

We could place greater emphasis on Canadian participation in the front end of operations -- that is, in the planning phases -- where expertise is needed by international organizations and where our involvement could be as effective but less resource-intensive.

We could also place a greater emphasis on training. Since we virtually invented peacekeeping, why not put our experience and expertise to good use, helping other countries who are new to the field?

We might also consider placing greater emphasis on our participation in preventive actions and preventive diplomacy. It was a report by Canadian Ambassador David Peel that led to the creation of a special CSCE mission to Kosovo.

The idea would be to focus our involvement increasingly on the knowledge and skill dimensions of peace and security activities.

No one suggests that it will be easy in a world where deeply felt hatreds dominate in many regions, and where democratic values are only superficially understood in others. And the international community may have to re-examine its traditional definitions of sovereignty in order to take preventive action where trouble is looming.

But we must get on with the task. The lives of millions of people around the globe rely on our abilities to find new ways to deal with old problems.

Canada has contributed human and financial resources to every peacekeeping mission since the founding of the UN.

Can we continue to do so, taking into account our finite resources and the rapidly expanding demands? How do we reconcile our pride in our past involvement in peace and security, and our stake in the future of peace and security?

With these heavily loaded question in mind, I look forward to a vigorous and frank exchange of views with you tomorrow.

Support for peace and security operations has been, and continues to be, a pillar of Canadian foreign policy. It has given us not only a distinctive role in the world, but also an influence in international relations that goes well beyond the normal reaches of a middle power.

That's why your ideas -- Canadian ideas -- are important, not only in this room, but in places around the world.