

Mr. Chairman, the world recalls with shame the Nazi atrocities. Now we are witnessing similar horror daily. Are we going to let racist and expansionist ideologies prevail? We must stop the offenders.

We request the United Nations to exert all efforts to ensure a long-lasting ceasefire. We support the European Community Peace Conference and CSCE efforts to send special missions to monitor the strict implementation of human rights in Kosovo, Vojvodina and Sandjak. We will share the burden that results from mass flows of refugees and displaced persons.

There is some useful machinery in the CSCE -- the Human Dimension Mechanism and the new High Commissioner on National Minorities. We can take action without consensus and we can send missions to fact-find and to expose violations.

We have to continue to strengthen the machinery and to use it effectively. Countries that are concerned about their minorities outside their borders must seek recourse through these types of mechanisms.

Unilateral action through military force will never be accepted by this community, but neither will the flagrant abuse of human rights.

A first, essential step is to entrench the rule of law, not simply in dry texts but in reality. The law-writing process is central to a truly democratic society. The independence of the judiciary is key if people are to have faith and confidence in their institutions. There is much we can share in these areas through the CSCE.

Mr. Chairman, the CSCE framework also offers us a way of dealing with conflict -- not simply resolving conflict but, more importantly, preventing conflict.

Canada continues to believe that the best conflict prevention mechanism is the implementation of our commitments. To enhance that, we need other tools.

Early warning through the Committee of Senior Officials, the Office for Democratic Institutions or the High Commissioner is essential, but we must respond promptly once we have been warned. We must be prepared to dispatch fact-finders or a good offices mission to sit on the ground and work patiently to bring parties together before they get too far apart.

This most important task must not be held hostage to national political agendas. There has already been too much death in Europe. We must remain vigilant about Kosovo and about other troubled spots which may seem remote but which are at the heart of the CSCE.