

that express great support for a global agenda of human rights are nonetheless behind in their payments to the UN.

Moreover, the 2.26 per cent of the UN regular budget that is now devoted to human rights is surely not in keeping with the range of human rights issues and challenges confronting us.

But as important as they are, resources are not the only problem. If Rwanda has taught us anything, it is the need for more effective co-ordination among the different parts of the UN, and the need for an early warning, rapid reaction and prevention system that will respond in time to impending large-scale human rights abuses. We need to explore the recommendation of the Rwanda Report calling for a small, high-calibre unit under the High Commissioner for Human Rights, with the sole function of analysing and interpreting indications of genocide and other escalating violations of human rights.

Canada is proud of its role in helping to establish the Office of the High Commissioner for Human Rights, and I wish to thank the High Commissioner for his leadership in the promotion and protection of human rights around the world. He has a very heavy responsibility, and needs the support of the entire UN membership. Nowhere is this more true than in Rwanda and in the former Yugoslavia, where human rights work is essential to the establishment of just and lasting peace. I am therefore pleased to announce that Canada will contribute a further \$500 000 to the Human Rights Field Operation in Rwanda and \$300 000 to the Program of Operations in the former Yugoslavia.

If it is to be both effective and relevant, the UN must change its approaches and its institutions. And as we make the necessary changes, let us also move the system from one that is based solely around the interests, priorities and responsibilities of states, to one that responds to those of the citizenry as well.

I conclude with a question: Why should we renew and strengthen our commitment to human rights?

The answer is clear. If we turn away from the desolation and dismay of human suffering; if we fail to stop hatred from flowing through the channels of our new electronic networks; if we do not care about the present or future of vulnerable children; if we do not stand up to the despots and bullies; if we do not counter the capricious and arbitrary actions of authoritarian governments with no legitimacy beyond weaponry and terror – then we will face harsh consequences down the road. On the larger landscape of human society, what began as hateful rhetoric may turn into urban terrorism, regional warfare or genocide.