsibility to act.

We await the report of the Secretary General’s High Level Panel, and we anticipate substantial recommendations for reform. Many countries are focused on Security Council reform. We should support reforms that will make the Security Council more effective, and will permit those countries who actively support UN peacekeeping, development and other activities, to continue to have a meaningful opportunity to serve.

But we also look forward to recommendations that go well beyond the Security Council. For example, the need to set out measures to facilitate an integrated response to the diverse range of security challenges we face from the proliferation of terrorism to improving UN coordination on development, health, and environment. As individual countries, as members of regional organizations, as participants in various international groups that form around specific interests, we all must act to bridge the differences that divide us and forge an international consensus for reform of the United Nations.

In another context, for instance, Canada has proposed a special meeting where leaders from 20 or so countries in the developed and developing world would get together to discuss our collective challenges and responsibilities. This could very well include providing a major boost to UN reform efforts.

In any event, no matter how you come at it, the time has come for real reform of the United Nations. We must put aside narrow interests and work to common purpose to strengthen this universal institution, whose activities give force to our common humanity.

Four years ago, at the Millennium Summit, the leaders of the world agreed and I quote that “we have a duty...to all the world’s people, especially the most vulnerable...”. That duty will not be discharged, unless we, as governments speak to the dignity and freedom of every human being on earth, here at the world’s meeting place of nations.

Thank you.

SOURCE:

<http://www.pm.gc.ca/eng/news.asp?id=266>