

News Release

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OUELLET TO LEAD CANADIAN DELEGATION TO 50TH SESSION OF UNITED NATIONS GENERAL ASSEMBLY

Foreign Affairs Minister André Ouellet today announced that he will lead the Canadian delegation to the 50th Session of the UN General Assembly in New York. The Minister will deliver Canada's speech to the General Assembly on September 26 at approximately 4:00 p.m.

"This will be a landmark session of the General Assembly," said Mr. Ouellet. "It will be an opportunity to reflect on the UN's achievements and to address the challenges of the future. Canada is proud of the contribution it has made to the success of the UN since 1945 and is committed to working towards improving the efficiency and enhancing the credibility of the organization."

Canada's participation at this year's session will be marked by the tabling of a year-long study on the UN's rapid reaction capability. "We are conscious of the need for reform in all areas of UN activity, but we are particularly concerned about improving the UN's responsiveness to emerging crises," explained Mr. Ouellet. We will take advantage of this opportunity to discuss the results of the study with the other UN member states." To this end, the Minister will co-host with his Dutch counterpart a meeting of 13 like-minded foreign ministers on September 27 at the Permanent Mission of Canada to the UN.

While in New York, Mr. Ouellet is expected to hold a number of bilateral meetings with other foreign affairs ministers. He will also host a dinner for representatives of the "P-8" (i.e. the G-7 member countries plus Russia) and Spain as the President of the European Union. Finally, Mr. Ouellet will host a breakfast meeting to follow up on the results of the International Francophone Meeting on Conflict Prevention: African Perspective, held in Ottawa this week.

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