

of us — especially the most vulnerable — to economic and social insecurity.

The common denominator of these new realities is their human dimension. Our changing world has increasingly put the individual, more precisely, the security of the individual, at the centre of global affairs. As a result, the safety and well-being of the individual — human security — has become a new measure of global security.

Promoting humanitarian objectives — protection from abuse, reducing risks of physical endangerment, improving the quality of life, and creating the tools to guarantee these goals — should provide, and indeed are providing, a new impetus for concerted global action.

The international community is being mobilized to address subjects that affect everyday lives. These new threats require that we see security increasingly in terms of human, rather than state needs. This is not to deny that traditional state-based security concerns are obsolete. Human security and national security are not mutually exclusive. On the contrary, they are opposites sides of the same global security coin.

Canada's Response

It is within this context that Canada has been reshaping and refocussing our own foreign policy priorities. We are increasingly occupied with issues that strike directly home to the individual. This human security-centred approach to global relations is based on a number of elements:

Engagement not isolationism: Canadians have long been open to the world. This openness creates both prosperity and vulnerabilities. Sooner or later, directly or indirectly, others' insecurity becomes our problem, and in some cases, our insecurity. The transboundary nature of many of the challenges we face makes co-operative action at different levels global, regional and local, all the more essential if they are to be tackled effectively.

Advancing fundamental standards of humanity: New and updated international humanitarian and human rights instruments will help to guarantee protection for individuals. They serve to expand the reach and scope of humanitarian norms. They set a higher standard of global behaviour to which we are all bound. This was the objective behind our strong support for the creation of the International Criminal Court.

Promoting peacebuilding: Human security can be enhanced by strengthening the capacity of a society to manage its differences without violence. This is why we established the Canadian Peacebuilding Initiative two years ago. Working with civil society, the initiative funds practical projects to build democratic institutions, increase local capacity— for example training for legislators, jurists, public servants, or creating an independent media — all with a view to establishing sustainable peace.

Reforming existing international and regional organizations: Institutions established in a different era, such as the United Nations Security Council and the OAS [Organization of American States], need to better reflect the changing nature of threats to peace and security — especially their human dimension. This will give us the collective capacity not only to respond to crisis but to be proactive in moving human security forward. Canada takes its place on the Security Council this month. We will work to better integrate humanitarian concerns into the Council's agenda.

Pursuing new, innovative partnerships and coalitions: Canada is working in concert with other like-minded countries to advance global action on human security issues. However, it is evident that foreign policy is no longer simply the preserve of nation-states and diplomats. New players on the international scene, including non-governmental organizations, business associations, trade unions, and regional organizations have a growing influence. They can play a positive and productive role, which continues to be the case with the ban on anti-personnel mines, where civil society was instrumental in achieving our objectives.

Using soft power concepts — creatively: Negotiation rather than coercion, powerful ideas rather than powerful weapons, public diplomacy rather than backroom bargaining — these are effective means to