

developing closer international relationships such as the one with Canada. The elections imply another major step forward in this direction, already begun some time ago. So, are there things we should be doing now to strengthen our ties? If so, what are they?

As we contemplate this, it helps to start from a common understanding of where we are bilaterally. Let me try to bring everyone up to date.

Our two Foreign Ministers met and issued a Joint Statement this past June in Jakarta just before the ASEAN Regional Forum meeting. You may be surprised to learn that, in that document, the Foreign Ministers recommended holding a bilateral symposium that would bring together academics, business people, NGO representatives and government officials as a mechanism to promote increased understanding and to further develop and expand the bilateral relationship. They agreed to do so based on shared objectives, mutual respect and equal partnership. So here we are today trying to fulfill that important commitment.

Our Foreign Ministers suggested a common bilateral agenda to include:

- strengthening government, commercial and civil society linkages;
- strengthening international and regional peace and security;
- responding to terrorism;
- focussing on efforts to improve the investment climate and increase bilateral trade;
- supporting democratic development, pluralism and protection of human rights; and
- expanding dialogue and academic exchange on Islam and pluralism.

In order to think strategically about our bilateral relationship, we need to consider our mutual interests and shared objectives. The depth and breadth of our common agenda may be surprising to some. I'll say a few words in turn to update you on the economic, the political and the development aspects of the relationship.

In our commercial relationship, over the past year alone we have seen a major expansion in Indonesia by the Canadian insurance company, Manulife, along with approvals for significant, large-scale expansions by other Canadian companies operating in Indonesia. Just last week, INCO unveiled its expansion plans in Sulawesi, which amount to the single largest new investment in Indonesia in the past five years. Canadian investment in Indonesia now surpasses 5.5