

confirmed Canada's concern with flagrant violations of human rights, and touched a number of specific areas. If the overall balance of interventions was not remarkable for oratorical excellence, there were the usual behind-the-scenes attempts to influence the outcome of all texts. Eventually, resolutions were adopted on Afghanistan, Chile, Guatemala, El Salvador and Iran. Canada played an active role in the text on Iran, and supported efforts by the Western Group of states to secure equally strong texts on other areas of the world.

The evaluation of the emerging right to development continued to be disappointing, and work will continue at the Commission on Human Rights. While sympathizing with the views of developing countries that this right be given firm recognition in international law, Canada continued to have strong reservations about key concepts of the emerging text, particularly the endeavour to weaken human rights principles already enshrined in key United Nations documents.

Finally, the Canadian delegation participated actively to defend the accumulated accomplishments of the United Nations in the field of human rights, both through active interventions on most items, as well as in private negotiations on key items. While the financial crisis cast a certain pall across the entire system, and may have tended to undermine efforts to secure progress on broad fronts, we believe that we successfully fended off efforts designed to weaken the UN system, and thus we have paved the way for continued progress, once the current financial crisis has been resolved.

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