

The Geneva mission is responsible for relations with the UN offices in Geneva, including the High Commissioner for Refugees, the Human Rights Commission and the Conference on Disarmament. The Montréal mission is responsible for relations with the International Civil Aviation Organization. The Nairobi mission is responsible for relations with the Centre for Human Settlements and the UN Environment Programme. The Paris mission is responsible for relations with the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization. The Rome mission is responsible for relations with the Food and Agriculture Organization. Last, the Vienna mission is responsible for relations with the UN offices in Vienna, including the International Atomic Energy Agency.

Public opinion surveys consistently show that Canadians have a high regard for the UN. In fact, 90 percent of Canadians in a recent poll said that Canada should continue to put a high priority on its role in the UN. The

United Nations has demonstrated the ability to adapt, institutionally and operationally, as new issues have emerged and as relations between countries continue to evolve. The United Nations remains crucial to Canada and, we believe, essential to the conduct of diplomacy in an ever more inter-dependent world. It is a precious resource that we are committed to preserving.

Following are some of the major sectors of UN activity in which Canada has been, and will continue to be, particularly active.

Security Council

Canada has six times been elected to the powerful UN Security Council, serving terms in 1948–49, 1958–59, 1967–68, 1977–78, 1989–90 and now in 1999–2000. During its current tenure on the Council, Canada's priorities revolve around issues of human security, such as the protection of civilians in armed conflict, war-affected children, conflict prevention, peacebuilding, mass refugee flows, illicit small arms trafficking, gross human rights abuses, and failures of governance and the rule of law.

Peacekeeping

Since its beginnings in 1956, peacekeeping has become an integral and high-profile component of UN operations. Since 1957, when Lester B. Pearson was awarded the Nobel Peace Prize for his leadership in developing the concept of peacekeeping, Canadians have felt a commitment to peacekeeping and have accepted frequent requests to join the Blue Berets in operations around the world.

One of a growing group of countries to which the UN regularly turns when it requires peacekeeping advice and expert military contributions, Canada has participated in almost all the peacekeeping operations mandated by the UN Security Council—in Cyprus, Bosnia, Haiti and elsewhere.



CIDA photo: David Barbour