

MAKING A DIFFERENCE GLOBALLY

The expanding international commitment to the principles of human rights, democracy and the rule of law is the most hopeful movement of our time. It promises unprecedented levels of wealth, security and quality of life. Yet challenges remain. New threats have emerged from unconventional sources. Security and prosperity remain unfulfilled dreams for many around the world, and democratic systems of government are often under attack. Our current institutions of global governance are struggling to address more complex problems, and sometimes fail to reflect the principles of transparency and accountability.

In addressing these dilemmas, we will focus on matching our expertise with what the world needs most from us. This is best illustrated with reference to weak states, where a collapse not only creates a humanitarian emergency but also poses wider security threats. Without underestimating the complexity of helping these societies, Canada can make a distinctive contribution through an integrated, three-part approach: stabilization through rapid deployment of our military and police; governance assistance through contributions such as the new Canada Corps; and economic and social revitalization through development assistance and innovative private sector development initiatives. This combined and targeted effort is a microcosm of our broader international strategy: Canada can matter to the world while pursuing its national interests.

BUILDING A MORE SECURE WORLD

Since Canada's last foreign policy review and defence white paper, the world has experienced a period of change and uncertainty. Fifteen years after the fall of the Berlin Wall, and the end of the old bipolar structure, the contours of our new world order are still taking shape. The West may have won the Cold War, but that victory has not ushered in an era of global stability. In 2005, we know from painful experience that our greatest security challenges—now and in the future—go far beyond the military forces of nation-states waging war against each other. The threats we face also come from non-state actors, and have a direct impact on innocent civilians.

A key driver of this change is globalization—the explosion and rapid movement across borders of

information, technology, people, goods, services and knowledge. The result of these processes is a world that is smaller and more interdependent. Interdependence has fostered prosperity and a growing sense of global community. But it is a double-edged sword. Though globalization's force was recognized a decade ago, we did not fully appreciate its capacity to trouble as well as transform us. Globalization facilitates both the spread of deadly disease and access to deadly weapons. It also means that the collapse of state capacity in one region can make all of us more vulnerable to transnational terrorist and criminal groups. One failed state, Afghanistan, served as the staging ground for the tragic events of September 11—events that brought home to Canadians the new reality and reach of global terrorism.

Canada shares the views, expressed in the recent reports of the UN High Level Panel and of the UN Secretary-General, that the front-line actors in dealing with all threats—old and new—are individual sovereign states. But states can no longer act alone. Nor can their sovereign frontiers serve as an excuse for tolerating actions that contravene human security or contribute to global instability. One truth is undeniable: security in the 21st century is a common interest, and a shared responsibility.

In making a distinctive contribution to a safer world, we will rely heavily on the Canadian Forces. Canada's military is no stranger to this role. Our men and women in uniform have performed a remarkable service on behalf of Canadians throughout the decades. Since 1990, their operational tempo—the number and size of missions relative to available forces—has tripled compared to the period between 1945 and 1989. This increase in activity was not foreseen in the 1994 defence white paper. In recent years, our soldiers have deployed throughout the world, participating in complex and dangerous missions that have tested their skill, training and equipment. Some have made the ultimate sacrifice, and many more have been injured.

The image that captures today's operational environment for the Canadian Forces is a "three-block-war." Increasingly, there is overlap in the tasks our personnel are asked to carry out at any one time. Our military could be engaged in combat against well-armed militia in one city block, stabilization operations in the next block, and humanitarian relief and reconstruction two blocks over. Transition from one type of task to the