

In the past year, our government has demonstrated its multi-faceted commitment to this mission. We have increased our development spending, our diplomatic presence and our military engagement.

We welcome Security Council Resolution 1776. It extends the authorization of the international security assistance force in Afghanistan and it calls on member states to contribute personnel, equipment and funding. The Canadian government encourages members of this assembly to actively support this Resolution and its implementation.

And there are other challenges we must also meet. In Haiti, the Canadian government has asked the Security Council to extend the UN stabilization mission in that country.

This represents Canada's largest development program and stabilization mission in the Americas.

In Burma, it is imperative to restore democracy and human rights.

We expect the UN to be at the forefront of these efforts. Although we have disagreed on occasion with the decisions—and at time with the processes—of the UN Human Rights Council, the initiative to hold a special session of the Human Rights Council on Burma is an example of the sort of activism and engagement that Canada expects of this body in dealing with human rights violators.

In Sudan, innovative peacekeeping missions are forming a security framework around which a durable peace can be built.

The international community must demonstrate the political will to find new solutions. These must be aimed not only at immediately ending the daily litany of horrific violations of human rights in Darfur, but also at addressing the issues of freedom, democracy, human rights and the rule of law that must form the foundation for a durable peace.

Canada's substantial contribution to Sudan continues in the form of humanitarian assistance and equipment.

Of course, we condemn the intolerable attack against soldiers of the African Union force.

Mr. President, the scope of the challenges we must overcome to maintain our security is such that no country can hope to tackle them alone.

We, the member states, can and must show the determination, political will and commitment that are crucial if the UN is to truly reflect the principles that its founders wanted it to embody.