

Mr. Secretary-General, we expect great things of the next chapter of your Agenda for Development. We share to a great extent your vision of development, which encompasses all facets of human activity and in particular its social dimensions. Although the full importance of these dimensions has finally been grasped, they are still poorly integrated in our development strategies. The time has come to translate this vision into new operational priorities and to adapt our institutions and structures.

Mr. Secretary-General, do not hesitate to recommend radical reforms if necessary. Together, we can restore the relevance and leadership of the United Nations system. We must adapt it to the new realities of an ever-changing, developing world.

Thirdly, we must strengthen the UN's rapid intervention capability.

The implementation of a number of the proposals advanced by the Secretary-General in his Agenda for Peace has enabled the UN to make great strides in the area of peacekeeping. In the spring, my government took the initiative of inviting the major troop-contributing countries to a meeting in Ottawa to discuss problems associated with political direction, command and control and the training of peacekeeping operations personnel.

In this regard, I am pleased to announce that Canada will soon open a centre for peacekeeping research and training. The centre, to be located on the site of the former military base in Cornwallis, Nova Scotia, will be named after Lester B. Pearson, Canadian recipient of the Nobel Peace Prize. I invite member states to come join us to share our experiences and fine-tune our future approaches.

The experience of the last few years leads us to believe that we need to explore even more innovative options than those considered to date. Recent peacekeeping missions have shown that the traditional approach no longer applies. As we have seen in Rwanda, rapid deployment of intervention forces is essential.

In light of the situation, the Government of Canada has decided to conduct an in-depth review of the short-, medium- and long-term options available to us to strengthen the UN's rapid response capability in times of crisis. Among these options, we feel that the time has come to study the possibility, over the long term, of creating a permanent UN military force. We will ask the world's leading experts for their input and will inform all member states of the results of the study.

Fourthly, we must improve the functioning of UN decision-making organs.