

presidency, the Council adopted Resolution 1296 which served to consolidate the Council's commitment to key recommendations of the Secretary-General's report. These will now figure routinely in Council considerations.

To anchor the thematic consideration of the protection of civilians in concrete cases, Canada scheduled debates this past April on human security themes. Canada arranged a meeting on the human rights situation in Afghanistan, ensuring that the plight of women and girls in that conflict was highlighted, and the first-ever Council discussion of the lessons of Rwanda. During a special meeting on the findings of the Independent Inquiry on the UN's Actions in the Rwanda Genocide, Canada was able to highlight the imperative of providing appropriate mandates to peacekeeping operations to protect civilians, and to match those mandates with the resources needed to do the job.

Taken together, the Secretary-General's report, the Canadian-led resolution and the Presidential Statement serve as a future guide to Council action on behalf of civilian victims of conflict and abuse. Partly as a result of Canada's prodding, the three new peacekeeping missions in East Timor, Sierra Leone and the Democratic Republic of Congo were all given limited but specific Chapter VII mandates to protect civilians. In each case, Canada argued, forcefully, for these missions to be given the necessary resources to achieve their mandates. These are modest gains and first steps.

Another vehicle for advancing human security on the Council has been Canada's work on sanctions. The Council's ad hoc and politically charged approach to sanctions had frequently led not only to ineffective measures, but to negative humanitarian impacts. Therefore, Canada pressed for reform to make sanctions more humane and effective. Canada took a case-specific approach utilising Canada's position as a Chair of the Angola sanctions committee. Canada also took a more global approach by sponsoring a major independent study by the New York based International Peace Academy (IPA) covering the last decade of Security Council sanctions. Canada spearheaded the creation of a Council working group on sanctions policy to ensure the report had an impact and to launch a process of reform. The work of Canada's Ambassador, Robert Fowler, on Angola sanctions was also significant. His groundbreaking efforts culminated in April with the adoption of a Canadian-led resolution which established a monitoring body to conduct further probes into sanctions violations and to recommend measures, including new sanctions, against the "sanctions busters."

Turning to enhancing accountability, transparency and democracy of the UN Security Council, Paul Heinbecker said that reform of the Council methods must be a priority. Under the current *modus operandi*, the scope for excluding security issues from the Council's considerations is greater than the reverse. In April, for example, Canada's efforts to put the Sudan conflict, one of the bloodiest, on the Council agenda was blocked, not because the competing peace processes were making any progress but because of a coincidence of contrary interests. Rather than aiding the search for peace, too often the Council's procedures are used to serve the interest and prerogatives of its permanent members. The Chinese veto of the