

a catalyst for positive action. In 1991, we adhered to the three inter-American conventions on the rights of women and are involved in the drafting of a convention on violence against women. A contribution of \$250,000 was provided by the Government of Canada to CIM to protect and promote the rights of women in the hemisphere.

Consultations with provincial and territorial governments have begun regarding an eventual ratification of the American Convention on Human Rights. We have staunchly supported an independent and effective role for the Inter-American Commission on Human Rights and the Inter-American Court of Human Rights.

As a country whose legal system is based on both common and civil law, Canada's legal expertise is highly relevant to the OAS.

Hemispheric Security and Arms Control:

The Gulf War focussed international attention on the problem of excessive arms build-ups. In 1991, the OAS unanimously adopted a Canadian resolution to examine questions related to hemispheric security, including excessive arms build-ups and transparency in arms transfers. In 1992, Canada co-sponsored a resolution to establish a Working Group on Hemispheric Security to maintain the focus of the General Assembly on these important issues.

Environmental Protection:

In 1991, the OAS launched a hemisphere-wide environmental protection program. Canada was involved in its planning from the start. The environment has been identified as one of the three priority areas for Canadian contributions to the OAS technical cooperation funds, and in 1991, a grant of \$1.2 million was provided for an environmental programme in the Amazon. In 1992, a Canadian resolution on high seas fishing conservation won the approval of the majority of OAS members. Building on this support, Canada went on to win global backing for the initiative at the 1992 United Nations Conference on Environment and Development (UNCED).

Narcotics Abuse Control:

Since joining the OAS Canada has been amongst the most active members of CICAD, the Inter-American Drug Abuse Control Commission. The Solicitor General of Canada has participated in the elaboration of an

