

Among the steps taken over the past year, Mme Landry mentioned the agreement by the Government to respond to, and provide comments on, human rights issues in the course of appearances before the Standing Committee on External Affairs and International Trade and the Standing Committee on Human Rights. She also confirmed that the Government would shortly table draft legislation creating the International Centre for Human Rights and Democratic Development, a potentially significant vehicle for programming and funding in the human rights area. With respect to the United Nations, she indicated that "the crisis is not over. Furthermore, a re-structuring exercise is now proceeding within the U.N. and this will require careful management and direction." She also expressed satisfaction that Canada has become the first country to contribute to the new United Nations Voluntary Fund for Advisory Services in the field of Human Rights, when a cheque for \$150,000 was presented to the Secretary General of the Organization.