

respect for international human rights.

A key element of healing war-torn societies is restoring the rule of law and ending impunity. This is why the timely establishment of an independent and effective International Criminal Court, with inherent jurisdiction over the "core" crimes of genocide, war crimes, and crimes against humanity, is so important. If there is no impartial means to uncover truth and administer justice in the aftermath of war, nations will find themselves plunged into continued cycles of violence.

To be truly independent and effective, the Court must have a constructive relationship with the United Nations, particularly the Security Council, in which its independence and impartiality are preserved. Proceedings of the Court should not be "triggered" only by a state complaint or a Security Council referral; prosecutors should also be able to initiate proceedings. Above all, the Court should focus firmly on providing justice for the victims of conflict, incorporating considerations of gender and the rights of children.

I am following the progress of these negotiations closely, and would encourage my colleagues in other member states to give their attention to this very important exercise. The international community must not wait for another catastrophe before establishing a permanent body able to respond to the widespread atrocities that so often occur in armed conflict. As the century draws to a close, the creation of the Court would be an important and fitting accomplishment. We must not allow those who are wedded to an outmoded world view to delay us in this task.

### **The Human Perspective: The Campaign to Ban Landmines**

The campaign to ban landmines is a clear example of how we can bring new approaches with a human focus to bear on the traditional international security agenda. For the first time, a majority of states agreed to ban a weapon that was part of the military arsenal of nearly every nation. Why? Because, with the communications revolution, the human cost of landmines had become increasingly visible.

Banning landmines could no longer be seen primarily as question of disarmament, where the focus was on the weapon itself. Instead, we began to see this as a question of humanitarian law, which takes account of civilians and the horrible impact that these weapons have on their lives. Humanitarian law put a human face on the landmines crisis.

Married to this new way of seeing landmines was a new approach to international diplomacy, based on the exercise of "soft power" — a coalition of the willing, including governments and civil society as equal partners, united around a set of core principles. This coalition built support for a total ban on anti-personnel mines with unprecedented speed and success.

I see this shift from a disarmament focus to a humanitarian focus as part of a larger trend to look at security issues from the perspective of the human being — to focus on human security. Small arms proliferation, child combatants, excessive military expenditures and peacebuilding must also be addressed from this human perspective. International humanitarian law, with its focus on the civilian cost of conflict, and international human rights law, with its focus on core standards of human dignity, are the keys to transforming the traditional security agenda. A "soft power" approach can, I believe, help us to achieve our goals under this new security agenda. Seen from this perspective, a number of key themes clearly emerge as priorities.

### **A Thematic Approach**