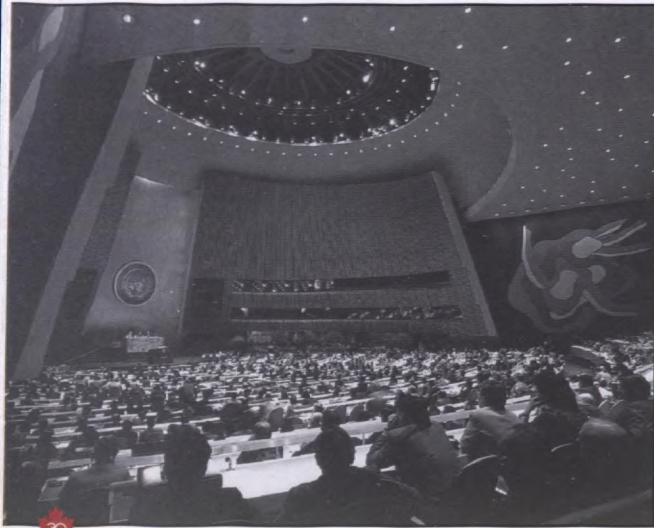


UN REFORM



“The United Nations alone serves us all. It provides the only world assembly to protect and advance human rights, freedoms, to reduce and remove the causes of poverty. Whether it can discharge its great role and fulfil its great responsibilities depends on us. When the United Nations fails, its member governments fail. When it succeeds, the people, the plain and good people of all the world, succeed.”

Lester B. Pearson
1963

Over fifty years after its creation, the forces of globalization have presented the United Nations with challenges and pressures unimagined by its founders. As we enter the 21st century, we need to reinvent and not merely restructure the United Nations to ensure that it remains credible and relevant to the lives of individuals. “Renewing the United Nations: A Program for Reform”, presented by Secretary-General Kofi Annan before the United Nations General Assembly in July 1997 contains the most extensive and far-reaching reforms in the 52 year history of the international body. The reform process should go a long way to rebuilding the credibility and effectiveness of the UN – restoring it to the lofty position its founders intended more than fifty years ago.

Canada’s reform efforts at the UN have focused on making the United Nations more effective, not simply less expensive. These efforts include simplifying the structure of the UN Secretariat involved in development,

strengthening the Economic and Social Council, reducing overlap in UN specialized agencies, reviewing the UN’s funds and programs to ensure better coordination of their activities in the field, and streamlining the UN machinery in the economic and social fields so that such efficiency savings might be devoted to the UN’s development activities.

A key area of focus for Canada is the creation of a more equitable and representative Security Council, which functions with cohesion, effectiveness and transparency. Canada attaches particular importance to the need to ensure meaningful participation in decision making by those members whose nationals, military or civilian, are in the crossfire of the conflicts over which the Council is deliberating.

