

While the State continues to be the primary institution for providing the services of good governance and protection against threats and external aggression, we believe that both traditional and human security dimensions are necessary. This concept establishes a standard for judging the success or failure of international security policies based on their ability to protect people. In Canadian foreign policy, we have begun to transform this concept into a guiding principle for action.

ACTION

1. Lysoen Partnership with Norway.

On May 11, 1998, Canada and Norway signed a bilateral Partnership for Action, entitled the "Lysøen Declaration". The overarching objective of the Partnership for Action is to provide coherence for, to strengthen, and to build momentum around human security initiatives.

Under the Partnership, the two countries have agreed to promote a flexible framework for bilateral consultation and cooperation on the following issues: Landmines; the International Criminal Court; Human Rights; Humanitarian Law; the Gender Dimensions of Armed Conflict; Small Arms Proliferation; War-Affected Children (including Child Soldiers); Child Labour; and Arctic and Northern Cooperation.

Senior Official Coordinators of the Lysøen Partnership met in December, 1998, followed by a Ministerial retreat in the February, 1999 to discuss the concept of human security and joint Canadian-Norwegian actions.

This will eventually involve forming partnerships and coalitions with like-minded countries, NGOs, civil society and the ICRC.

2. Extended Human Security Partnership.

Multilaterally, Canada and Norway hosted a human security luncheon with Foreign Ministers in New York on 25 September, 1998. The countries involved were: Austria; Chile; Ireland; Jordan; Netherlands; Slovenia; South Africa; Switzerland; and Thailand. A follow-up meeting in Norway is scheduled for 19-20 May, 1999 in Norway.

3. United Nations Security Council.

Canada intends to pursue a number of these human security issues while a member of the United Nations Security Council (1999-2000). One of the first initiatives will be take place during Canada's Presidency of the UN Security Council in February, 1999 when we will develop the theme of the "protection of civilians in armed conflict".