

international co-operation on the landmines campaign, Canada and Norway sought to apply the same energy and advocacy to a range of other threats to people's safety.

Since its establishment two years ago, the Network has promoted international support for UN efforts to protect civilians, including through two ministerial meetings, in Bergen, Norway (May 1999), and in Lucerne, Switzerland (May 2000), which included participation by NGO experts from around the world. An informal, flexible mechanism, the Network identifies concrete areas for collective action, for example, co-ordinated preparation for the UN conference on small arms in 2001. It also plays a catalytic role by bringing to international attention new and emerging issues, for example the challenge of engaging non-state actors, such as armed groups, in complying with international humanitarian and human rights law. Jordan will host the next ministerial meeting of the Network in spring 2001.

### **Non-governmental Organizations**

Partnerships with NGOs have been central to Canada's promotion of the human security agenda internationally. NGOs are often close to populations at risk and sometimes possess expertise and enjoy access that states and international organizations do not. Canada has also worked closely with a range of humanitarian organizations, starting with the International Committee of the Red Cross, as well as with such NGO coalitions as the International Campaign to Ban Landmines, the Coalition for an International Criminal Court, and the International Coalition to Stop the Use of Child Soldiers.

At home, partnerships with NGOs are valuable and include regular co-operation and annual consultations with the Canadian Peacebuilding Co-ordinating Committee, a group of over 100 Canadian NGOs, institutions, experts and academics active in a

range of sectors directly relevant to enhancing human security. Annual human rights consultations covering a range of country-specific and thematic issues are also held with Canadian NGOs prior to the UN Commission on Human Rights to assist in the development of Canadian government positions. The annual National Forum on Canadian Foreign Policy provides an additional domestic forum for the exchange of perspectives, experience and expertise relevant to the human security agenda.

### **The Private Sector**

The private sector is also a valuable partner for Canada in dialogue on human security issues. Corporations can and do play a significant role in safeguarding the health and safety of their workers, in protecting the environment within which they operate, and in contributing to the advancement of human rights.

In practice, Canada's approach has been to engage the private sector in dialogue and co-operation and, wherever possible, to involve labour and not-for-profit groups. At the international level, Canada is supporting a number of efforts. At the OECD, Canada has initiated an analysis of existing corporate codes of conduct, and participated actively in the review of the Guidelines for Multinational Enterprises. At the OAS, Canada is supporting dedicated work on corporate social responsibility. Canada also supports the UN Secretary-General's "Global Compact" initiative, which promotes nine basic principles of

corporate social responsibility based on the Universal Declaration of Human Rights, the Declaration on Fundamental Principles and Rights at Work, and the Rio Declaration on Environment and Development.

### **Canadian Resources to Promote Human Security**

The Canadian government draws on a wide range of resources — from the budgets allocated to national defence, international development, public safety and diplomacy — to support the implementation of the human security agenda. In particular, the Canadian Armed Forces make a major international contribution to human security through their participation in peace support operations. The Royal Canadian Mounted Police co-operates with police forces from all over the world and fields increasing numbers of civilian police in peace support operations. The Canadian International Development Agency contributes through its programs devoted to governance, human rights, child protection, humanitarian assistance and peacebuilding. Within the Department of Foreign Affairs and International Trade, a new Human Security Program has been established to provide modest support to assist the launch of new approaches to implementing the agenda. For further details on the Human Security Program, please call the Peacebuilding and Human Security Division (AGP), Department of Foreign Affairs and International Trade at: (in Canada) (613) 992-1361, or by e-mail at [human.security@dfait-maeci.gc.ca](mailto:human.security@dfait-maeci.gc.ca)

*Foreign Minister Axworthy and (left to right) Foreign Minister Giorgos Papandreou (Greece), Foreign Minister Surin Pitsuwan (Thailand), Foreign Minister Thorbjorn Jagland (Norway), and Foreign Minister Joseph Deiss (Switzerland) at the 2nd Ministerial Meeting of the Human Security Network, in Lucerne, Switzerland, in May 2000.*

