

combatants in post-conflict situations. At home, Canada has developed a national roster of Canadian civilians who are available on short notice to provide assistance and expertise to international peace support operations organized by the UN and regional organizations.

Canada believes that promoting human security is an important dimension of the UN's role. One of the human security initiatives launched by Canada at the UN is our effort to enhance the protection of civilians in armed conflict. Under Canada's presidency in February 1999, the Security Council debated this issue and called on the Secretary-General to prepare a report. Issued in September, the report contains concrete recommendations for protecting civilians in conflict situations. Canada and other countries are now working toward implementation of the recommendations.

Non-proliferation, arms control and disarmament

As we seek new tools for the UN to respond to threats to security, we must not relax our efforts in traditional areas of concern, such as non-proliferation, arms control and disarmament. With the indefinite extension of the Nuclear Non-Proliferation Treaty in 1995 and the opening for signature of the Comprehensive Test-Ban Treaty in 1996, the international community took a historic and definitive step forward on nuclear disarmament. Canada is firmly committed to pursuing the goal set out in the

Test-Ban Treaty of reducing and ultimately eliminating nuclear weapons.

We are equally concerned that there be no relaxation in the international condemnation of chemical and biological weapons, and in support for treaties dealing with them. Nor should the international community neglect the threats to security arising from excessive and destabilizing accumulations of conventional weapons. We believe that more can and should be done at the multi-lateral level to address such concerns, including issues related to small arms and light weapons.

Elimination of anti-personnel mines

A deadly legacy of conflicts that may have ended decades before, anti-personnel mines victimize more than 20 000 people every year. Most of the casualties are civilians, many of them children, and almost all live in developing countries.

That is why, in October 1996, Canada hosted the Ottawa Conference entitled "Toward a Global Ban on Anti-Personnel Mines," bringing together more than 70 states to discuss a strategy for achieving a global landmine ban. In the Ottawa Declaration, participating states committed to ensuring "the earliest possible conclusion of a legally binding international agreement to ban anti-personnel landmines." Determined to see this unprecedented gathering produce speedy action, Canada's Minister of Foreign Affairs, Lloyd Axworthy, invited the participants to return to Canada's capital one year

CIDA photo: Roger LeMoyne

