

successful peace operations. They will help restore confidence in the ability of the UN to respond to crises.

Mr. President, we are conscious that words are not enough. In the words of a former Military Adviser to the UN, "we can't deploy studies." For Canada, this report is only the first step in translating ideas into action. To meet the growing need for civilian personnel during crises, Canada will offer the UN secondment, or loan, of civilian personnel on a short-term, urgent basis to help in the development of a fully-trained capacity in the areas of human rights, legal advice, humanitarian assistance and other aspects of a rapid civilian response to crisis.

Last week, Canada sent the Secretary General an updated inventory of Canadian personnel and equipment on standby to the UN, including technical information that would be crucial to quick response. We are now prepared to negotiate a more detailed memorandum of understanding with the UN on standby arrangements, which would include more information on readiness and capability standards.

Our report devotes special attention to the creation of an operational-level headquarters as the heart of the Vanguard Concept. Canada is prepared to help in establishing this headquarters, should the UN decide to accept this recommendation. We have already made a significant number of military personnel available to the UN, on secondment or on loan. We are prepared to make available additional personnel, both civilian and military, in order to bring this idea closer towards realization.

The time for moving towards fundamental improvements in the way the UN responds to crisis is now. A number of countries have advanced proposals similar to Canada's, and there are many new and interesting proposals for change coming from the non-governmental sector.

Follow-up is of key importance. We need to marshal our energies, to determine the most promising areas of action, and to move quickly towards putting words into action. Over the coming weeks and months, Canada intends to work closely with like-minded countries from around the world, and with the UN Secretariat, to this end.

Mr. President, the ongoing work of peacebuilding must continue alongside preventive diplomacy and rapid reaction. Indeed, peacebuilding involves a wide range of activities. Much of the work needed for articulating a broad vision of human security has already been done in the series of UN conferences in the economic and social fields, culminating in the Platform for Action, recently adopted at the UN World Conference on Women. It sets out a comprehensive view of sustainable development, which