



**Message from
Canada's Minister of Foreign Affairs**

We are living through a profound shift in the conduct of international relations. The traditional thinking on security between states is being expanded to include a new approach focussed on human security. The Cold War is over, but we do not yet live in peace when, at any given time, more than a dozen internal conflicts are claiming hundreds of victims everyday.

The proliferation of conflict has left no choice to the international community. We recognize that we cannot sit idle hoping that peace will be restored, that yesterday's enemies will rebuild their country and live in peace ever after. The systematic recurrence of intra-state conflict tells us that we must understand the root causes of these conflicts. We must support the efforts of foes to settle their differences peacefully, and encourage them to recognize the inalienable link between respect for human rights and lasting, sustainable peace. It is urgent that we develop new forms of diplomacy, law and practice that are up to this task.

This publication focusses on one aspect of Canada's efforts to strengthen human security. Under **The Canadian Peacebuilding Initiative**, Canada is committed to working together with all



**Message from
Canada's Minister for
International Co-operation and
Minister responsible for La Francophonie**

Ever since the establishment of the Canadian International Development Agency (CIDA), we have devoted considerable human and financial resources to help societies emerge from poverty and under-development to become full-fledged participants in the construction of a prosperous, peaceful world.

Sadly, many of these efforts have been ruined because of bloody conflicts, some of them inter-state, but for the most part, intra-state. These conflicts have destroyed already limited resources, infrastructures and institutions of governance, and have undermined often fragile ethnic and social cohesion.

We cannot let this situation perpetuate. We cannot tolerate this human suffering. We cannot accept the destruction of entire societies and the devastation of precious, scarce resources. And we cannot accept the constant recurrence of conflicts that destroy each generation's efforts to live normal lives.

Peace is a prerequisite to development. Restoring a secure climate through the support of the Canadian Peacebuilding Fund and other initiatives from the international community and multilateral