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As our world changes and borders become more porous, a new approach to security is required. To meet this crucial challenge, Canada has made human security a leading foreign policy theme. This initiative means taking the security of ordinary people as a central point of reference, rather than simply the security of territory or governments. A human security agenda means working to ensure that people need not fear for their rights, their safety or even their lives.

This special edition of *Canada World View* explores human security, reviews elements of Canada's human security agenda and invites public discussion of the issues.

It also takes an in-depth look at the creation and role of the International Criminal Court. Human security requires the replacement of a culture of impunity with a culture of accountability. It calls for a means of deterring the most serious atrocities commonly committed against civilians in modern conflicts. The Court is a prime example of how the international community can develop new norms and mechanisms for addressing threats to the safety and security of the world's people. ●—

## Conclusions of the Group of Eight (G-8) Foreign Ministers' Meeting Cologne, Germany, June 10, 1999



### Human Security Issues

The effective protection of people, both individually and collectively, remains central to our agenda. The G-8 is determined to fight the underlying causes of the multiple threats to human security, and is committed to creating an environment where the basic rights, the safety and the very survival of all individuals are guaranteed. We emphasized that crucial cornerstones of human security remain democracy, human rights, rule of law, good governance and human development.

We regarded the spread of small arms, the danger posed by landmines, international terrorism and transnational crime, drugs and infectious diseases, poverty, economic distress and oppression to be among the most serious threats to mankind. As effective action against these threats, the G-8 agrees to support:

- the protection of civilians and the safeguarding of the rights of children in armed conflicts;
- combatting illicit small arms proliferation;
- control of conventional arms transfer;
- implementation of the Ottawa Convention on landmines; and
- combatting organized crime, drug trafficking and terrorism, including by advancing the conventions for the suppression of terrorism financing and combatting acts of nuclear terrorism. ●—

## Interview with

Foreign Affairs Minister Lloyd Axworthy has been deeply concerned about the worldwide decline in people's security since the end of the Cold War. For more than two years now, he has tirelessly called for an international political agenda that includes the concept of human security.

*Canada World View* met with Minister Axworthy and asked him why it has become so important to include this concept in the conduct of international affairs.

### Canada World View

Minister Axworthy, you are a forceful advocate of the concept of human security. What drives your action?

### Minister Axworthy

I think the international community must deal with the strange contradiction we have seen since the end of the Cold War. While the end of the superpower confrontation has meant greater security for states touched by that rivalry, we have also seen an increase in the number of civil conflicts, often with large-scale atrocities. When states are secure, it clearly does not follow that people are secure. At the same time, globalization, while bringing many benefits, has also meant a rise in violent crime, the drug trade, terrorism, disease and environmental deterioration. We need to rethink how we define security. The human security approach says that the security of the individual is the yardstick to use.

### Canada World View

But many of these threats have existed for years, if not centuries. The history of humankind is a bloody one. What is different today that makes it imperative to address the issue?