

conflicts. These conflicts are frequently rooted in long-standing ethnic, religious, territorial and economic disputes. They require a variety of new approaches by the United Nations, because traditional peacekeeping methods do not necessarily apply.

The Security Council and the Secretary-General have frequently had to improvise responses to unpredictable developments on the ground. In doing so, the UN has succeeded magnificently in some cases, such as Cambodia, and has also contributed very significantly to emerging stability within such countries as El Salvador, Mozambique and South Africa. However, we, the international community, have not yet been effective in dealing with such situations as found in Bosnia, Somalia and Rwanda.

The need for the UN to be innovative in responding to new challenges is widely recognized. Although peacekeeping is not mentioned in the UN Charter, it has come to play a central role in the UN's work. Nevertheless, the constant improvisation of the past several years, no matter how inspired it has frequently proved to be, requires us to look hard at and seek to learn from our recent experiences.

In my short time as Foreign Minister, I have had to face these issues time and again. Moreover, I foresee no let-up in the number of crises requiring UN intervention. I am concerned that the UN's authority to act be re-enforced by the commitment of its Member States to respond to the challenges it faces.

We must recall that the credibility and authority of the United Nations rests with its Member States. The relationship between the UN's ability to act and public perception is clear: if the United Nations is to maintain the authority it requires to act in difficult circumstances, it must be seen to be effective. It is its members who must make it effective.

Experience demonstrates that Security Council objectives can only be accomplished if the mandates it designs and adopts are clear, achievable and related to the resources available to implement them. Recent progress towards the development of clear and credible mandates is welcome. If continued, I believe that it will help to ensure support by the international community for the Security Council's decisions.

The Secretary General's report on Improving the Capacity of the United Nations for Peacekeeping contains specific recommendations which we find eminently sensible. France and Britain have made very useful suggestions as to early warning and preventive deployments. Australia's Blue Book contains many useful and important ideas. We in Canada have made a number of suggestions to the Special Committee on Peacekeeping Operations over the years, and particularly last year. Useful ideas have been