

human security

Governance and accountability

Fostering improved accountability of public and private sector institutions

International Criminal Court

■ Over the past century, the world has witnessed horrific levels of violence and crimes committed against civilian populations in times of conflict. To prevent similar tragedies from recurring, it is important that individuals responsible for perpetrating such crimes be held accountable.

■ Canada played a prominent role in the adoption of the Rome Statute of the International Criminal Court (ICC), which was adopted by 120 countries on July 17, 1998. Just over two years later, Canada was the first country in the world to adopt comprehensive implementing legislation (the *Crimes Against Humanity and War Crimes Act*). In 2000, Canada launched an ICC Campaign (on-line at: www.icc.gc.ca) that has sponsored numerous conferences, seminars and workshops in every region of the world to build capacity for

countries to ratify and implement the Rome Statute. A total of 139 states have signed the Rome Statute, which entered into force on July 1, 2002, and the high number of ratifications indicates the international support the ICC enjoys. The ICC has jurisdiction over genocide, crimes against humanity and war crimes. This jurisdiction complements national courts; the ICC may investigate or prosecute cases only when countries' own courts are genuinely unable or unwilling to bring transgressors to justice.

■ Through its ICC Campaign and its missions to the United Nations and overseas, Canada continues to promote ratification and implementation of the Rome Statute. Our efforts also include ICC education and outreach, such as public awareness campaigns in Canada and abroad, consultations on gender and the ICC, an ICC youth conference and the development of an ICC curriculum for use in Canadian schools.

Jordan's ambassador to the United Nations, Prince Zeid Ra'ad Zeid Al-Husseini, presides as President over the first meeting of the Assembly of States Parties of the International Criminal Court, held at United Nations headquarters September 3, 2002.

Implementation workshop in East Africa

Canada's Human Security Program and the Commonwealth Secretariat held the Workshop on the Implementation of the Rome Statute for the International Criminal Court in Commonwealth East Africa in February 2002 in Dar-es-Salaam, Tanzania. Ten East African states participated in the session, which brought legislative drafters together with international ICC experts to analyze the steps needed for each country to ratify and implement the Rome Statute. Four states that participated in the workshop – Mauritius, Malawi, Tanzania and Uganda – ratified the Rome Statute shortly thereafter.

CP/AP (Shawn Baldwin)

