

collective security organization while welcoming the countries of Eastern Europe into its ranks.

While NATO's role has declined in recent years, the UN has had to face a multitude of new demands. Canada has greatly contributed to the building of the United Nations, which reflects many values held dear by Canadians. After 40 years of near-paralysis caused by the Cold War, the United Nations is now being asked to play an increasingly active role in seeking and maintaining international peace and security.

Of course, this transition has not been an easy one. Far from yielding to the temptation of easy criticism, we must admit that the United Nations has been asked, almost overnight, to assume a role for which it was never prepared. Indeed, one wonders how it has been able to function in these trying times. We must thank the Secretary-General, Mr. Boutros Boutros-Ghali, and hail his remarkable efforts.

Canada has led appeals for a sweeping reform of the United Nations. We must show as much courage, innovation and determination today as in the aftermath of the Second World War, when the nations of the world united to create major institutions such as the International Monetary Fund, the World Bank, NATO and the UN in order to build a better world.

These multilateral institutions have generally served us well. However, the global context in and for which they were designed is no longer the same. The world is far more complex than it was 50 years ago. There are a growing number of stakeholders on the international scene, each representing different interests and perspectives. However, we cannot start from scratch and ignore all the significant contributions of these international institutions.

This being said, we must not be afraid of new ideas but think of new, flexible and responsive mechanisms that will help us far beyond the turn of the century.

Institutional inertia has frustrated creative thinking. We accept that the world is far more complex than it was five decades ago, we realize there are many more countries representing many more interests and perspectives, we understand that you cannot tear everything up and start anew, ignoring the significant contributions made by international organizations.

We do believe, however, that it is time once again to encourage fresh ideas about where we want to go as a world community. Canadians can make a decisive contribution to this international