

That is why the measures being debated in the upcoming summit are so significant. Mr. Annan's summary of them, *In Larger Freedom*, stresses a key principle: that development, security and human rights are indivisible. "We will not enjoy development without security, we will not enjoy security without development and we will not enjoy either without respect for human rights," explains Ms. Fréchette.

Accordingly, the Secretary-General proposes several changes: the creation of a UN Peacebuilding Commission to help states after wars end; the replacement of the discredited Commission on Human Rights with a more accountable, streamlined and powerful human rights council; the strengthening of nuclear non-proliferation measures; a sweeping anti-terrorism convention in which everyone finally agrees on a definition of the crime; and an increase in development aid by prosperous countries in order to achieve the Millennium Development Goals, the UN's ambitious poverty-busting action plan launched in 2000. Long overdue expansion and reform of the UN Security Council itself round out Mr. Annan's vision.

Most of these ideas have Canada's support, so much so that when they were unveiled at a press conference in New York, one international journalist quipped, "Have they (the Canadians) produced the ideal state in the UN's eyes?" Allan Rock, Canada's Permanent Representative to the UN, acknowledges that many of Mr. Annan's ideas are echoes of the Canadian playbook. "There is a lot of support for things we consider fundamental."

Curbing nuclear proliferation is one example. Proliferation is "the greatest threat of our era in security terms," says Mr. Malone. Canada is also concerned about the global spread of disease and wants to strengthen the WHO's alert and response network. Meanwhile, it is committed to long-term stabilization and reconstruction of countries such as Haiti and Afghanistan. "For us, peacebuilding isn't an academic exercise," Mr. Malone says.

Responsibility to protect

Of special satisfaction to Canadians, Mr. Annan's report stresses the "responsibility to protect", a conceptual marriage of humanitarianism with hard security that derives from a 2001 report by the International Commission on Intervention and State Sovereignty, a Canadian-backed initiative. "R2P", as the report has become known, describes a "responsibility to prevent" catastrophic threats from becoming reality, a "responsibility to react" if populations



photo: CP (Elaine Thompson)

are caught up in such dangers, and a "responsibility to rebuild" after major upheaval.

Although R2P allows for military intervention, it stresses that force should only be used if a state can't or won't protect its citizens—and be carefully calibrated to inflict the minimum damage necessary to provide shelter from larger harm. "Sovereignty cannot shield mass atrocities,

ethnic cleansing and genocide," says Mr. Rock. While the concept is controversial, he believes international momentum is building. Agrees Kate White, executive director of the United Nations Association in Canada (UNAC): "It's starting to get traction. Canada has made progress on profoundly important issues, R2P being one of those."

Not every state is aboard the R2P bandwagon, cautions Jocelyn Coulon,

a foreign policy columnist for *La Presse* and author of *Soldiers of Diplomacy: The United Nations, Peacekeeping and the New World Order*. "Perhaps some western countries agree with (R2P), but not developing countries. There's a lot of suspicion." Geoffrey Pearson, a former senior diplomat, past president of UNAC and the son of Lester B. Pearson, says the reason for concern is obvious: developing nations will have to live with the consequences of armed intervention, not the wealthy ones. "Nobody's going to interfere in our affairs." Still, Mr. Rock adds that countries such as South Africa, Tanzania and Mexico have expressed positive views in relation to R2P. "We still face our challenges," he says. "We're engaged in very intensive work here in trying to explain the principle."

Canadian support: UN Secretary-General Kofi Annan arrives at the Calgary airport for the G8 Summit in 2002.

Did you know? The global refugee population numbers 11 million people. The number of internally displaced is about 25 million, nearly a third of whom are beyond the reach of UN agencies.
