

financial situation would be largely improved by members' paying their assessed contributions on time and in full. Canada strongly encourages all members to do so.

Promoting Peace and Security

As a middle power very much involved in promoting peace and security, Canada has traditionally seen the UN as the cornerstone of its foreign policy. Canada has participated in virtually every UN peacekeeping operation since 1956. Currently, 2,000 Canadians are peacekeepers or are participating in other roles in peacekeeping missions around the world.

Canada believes that the UN still provides the most effective means of achieving global peace and security. That is why Canada supports the UN Secretary General's report, Agenda for Peace. The report captures the complex reality of the post-Cold War era and recommends the instruments — peacekeeping, peacemaking, enforcement, preventive diplomacy and peacebuilding — and the resources needed to prevent, manage and resolve conflicts.

Canada has presented a study to the UN on how to improve the organization's capability to react rapidly to emerging crises. The Group of Friends of the Rapid Reaction, co-chaired by Canada and the Netherlands, is tasked with implementing the recommendations of Canada's study. Canada has also provided an expert to help the UN Secretariat develop a standby program. In addition, Canada is sponsoring a program to develop the UN's capacity to provide logistical support for peacekeeping operations.

On the eve of the 21st century, nations have come to understand that social and economic development are two sides of the same coin — that a realistic goal is not simply economic growth but also human well-being. The UN has a particular role to play in fostering the integration of social and economic considerations, just as it does in underscoring the connection between development and peace.