

Canadian Youth in the UN system: *The foundation for an international career*

There's no better foundation for an international career than working with the UN. At least, that's been the experience of several young Canadians who participated this past year in internships funded by the Youth International Internship Program of the Department of Foreign Affairs and International Trade.

The interns were able to enhance their employability skills and get a grasp of procedures and process while working in a culturally diverse, multilingual environment. "There are also less tangible benefits, as they gain greater practical insight into the challenges that face nations today," notes Linda Pinnacle, Co-ordinator of the youth internship project run by the United Nations Association in Canada (UNAC) and funded by the Department and the Canadian International Development Agency. One UNAC intern, Natasha Mistry, has been positioned with UN Volunteers in Bonn. She says, "I am most excited about this work. I will be going to Bangladesh to facilitate a workshop on creating national committees for the organization of international youth volunteer activities in Asia. These are large responsibilities, but it's extremely fulfilling. This is exactly what I've wanted to do for such a long time!"

These and other internship projects funded by the Department allow Canadian youth to put their knowledge and values at the service of UN initiatives.

For more information on the Youth International Internship Program, visit:
www.dfait-maeci.gc.ca/interns

Security Council transparency

The UN Security Council has almost always worked as a select, closed-door club. As a Security Council member, Canada made a number of proposals to introduce a new openness and a greater degree of transparency into the Council's debates and decision making.

The result has been more frequent thematic discussions on cross-cutting security issues such as the protection of civilians (a Canadian initiative), the plight of war-affected children, small arms proliferation and conflict prevention.

There are now more meetings open to the wider UN membership, and Council discussions now more routinely include the participation of NGOs and other UN bodies (e.g., UNICEF, the Office of the UN High Commissioner for Refugees or UNHCR, the International Committees of the Red Cross and the Red Crescent, and UN Special Representatives and Envoys).

To further counter the culture of secrecy, Canada provides regular, detailed briefings to non-Council members, including both traditional and new partners (NGOs, civil society, regional organizations); and it regularly posts a wealth of information on Council activity on the Web (www.dfait-maeci.gc.ca/ONU2000UN).

Sanctions policy

Canada has focussed its sanctions efforts on issues of effectiveness and humanitarian impact. During the last decade, the Council has made unprecedented use of sanctions. The results, however, have been mixed. In some

cases, sanctions have had unintended humanitarian impacts. Sanctions have also been weakened by hasty or ambiguous design, a loose commitment to implementation, inadequate monitoring and lax enforcement.

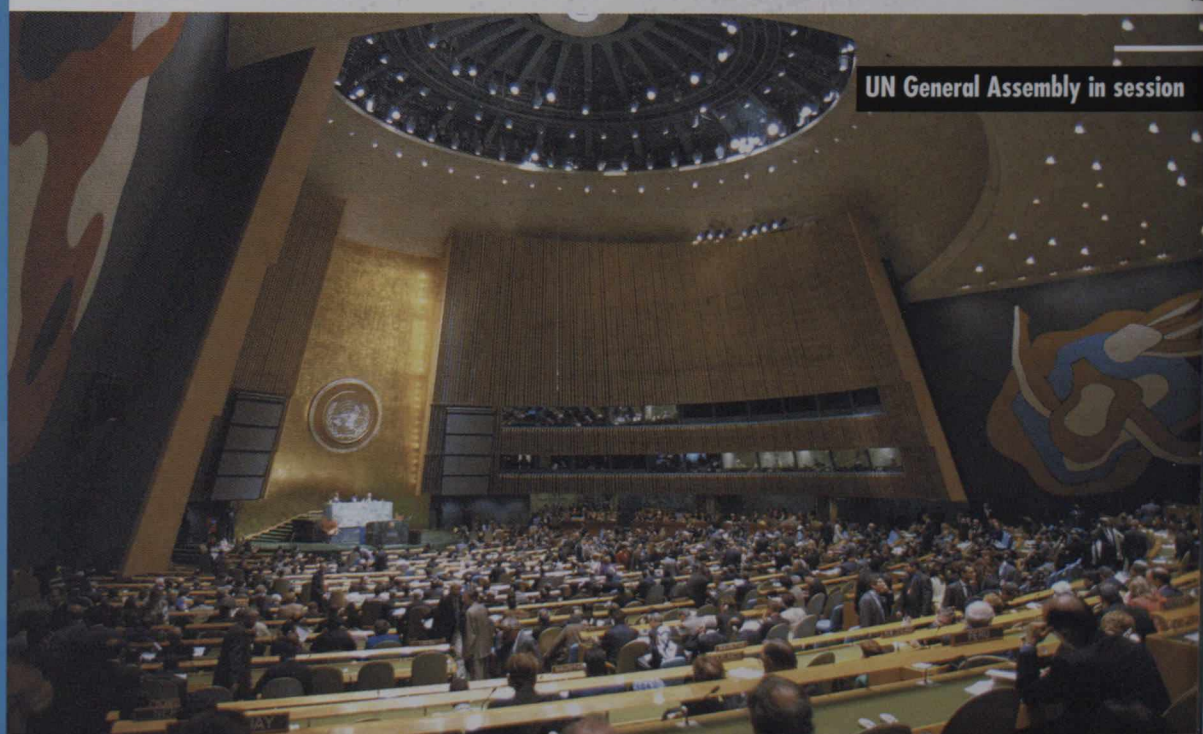
Canada took the lead by sponsoring a comprehensive study on the issue. Published in 2000, *The Sanctions Decade* proposes recommendations for making sanctions more humane and effective.

In April 2000, Canada secured Council agreement on creation of a working group on sanctions policy, with a mandate to develop recommendations for improving sanctions effectiveness. The working group (with Canada as a member) will report its findings later this year.

Angola

Almost continuously since it achieved independence in 1975, Angola has been engulfed in a civil war that has killed more than a million people and displaced far more. Sanctions were first imposed on the rebel UNITA movement in 1993 but they had no significant impact, largely because the movement earns substantial revenues from the illegal sale of diamonds.

In January 1999, Canada assumed the Chair of the Angola Sanctions Committee and led efforts to improve the effectiveness of the sanctions. Under Canada's guidance, the Security Council authorized independent experts to



UN General Assembly in session

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