

HUMAN RIGHTS

- Work for appreciably stronger machinery and more resolute follow-up at the Human Rights Commission, which the Secretary-General has warned is essential to reassure minorities and help prevent the further breakup of states based on ethnic and tribal self-determination.
- Maintain the momentum in the Commission and Agencies on women's rights, which are rarely "gender neutral".
- Be vigilant to see that human rights work does not remain the UN's stepchild, perennially in danger of becoming marginalized and under-resourced.
- Maintain an active watching brief, combined with timely policy responses, as Canada's aboriginal activists press the issues on their domestic agenda at the international forum provided by the Geneva Commission.

ECOSOC AND THE SPECIALIZED AGENCIES

- Support the current efforts to streamline and revivify ECOSOC, based on some of the best ideas promoted by the Nordic Project, in the hope of bringing about (after many false starts) a more rational and coordinated approach to the work of the UN's many agencies.
- To help the specialized and developmental agencies better face the daunting challenges that await them in this decade (and without waiting for ECOSOC's hoped-for transformation) work for reforms that will bring about stricter budget control, more professional management, recruitment of genuinely qualified staff and greatly increased inter-agency liaison. Advance the idea that more stringent Geneva Group monitoring should be part of this process.
- Introduce other countries to the Canadian model for government coordination of national UN policy, Ottawa's Interdepartmental Committee on Specialized Agencies, a successful mechanism that if more widely adopted could have a remarkable effect on the overall performance of the UN.

SECRETARY-GENERAL

- Work for a better selection process for the UN's top job, to replace the current last-minute "round-up"; and a single non-renewable term of seven years.