

and effectively on the ground. In New York I had the honour of tabling Canada's report on how to increase the UN's rapid reaction capability, and we are encouraged by the positive attention given to our recommendations. Alongside these efforts, the UN must continue its ongoing work of peacebuilding, and it must articulate a vision of development centred on the individual – a vision that balances economic and social agendas for the purpose of improving the well-being of society.

Just as the world has undergone many changes since 1945 and has had to adapt to new requirements, modern technology and fiscal restraint, so must the United Nations greet its future with a strategy for renewal to meet the challenges of the next century. Canada will continue to hold out its hand to the UN, to help ensure that the General Assembly, the Security Council, indeed the whole UN family are best able to meet the needs of the future in a co-ordinated, efficient and fiscally responsible manner.

The UN has accomplished great things in its first 50 years. There have, of course, been setbacks. But we can make the UN better.

The UN at 50 should take stock of what it has done, how it has done it and how it can do things better. We must look back and reflect on the spirit that carried the architects of the UN forward. Their vision was bold. Their challenges were great. Today, we are faced with universal problems that threaten the achievements of the last 50 years.

But unlike 50 years ago, we have a proven universal mechanism that can help us meet those challenges.

Let us make it stronger and better. That is the challenge of the next 50 years.

Allow me to conclude my remarks by thanking the Canadian UN/50 Committee for its outstanding work and in particular the able leadership of the Chairman of the UN/50 Committee, Douglas Roche, and the President of the UN Association in Canada, Dr. Michael Oliver. Their efforts – and those of all involved with the UN/50 Committee and the UN Association in Canada – have greatly helped the Government of Canada to inform Canadians across the country of the importance of the UN, not only for us but for all the peoples of the world.

Indeed, it came as no surprise to me to hear that the Canadian UN/50 Committee was one of the most active and successful of its kind in the world.

I am sure that when our successors plan the 100th anniversary of the UN, they will look to the Canadian UN/50 Committee as a model.

Thank you.