

# BUILDING A MORE SECURE WORLD

- Foreign Affairs will seek to expand its contribution to the G8's Global Partnership Against the Spread of Weapons and Materials of Mass Destruction to include other countries willing to support the Partnership's goals; it will work to reinvigorate the Conference on Disarmament in Geneva to move forward talks on the Prevention of an Arms Race in Outer Space.

## HUMAN SECURITY: RENEWING CANADIAN LEADERSHIP

Canada has provided international leadership in the development of the human security agenda. Human security goes beyond traditional security concepts, based on defending the state, to focus instead on protecting the individual. Prominent successes include the banning of landmines, helping end the practice of using child soldiers in conflicts, and the creation of the International Criminal Court to deal with genocide, war crimes and crimes against humanity. But pressing issues remain. For instance, each year more than 500,000 people are killed by the 640 million small arms and light weapons in the world today.

Related to this is the importance of tackling the financial bases of conflict. Over the past decade, civil wars have increasingly been driven by economic rather than political agendas. Whether through diamonds in Sierra Leone and Angola, tropical timber in Liberia and Cambodia, or narcotics in Colombia and Afghanistan, profit rather than political power is a growing motive behind violent conflict.

Canada currently holds the Chair of the Kimberley Process, which is proving an effective multilateral mechanism for combatting the trade in conflict diamonds in Africa and ensuring the credibility of a

multibillion-dollar industry. The process is largely motivated by the desire to prevent and resolve violent conflicts and end the unnecessary suffering of innocent civilians, both of which are central to Canada's human security agenda.

Multilateral organizations have become key forums for advancing the human security agenda internationally. For example, while la Francophonie started very much as a cultural and educational institution with a strong emphasis on the development needs of its poorer members, in recent years the institution has become more active on political and security issues. Biannual Francophone Summits have heightened the political influence of la Francophonie. In November 2004, in Ouagadougou, Burkina Faso, the Prime Minister proposed that a meeting of foreign ministers of la Francophonie be held on conflict prevention and human security, thus confirming the fundamental change in the broad orientation of this institution.

## Specific Initiative

- Foreign Affairs will renew action on the human security agenda by giving fresh impetus to international action on controlling the illicit flow of small arms into conflict zones, including urban areas. We will also help remove the financial incentives to conflict by pursuing international agreements to halt the illicit trade in certain resources that sustain and exacerbate armed conflict; and will press for the development of new multilateral mechanisms to bring to justice those who profit from these activities, whether warlords, organized criminal organizations or complicit companies. We will further explore the comparative advantages of various multilateral forums in pursuing the human security agenda.