

- the protection of our security within a stable global framework achieved through an effective United Nations and the rule of law, not power;
- the projection of Canadian values and culture that promote human rights, the rule of law, democracy, and the environment as the foundation to international relations.

### **G78 has been on target**

The Group of 78's thinking proved right on target in its delineation of global problems and the approaches to alleviating them. As the 1990s progressed, the Group of 78's vision and Canadian policies began showing up in the international system, particularly in the UN global conferences of the last decade. The series of large-scale UN conferences were watersheds in shaping our global future. They have made an impact by:

- mobilizing national governments and non-governmental organizations to take action on global problems;
- establishing international standards and guidelines for national policy; and
- serving as a forum where new proposals can be debated and consensus sought.

The interrelated values of peace, social justice, economic well-being, and ecological balance, articulated by the UN, now form the basis for the most practical kind of foreign policy for any country.

All this work was sharply focused in the United Nations Millennium Declaration. A summit of 149 heads of state in September affirmed the central tenets of the global security agenda:

- Strengthen the rule of law.
- Make the United Nations more effective.
- Strive for the elimination of weapons of mass destruction, particularly nuclear weapons.
- Halve the proportion of the world's people living in absolute poverty by 2015.
- Ensure children everywhere have access to education.
- Promote gender equality.
- Fully respect and uphold the Universal Declaration of Human Rights.
- Ensure and embark on new efforts of environmental conservation and stewardship.

Just as the world needs a revitalized UN to build the conditions for world peace, so the UN needs a strongly committed Canada. The Group of 78 ensures this.

The Group of 78 is not, of course, solely responsible for the development of this new global security agenda. Nor is the Canadian government. Many forces in the world have been moving on this progressive agenda. That is exactly my point. The Group of 78 has for nearly two