

The Constituent Assembly elected this past week will convene later in November to begin work on Namibia's Constitution which must then be adopted by a two-thirds majority. Mr. Clark underlined his understanding that the eventual Constitution will give full effect to the Constitutional Principles previously agreed to by all parties and the UN. These Principles include constitutional guarantees of democracy and human rights. The Minister emphasized that these make a significant contribution to nation-building and national reconciliation. "Canada is a committed sponsor of the Principles, and fully shares the UN Secretary General's view, approved by the Security Council, that they are an integral and binding part of the UN plan for Namibia", stated Mr. Clark.

Canada places great importance on the successful completion of Namibia's independence process, as this will further strengthen the UN's ability to address regional conflicts elsewhere. Mr. Clark also noted, "The example of Namibia's transition to independence will provide an invaluable demonstration to South Africans of the feasibility of fundamental change through a peaceful, democratic and negotiated process."