

As such, a human security agenda locates security with the individual, alone or in collectives, and includes the kinds of issues for which the Bureau of Global and Human Issues is responsible, described by a former director-general of the Bureau as:

“the environment, human rights, children’s questions (e.g. child labour, children in war, sexual exploitation of children) gender issues, youth, humanitarian policy, conflict prevention and peace building, terrorism, crime and drugs, health, population, migration and refugees, as well as circumpolar and Aboriginal issues”.<sup>3</sup>

Another distinctive feature of a human security practice is that it is pursued through the exercise of “soft power”. Again in Axworthy’s words, soft power methods include “skills in communication, negotiating, mobilizing opinion, working within multilateral bodies, and promoting international initiatives” that focus on the security of the individual, as opposed to the security of the state. These skills, he argues, are particularly suited for addressing the agenda of human security, the kinds of security issues that “do not pit one state against another, but rather a group of states against various transnational challenges”.<sup>4</sup>

Together, the discourse and practice of human security, including its use of soft power, constitute an important element of what this conference session refers to as the New Diplomacy – and Canada has been applauded, and indeed applauds itself, for its human security focus and initiatives.

What I want to do very briefly is to see what the government’s human security agenda looks like when viewed in the context of the primary foreign policy interests of DFAIT and the hard power or military, interests of the Department of National Defence (DND). Through these lenses, it is not clear how much of that applause is warranted because it is not clear that the human security discourse and practice as plied by the government represents a significant change in status-quo interests.

### **DFAIT’s primary foreign policy interests**

Since the 1994/95 FP review, and some argue despite it, the Liberal Government’s main foreign policy interest has been, as stated in *Canada In the World*, the government’s still-relevant response to the foreign policy review, “the promotion of prosperity and employment” for Canadians through the promotion of rules-based forms of economic multilateralism at all levels. This interest has been avidly pursued by Canada in its activities related to the International Monetary Fund, the World Bank, the Group of Seven/Eight, the World Trade Organization, Asia-Pacific Economic Cooperation, the North American Free Trade Agreement, and the temporarily-suspended Multilateral Agreement on Investment, as well as through the bilateral trade initiatives of Team Canada, and particularly its forays into Pacific Rim countries, the team being composed of Canadian government-business partnerships.