

democratic values and free markets that we and others have developed over decades, and even centuries, should be encouraged -- even urged -- on those peoples of the world whose systems have failed them.

To achieve our objectives, we have redoubled our resolve to support and use international organizations more effectively. The United Nations, freed from the suffocating vetoes of the Cold War, is in the process of being revitalized and is the centre of our focus. This in itself is not a new direction in Canadian foreign policy. Multilateralism has been a long-standing Canadian mantra.

What is new is the growing willingness of other countries to use multilateral institutions, and, consequently, their effectiveness is enhanced. This is, perhaps, the greatest single change in the global environment. There have always been conflicts and insecurity; there has always been interdependence; but not until recently has there been such a strong global willingness to take action on such a range of issues through multilateral institutions.

The potential for this international political will is far from being realized, as any quick glance at CNN will make clear. But it opens up enormous possibilities for dealing with problems and resolving conflicts through the United Nations and myriad other organizations.

The UN remains the heart of the global political system and the focal point for conflict management. The Secretary-General's recent "Agenda for Peace," the first comprehensive review of UN objectives virtually since its founding, points the way forward for the UN -- preventive diplomacy, peacemaking, peacekeeping and peace-building.

It is an ambitious agenda, but one that very much reflects Canada's view of the future.

The Secretary-General suggests, and we agree, that the international community needs to become more active and interventionist in both preventing and resolving conflict. He also points out the need to be realistic about the extent to which the UN system itself can support the growing number of demands being placed on its conflict management resources.

For example, between 1945 and 1987 there were 13 peacekeeping operations established. Since 1987, 13 additional peacekeeping operations have already been established.

The UN system cannot maintain this level of commitment if its members do not pay their dues or contribute their resources to UN-sanctioned actions.