

Commissioner for Human Rights has provided support to the Truth Commission. And we also welcome plans by the Centre for Human Rights to organize specialized training seminars in Haiti.

Canada notes with satisfaction the conclusions of the CHR's Independent Expert that El Salvador has made significant progress in respect for human rights. We attach special importance to the conclusion and effective implementation of a technical cooperation agreement between the Government of El Salvador and the Centre for Human Rights.

Canada also notes the continuing improvements in Peru's human rights situation and the fact that once again free democratic elections were held in early 1995. We remain concerned, however, that arbitrary detention and other grave human rights abuses by security forces have not yet been eradicated. We urge Peru to continue its efforts to bring an end to these remaining abuses and to strengthen democratic institutions.

In Colombia, we encourage the administration and the judiciary in their efforts to put an end to corruption, bring to justice the narcotraffickers undermining the country's stability and put an end to impunity for all human rights violators. In the face of escalating violence, the Colombian Government faces an even greater challenge in addressing human rights abuses.

Recent reports from MINUGUA, whose work we strongly support, have shown that human rights in Guatemala still provide grounds for serious concern. We hope that the results of the recent elections will help in strengthening human rights and democratic development in Guatemala.

Mr. Chairman,

In this year of the fiftieth anniversary of the UN, and more than two years after the World Conference on Human Rights, the UN system is still not adequately equipped to meet the growing demands confronting it in the field of human rights. We must enhance the ability of the system to meet these demands and to promote human rights. Nothing can be more basic than this responsibility.

It is central to the very purpose of the United Nations.

It is the indispensable foundation for economic and social development and the only sure path to international peace and security.

Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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