

Canada recognizes the imperative of human security: to protect people from pervasive, violent threats to their rights, their safety and their lives. Human security is now more widely and better understood as an imperative of governance - an obligation of states and others in the global community. Human security complements traditional notions of security. It calls for the safety of individuals from both violent and non-violent threats to their rights, their safety and their lives. Human security means building safe environments through respect for human rights and democratic principles, through developing international norms and institutions to protect and advance the rule of law. In this respect the international reconstruction effort in the Balkans, with its emphasis on the rebuilding of civil society, is an example of human security at work.