

A significantly greater proportion of the United Nations regular budget must be devoted to human rights -- the allocation of less than 1 percent of the UN's total budget to the centre is wholly inadequate considering that human rights is one of the main purposes of the United Nations under the Charter.

Canada therefore supports the appointment of a High Commissioner for Human Rights with the authority and the resources to ensure human rights are front and centre of United Nations efforts to promote peace and development for all.

Equality and Human Rights of Women

Madam President, not a single country treats women equally to men.

Around the world, women are beaten, bought, sold, mutilated and degraded simply because of their gender.

In Canada, according to our own statistics, 1 woman in 10 is beaten by her partner. Our government has set an ambitious target -- zero tolerance for violence against women. A Canadian Panel on Violence Against Women, the most comprehensive inquiry of its kind in the world, will present its recommendations this summer.

Thousands of women from all over the world have gathered in Vienna to ensure that we -- the member states of the United Nations -- live up to our commitments under the UN Charter to reaffirm equality between men and women.

Canada salutes the courageous women whose tragic testimonies at yesterday's Global Tribunal on Violations of Women's Human Rights bear witness to the urgent need for the international community to take strong action.

Canada has been actively pressing for action to bring the rights of women into the mainstream of the human rights system. The Ad Hoc War Crimes Tribunal must ensure effective prosecution of rape cases brought to its attention. Canada is also committed to the appointment of a special rapporteur on violence against women and other violations of women's human rights. We call upon this conference to give impetus to this proposal.

The General Assembly should adopt the Declaration on the Elimination of Violence Against Women at its fall session. A complaints mechanism should be established under the Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination Against Women to address individual violations under the convention.

And I am pleased to announce that the Government of Canada, through the Canadian International Development Agency, will