

preserve of the superpowers, though they do have a special and leading role to play. It is also the responsibility of other countries -- middle and small powers -- to take an active and constructive part in working to ease international tensions and to advance the global arms control agenda in order to support the work going on in the bilateral talks.

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Canada and Canadians have a history of international activism. We were among the founding members of the United Nations, a unique global institution, which is celebrating its 40th anniversary this year. In establishing the U.N. in 1945, Canada and other members of the international community expressed their determination to "save succeeding generations from the scourge of war" and recognised the transcendent need for cooperation between nations in the post war world.

Canada has pursued this tradition of multilateralism in the field of arms control. In fact, Canada has a seat at every multilateral arms control and disarmament forum. This includes: the First Committee of the United Nations General Assembly, the Conference on Disarmament in Geneva, the United Nations Disarmament Commission, the Mutual Balanced Force Reduction Talks in Vienna and the Stockholm Conference on Confidence and Security Building Measures and Disarmament in Europe. Each of these forums is filled with its own set of difficulties and complications. However, each also offers hope and the long-range prospect for progress.

Canada has long been a vocal proponent of these multilateral negotiations. We recognise the true value of the multilateral processes to the international community as a whole and their particular importance as a forum in which smaller and middle powers can make their voice heard and influence arms control issues that affect each and every nation, regardless of size and stature. We also believe that the potential of these bodies for making real progress and effectively negotiating arms control and disarmament questions is far from being realised.

In his speech to Saint Francis Xavier University last September, Prime Minister Mulroney recognized the utility of the multilateral process when he stressed Canada's commitment to this process and to increasing Canada's "positive and constructive" influence in these forums. He added:

"It is in these forums that Canada can work most effectively to reduce tensions, to alleviate conflict, and to create the conditions for a lasting peace."