

Let me now summarize:

First, today's and tomorrow's discussions must continue in each of our capitals and culminate in Cotonou in a solemn declaration by la Francophonie on conflict prevention and preventive diplomacy.

Second, I wonder whether we shouldn't think of setting up a select ministerial committee in Cotonou to support the initiatives in this area and provide the necessary political impetus.

Third, at the level of preventive diplomacy, la Francophonie should make greater use of its parliamentarians; they can play an invaluable role of mediation and observation, as was the case in Burundi. I would like to see an active role for the AIPLF [International Association of French-Speaking Parliamentarians] strongly encouraged and recognized;

Fourth, to add an element of flexibility, mobility and rapidity to the actions of the select ministerial committee and to give more substance to the Francophone instruments already available to us, including the AIPLF, we should perhaps contemplate establishing within la Francophonie what for the time being I will call a "facility for peace."

Fifth, given the crucial importance of respect for human rights and fundamental freedoms in conflict prevention, I feel that where they do not exist or are functioning less than optimally, we should promote the creation or strengthening of national human rights advocacy institutions throughout la Francophonie. This could be incorporated in bilateral and multilateral co-operation.

Sixth, in an environment where military power is giving way to economic dynamism, the security and stability of nations hinges increasingly on the economic and social development of their people. Should our governments not therefore undertake to courageously review the level of military expenditures with a view to reallocating defence resources into fields such as health and education in order to secure a better future for our people?

Seventh, according to the United Nations, more than 90 per cent of the victims of intra-state conflicts are non-combatants. Unless the proliferation of small arms and the use of mines cease, the civilian population will continue to be the victims of sectarian wars. It is imperative that the international community and the governments and groups involved work together to end the use of such weapons. Furthermore, should we not make the political commitment to rid Francophone countries of mines?

Canada will continue to apply pressure and suggest changes within the international institutions to secure peace and stability.