

conceptual base is needed to face these types of complex conflicts and time must not be a factor. There have been 400 years of complex problems, including minority and majority issues, the colonial period, then the post-colonial Cold War period, and a period of working under very difficult peace agreements after many years of civil war. Time must be measured in decades, nothing less. The plan for support can be 40, 50 or 80 years. An investment of 40 years in Cyprus was a pretty smart investment. There was not too much killing, Dallaire said. Maybe they will need 40 more years before that Green Line disappears, but what is 80 years in the life of a nation?

David Angell, of the Department of Foreign Affairs, noted that G8 leaders were to meet in Kananaskis, Alberta in just over two months from the time of the Consultations, with Africa at the centre of the agenda, not as a one-off item. Africa is alone among continents in seeing poverty rise, in having a diminishing life expectancy, which is already 16 years lower than the next lowest region. All of the indicators are dramatic and trending downwards. Prime Minister Chrétien has advocated repeatedly that Africa would be the focal point of the Kananaskis summit. He supported that commitment with the \$500 million fund for NEPAD in the December budget. The Prime Minister traveled to listen to 14 African leaders in the course of seven or eight days. The discussions focused very much on issues that related to human rights, to democratization and to the very strong emphasis placed in the NEPAD on good governance, peace and security. But the Prime Minister also spoke at some length of the obligations incumbent upon the G8 partners – the importance of opening up markets, of addressing the issues of agricultural subsidies.

Among the pledges that the African leaders have made through the NEPAD is a pledge to promote peace and stability. They have undertaken joint responsibility to strengthen the mechanisms for conflict prevention, management and resolution at the regional and continental levels to ensure that these mechanisms are used to restore and maintain peace, and to hold each other accountable to that end. The focus on peace and security in the NEPAD is unfortunately warranted. Half the countries in Africa are directly or indirectly affected by armed conflict. One African in five is directly affected by armed conflict and the number of civilians killed is higher than in any other region. At the same time, the situation regarding peace and security in Africa is manifestly better today than in 1999-2000. In Angola, the continent's longest running armed conflict is nearing an end. In the Congo, there is a viable peace process in place. In the Sudan, there is evidence of willingness by countries outside of Africa to become engaged constructively. In Sierra Leone, a war of extraordinary brutality has ended. In Eritrea and Ethiopia, a peace process is taking hold, the boundary decision has come down and it appears to be holding. These are encouraging signs but obviously not grounds for complacency, he said.

Angell suggested that positive developments could be in part attributed to the engagement of South Africa, in particular, in Burundi and in Congo. But also there has been engagement on the part of the international community. Sanctions worked in Angola; we would not be looking at a ceasefire now, if the UNITA rebels had not had their supply lines choked, Angell said. The linkage between conflict diamonds and armed conflict is being addressed realistically and effectively with Canadians such as Ian Smillie, Bernard Taylor and David Pratt playing a big role in that. It is quite remarkable that the two major rebel forces that were funded through conflict diamonds have now both been defeated – the RUF in Sierra Leone and UNITA in Angola.