

to report back in 60 days on how the tribunal might function. The Secretary-General faces a daunting task, but it is my fervent hope that the work of this conference will assist.

This meeting of experts from such a broad global base has before it the proposals of the French and Italian Commissions, and of the CSCE Special Rapporteurs on Croatia and Bosnia-Herzegovina for a draft statute of an ad hoc tribunal. You also have the extensive work of the International Law Commission on the question of a permanent international criminal court.

This conference can consider these proposals, and recommend the most appropriate functioning of an ad hoc war crimes tribunal for the former Yugoslavia. It is essential to create a neutral, objective tribunal that takes into account different judicial systems and ensures that fundamental principles of law and criminal procedure are applied and respected.

At the same time, it is also essential that states consider concrete measures to ensure that the tribunal has the financial and human resources necessary to function. Canada is considering ways in which we may offer assistance to the ad hoc tribunal.

Fundamentally, the solution ultimately lies in bringing the conflict in the former Yugoslavia to an end, but also, in bringing those responsible for committing inhumane acts to justice. But we cannot forget the imperative to relieve the suffering of innocent victims. Canada recently announced a contribution of \$1.5 million in humanitarian assistance for women and children who are victims of sexual violence and other atrocities of war in the former Yugoslavia. This special assistance will be channelled through the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees and the UN Children's Emergency Fund.

We also actively seek to ensure that the UN Commission of Experts, charged with the gathering of evidence of war crimes and other breaches of international humanitarian law in the former Yugoslavia, has the resources to do its job. I urge other states to do the same.

Of course, the urgency of establishing an ad hoc tribunal to deal with the situation in the former Yugoslavia cannot deter us from our long-term goal of establishing a permanent international criminal court. Indeed, the ad hoc tribunal can only be, at best, a stepping-stone to that goal.

A permanent court would provide a standing mechanism, capable of responding to events quickly and decisively, as they occur. It would strengthen the principle of universal jurisdiction over individuals for international criminal acts, and ensure that individuals cannot act with impunity in violating fundamental norms of international law.