

to enjoy equality, justice before the law and knowledge. The members of the United Nations must work together now to renew the Organization, its agencies and programs, and to help make this vision a reality.

Mr. President, in Canada's view, pursuing this vision requires a focus on three interlinked objectives: preventing conflict, responding quickly when conflict occurs, and supporting peacebuilding efforts on an ongoing basis. I will address each objective in turn.

The first priority must be to help the UN better protect people from conflict. The UN has had important successes in the last few years, but there have also been setbacks. If the UN is to adapt to a changing world, if confidence is to be restored in the organization, we must learn from the failures of Bosnia, Somalia and Rwanda, and build on the successes of Cambodia, Namibia and El Salvador.

Mr. President, preventive action, as the Secretary General has laid out so well in *Agenda for Peace*, takes many forms, from economic development programs, to mediation, to the preventive deployment of personnel (as in the Former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia), from the investigation of human rights violations to the conclusion of agreements limiting the spread of weapons of mass destruction. Prevention saves lives, forestalls untold human suffering and makes best use of limited resources.

Last year at this podium, I announced that Canada was providing a list of Canadian experts available to the UN for preventive diplomacy missions. We are also taking advantage of our membership in La Francophonie, in the Commonwealth and in regional organizations, such as the OAS [Organization of American States] and the OSCE [Organization for Security and Co-operation in Europe], to work towards enhancing the ability of these organizations to prevent conflicts. Our Prime Minister is currently pressing for an expanded Commonwealth role in democratization and good governance, two key elements of conflict prevention. I recently convened a meeting of La Francophonie, to generate recommendations for it to strengthen its role in conflict prevention, particularly in Africa. These recommendations will be presented to the leaders gathered at the Francophone Summit in Cotonou, Benin, in December of this year.

Prevention also means deterring crimes against humanity. Canada strongly supports the early establishment of an international criminal court, which will deter such crimes in the future and punish them should they occur. The recently approved *Platform for Action* at the UN's Fourth Conference on Women in Beijing, China, lends further impetus in this area.