

In June 1993, at the UN World Conference on Human Rights, China joined the international community in adopting the Vienna Declaration and Programme of Action, which reaffirmed the principles of the 1948 Universal Declaration of Human Rights and asserted that it is "the duty of all States, regardless of their political, economic or cultural systems, to promote and protect all human rights and fundamental freedoms." Canada is committed to working through all appropriate channels to encourage China to respect its obligations under the Vienna Declaration and Programme of Action.

At the Commission on Human Rights in Geneva, in early 1994, Canada co-sponsored a draft resolution on the human rights situation in China. The resolution expressed concern about continuing reports of violations of human rights and fundamental freedoms. It called upon China to take measures to ensure full human rights, including the rights of women, and asked China to extend its co-operation to all special rapporteurs and working groups of the UN Commission on Human Rights. The resolution also called for a special report on human rights in China. Regrettably, a majority of countries voted for a Chinese motion asking that no decision be taken on the draft resolution.

Peace and Security

A key element of Canada's foreign policy is the promotion of international peace and security. This cannot be achieved without the full participation of one of the most powerful and influential countries in the Asia-Pacific region.

As Pacific countries and members of APEC and the ASEAN Regional Forum, Canada and China share an interest in regional peace and security. Canada and China have already begun a dialogue on regional security, non-proliferation, arms control and peacekeeping. Canada intends to remain engaged in this dialogue, particularly on issues such as the Korean peninsula and nuclear non-proliferation.

In continuing to conduct nuclear tests, China is disregarding the moratorium that has been observed by the other nuclear weapons states. On October 7, China conducted another underground nuclear test in western Xinjiang Province. Chinese nuclear testing could adversely affect negotiations on a comprehensive test ban treaty and the Non-Proliferation Treaty extension process.

On the bilateral level, a nuclear co-operation agreement will be signed during the Prime Minister's visit. The agreement is fully consistent with Canada's stringent nuclear non-proliferation policy, and includes a commitment to peaceful uses and the means to verify this. The commitment will ensure that no Canadian-supplied products or materials, such as CANDU reactors or uranium, can be used in the Chinese nuclear weapons program. Canada