

Foreword

Each year for the past decade the Department of External Affairs has organized consultations with Canadian Non-Governmental Organizations active in the field of human rights. Focusing on the agenda items of the United Nations Commission on Human Rights, these consultations have traditionally taken place in January, immediately prior to the annual meeting of the Commission.

This year, this gathering takes on a special significance: on December 10 the international community will celebrate the fortieth anniversary of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights. To mark this event, the Department of External Affairs has compiled a selection of statements and speeches.

This collection of statements, made over the course of the last decade by Ministers and senior public servants, is a sampling of the many public declarations on human rights by representatives of the Government of Canada. It focuses on topics relevant to the agenda of the Commission on Human Rights and on related topics prominent in the Conference on Security and Cooperation in Europe. The Department is pleased to make this collection available to participants of the NGO Consultations and hopes it will be of interest to them in the work of crucial importance they have undertaken.

J.H. Taylor

J.H. Taylor,
Under-Secretary of State
for External Affairs

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