

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY  
CANADIAN PROPOSALS ON FINANCIAL AND BUDGETARY REFORM

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When it looked like Rama's army would be decimated by poisonous arrows, Hanuman the monkey Lord flew to the Himalayas. There he up-rooted a mountain, and, having carried it on his shoulders all the way back, settled it as gently as he could by the battlefield. The fragrance of the mountain flowers revived Rama's soldiers and gave them the strength to crush their enemy.

from the Ramayama

INTRODUCTION:

Transporting administrative mountains in the hope of reviving the United Nations is what the Canadian budgetary and financial reform proposals are all about. Undoubtedly such a venture is fraught with difficulties, but it has been done at least once before and it appears now, just as it did then, as the only practical solution.

The specialized agencies are a key component of the United Nations system. Their contribution to our common welfare and to our continued development depends on their administrative well-being. It is therefore crucial that UN Member States ensure that all the agencies have the required means and resources to complete successfully their respective programmes.

The Canadian proposals seek this objective. They offer for consideration a set of practical measures, many of which are drawn from existing UN administrative practices. These measures aim at resolving present difficulties such as the consequences of adverse currency fluctuations and to place the agencies on a stronger financial footing in order that they can fulfil their responsibilities more effectively.

The proposals are based on a particular view of what the UN system should accomplish and how it ought to function. They are also designed as a entity, as a comprehensive and coherent set of tools and instruments to enable Member States and Secretariats to work together efficiently and to realize the agencies' programme objectives. The purpose of this summary is therefore twofold: (i) to spell out the assumptions that underlie the proposals; and (ii) to outline their main features.