

Warsaw Pact versus NATO, Russians versus Americans, in other words, the macro-security paradigm of a global struggle has all but broken down. "Ours is an age of micro-security." Rather than over-arching issues of peace and war, we now face a myriad of smaller challenges, none in itself capable of triggering global conflict, but all capable of challenging our humanity. In this new environment, we simply must reform the Department of Peacekeeping Operations. We can not expect the UN to take life and death decisions without reform and adequate capacity.

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In his key note address, **Minister Axworthy** expressed his pleasure at being back at the UN University. The last time he spoke here, he said, he was Opposition Critic for Foreign Affairs. Now, he has the duty of seeing that ideas become policy. "With topics ranging from Security Council reform to voluntary codes of conduct, you have undertaken a very ambitious conference agenda," he said to the Conference participants. He was encouraged by the level of discussion during the first roundtable in Acton, Ontario, and pleased to see that so many of the issues examined during this second session are at the heart of Canada's foreign policy agenda. Venues, such as this one, which bring thinkers and practitioners together are always useful.

A shift has occurred in what it means to be secure in the nearly five years he has been Canada's Foreign Affairs Minister. As a result, the language of international affairs has begun to change. No longer are we limited to discussions of states' rights and national sovereignty. Protection of civilians, the plight of war-affected children, the threat of terrorism and drugs, managing open borders and combatting infectious diseases are now among the integral aspects of the global dialogue. This shift in language reflects a recognition that protecting people must be our principal concern. In turn, this recognition has resulted in the evolution of Canadian foreign policy and the formulation of many of the aspects of the human security agenda.

The term human security is not new. A recognition that people's rights are at least as important as those of states has been gaining momentum since the end of the Second World War. The Holocaust forced a serious examination of the place of international moral standards and codes in the conduct of world affairs. It also caused us to rethink the principles of national sovereignty. The Nuremberg trials were an acknowledgement that grotesque and extreme violations of people's rights could not go unpunished. The UN Charter, the Universal Declaration of Human Rights, the Genocide Conventions and the Geneva Conventions all recognized the inherent right of people to personal security. They also established the basis in international law and practice for a challenge to conventional notions of sovereignty when violations occur.

The Minister reminded participants the centrality of "We the people..." in the UN Charter. This sentiment must be backed up, he said. A day does not go by when we are not faced by the number of atrocities we let go by. Rwanda is a perfect example. The daily telegrams addressed to the Minister's office and the daily newscasts are replete with reports on civilian attacks and terrorism. The spread of AIDS and other infectious diseases, growth of transnational crime, sexual exploitation, all point to a diminishing security of an individual. These issues effect