

FOREWORD

For more than two years now I have been advocating an international political agenda that would include the idea of human security. The changing nature of violent conflict and intensifying globalization have increasingly put people at the centre of world affairs. As a result, the safety of the individual – that is, human security – has become both a new measure of global security and a new impetus for global action.

As is often the case in public policy, practice has led theory. Efforts to promote greater human security including the Ottawa Convention on Anti-personnel Landmines and the Rome Treaty creating an International Criminal Court have attracted overwhelming international support. As momentum gathers around the idea of human security, greater clarity on the meaning of the term is needed.

This concept paper has been prepared to provide a definition of human security, to set out the rationale for a human security approach, and to clarify its relationship to national security and to human development. Broader acceptance of the concept of human security is fundamentally important.



Lloyd Axworthy
Minister of Foreign Affairs
Ottawa, Canada
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