

CIDA photo: Ron Watts



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 human rights, well-being and sustainable development of Indigenous peoples. 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 supports the establishment of a permanent forum for Indigenous peoples within the UN system; this is another major goal of the International Decade.

UN reform

Over 50 years after its creation, the forces of globalization have presented the United Nations with challenges and pressures unimagined by its founders. As we enter the 21st century, Canada believes that efforts must be continued to reform the UN 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 54-year history of the international body. 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 programmes 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.