

# News Release

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## CANADA TO SEEK MEMBERSHIP ON UNITED NATIONS SECURITY COUNCIL

Foreign Affairs Minister André Ouellet today announced Canada's candidacy for a seat on the United Nations Security Council for the 1999-2000 term.

"Canada has made a tremendous contribution to the work of the UN since its establishment 50 years ago, most notably in the areas of peacekeeping and humanitarian assistance; our efforts in both have alleviated the suffering of millions around the world. With a seat on the Security Council, we will be able to play a vital role in guiding the organization into the next millennium," said Mr. Ouellet.

The Security Council consists of five permanent members (China, France, Russia, the United Kingdom and the United States) and ten non-permanent members, five of which are elected by the General Assembly for a term of two years.

In electing the Council's non-permanent members, the General Assembly is required to take into account the contribution of candidate countries to the goals of the United Nations and to the maintenance of international peace and security. The General Assembly also seeks to ensure the equitable geographical distribution of Security Council seats.

Canada last sat on the Security Council for a two-year term in 1989-1990.

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