

By late 2004, the panellists are to recommend ways to strengthen the United Nations by reforming its institutions and processes. They will first examine challenges to peace and security, consider the contribution of collective action in addressing these challenges, and review the functioning of major organs of the United Nations and the relationship between them.

Canada immediately supported this call and intends to contribute to the panel's deliberations to ensure that Canada's voice is heard on the means to meet the challenges and threats facing the world, as well as on the need for reforms within the UN system itself.

Canada's support for UN reform

Canada, as a supporter of multilateral co-operation, a long-time contributor to UN peacekeeping missions, and the seventh-largest donor to the United Nations, has been and remains highly supportive of reform of the UN system. For example, during Canada's 1999-2000 term on the UN Security Council, this country worked to improve the Security Council's effectiveness and transparency, and its accountability to member states. Canada also supported such innovations as

- expanding the Security Council agenda beyond traditional security to include human security,
- including the protection of civilians as a regular part of peacekeeping mandates,
- holding regular meetings of the Security Council with countries contributing troops and other personnel to UN missions, and
- introducing Security Council sanctions that target governing elites rather than whole populations, and introducing mechanisms to monitor sanctions, so they produce the desired results.

Canada is also participating in ongoing efforts to improve the functioning of the General Assembly and the Economic and Social Council, to enhance the effectiveness of the UN human rights machinery, and to improve the coherence and effectiveness of the UN development system.

Canada believes that the United Nations cannot be allowed to be marginalized or replaced by other mechanisms. As former prime minister Lester B. Pearson said, the United Nations is "our best, and perhaps our last, hope of bringing about a creative peace if mankind is to end a savage tradition that the strong do what they can and the weak suffer what they must."