

We strongly support the creation of a Peace Building Commission, which fills a clear gap in the UN system, and can bring significant progress in the context of the management of post-conflict situations and prevention of resurgence of conflict.

We strongly support the strengthening of the UN human rights mechanisms, including the Office of the High Commissioner for Human Rights and the treaty bodies, and the creation of an effective, legitimate and credible Human Rights Council.

We are also supportive of the proposal to enhance efforts regarding the financing of development.

International Security and Crisis Management

A convergence in our perceptions of the pre-eminent challenges to international security, including terrorism, the threat posed by the proliferation of Weapons of Mass Destruction (WMD), failed and failing states, gross and large-scale violations of human rights, organized crime and poverty, together with our shared support for effective multilateralism and the primary responsibility of the UN for the maintenance of international peace and security, has prompted Canada and the EU to cooperate extensively in managing both global threats and regional crises.

In the context of our joint efforts to counter the global threat of terrorism, we are united in our support for UN activities in this field. We call on all UN member states to ratify the existing conventions on terrorism and hope for conclusion of the Comprehensive Convention on International Terrorism as soon as possible. The EU and Canada will work together to provide counter-terrorism capacity building assistance (including training, technical and legal assistance) to other states that require resources and expertise to prevent and respond to terrorist activity.

Canada and the EU work closely together in a number of regions in the context of various international crisis management missions. We both welcome Canadian participation in the EU civilian and military crisis management operations in Bosnia Herzegovina and the Democratic Republic of Congo.

Canada's active involvement and continuing desire to participate in such missions has led Canadian and EU leaders to conclude negotiations on an Agreement Establishing a Framework for the Participation of Canada in EU-led Crisis Management Operations. The Agreement sets out a legal framework detailing the terms and conditions for Canada's participation in both current and future EU-led crisis management operations. The Agreement will be submitted for formal approval in coming months.