

Foreword

Before you is the second edition of the *Canadian Reference Guide to the United Nations*. Compared with the original 1994 publication, this new edition has been considerably enriched in terms of both the content as well as the more vibrant, diversified visual presentation.

The 1999 Guide contains a wealth of new information, particularly on Web sites of the UN and of all its specialized agencies, institutions, commissions, committees and other related organizations.

The Guide is meant to be a practical reference tool, one that is easy to consult and simple and enjoyable to use. It is not a work for specialists. Instead, the Guide is aimed at students, teachers, the general public, the news media and all who seek to know more about this great institution.

The United Nations system is as vast as it is complex. It touches all spheres of human activity and affects people throughout the world. The *Canadian Reference Guide to the United Nations* shows how important is the role played by the UN in our daily lives. The Web addresses found in these pages will enable those wishing to learn more about the UN system to increase their knowledge and better appreciate this institution, which is so central to Canada's foreign policy.

Enjoy the read, and good luck in your research!

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