

HIGHLIGHTS OF CANADA'S INTERNATIONAL ACTIVITIES TO PROMOTE THE ADVANCEMENT OF WOMEN

United Nations

- Member of UN Commission on the Status of Women: 1958-1960, 1970-1976, 1981-1992.
- Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination Against Women: Adopted by the UN in 1979; Ratified by Canada in 1981; Third report on Canada's implementation efforts submitted to UN in September 1992.
- UN World Conference on Women, 1985: Canada played substantial role in drafting Forward-looking Strategies for the Advancement of Women. This action plan promotes the advancement of women around the world to the year 2000. Progress on these strategies will be examined at the fourth World Conference on Women in 1995.
- UN Declaration on the Elimination of Violence Against Women: Draft of this Canadian-initiated declaration will be considered by the UN Commission on the Status of Women in March 1993; Canada's Department of Justice prepared a draft manual for practitioners in the field of domestic violence, which is being reviewed by various UN bodies.
- Women's Rights as Human Rights: At meetings of the UN Commission on Human Rights, the UN Commission on the Status of Women and the Preparatory Committees for the June 1993 UN World Conference on Human Rights, Canada has consistently stressed the concept of women's rights as an integral component of universal human rights.
- Canada has actively promoted institutional reform at the UN to ensure that women occupy 25 per cent of senior-level positions in the UN Secretariat by 1995.
- UN Conference on Environment and Development, 1992: Canada was one of the leaders in ensuring that one of the principal documents included a specific chapter on women.
- UN Development Fund for Women: Canada is a major donor to core funding (\$1.5 million in 1991-92) and the current director is Canadian.
- United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees: Via this avenue, Canada contributed \$250,000 in December 1992 to assist women and children in the former Yugoslavia who have been victims of sexual assault.