

A United Nations for a Secure Humanity

1999 National Forum Report on Canada and the UN Security Council

Letter from the Director

Dear Friends,

In April 2000 Canada served its second and final term as President of the United Nations Security Council, part of its two-year mandate as an elected member. Foreign Affairs Minister, Lloyd Axworthy, used this opportunity to give continued Canadian leadership to the promotion of human security around the world. Promotion of the security of people (especially children), sometimes from the excesses of their governments, has become the central goal of Canada's foreign policy.

This goal was developed, in part, by Canadians who assembled for the 1999 National Forum on Canada's International Relations, meeting in Saint John, Montreal and Vancouver. Human security goals were strongly endorsed and citizens recommended these goals for Canadian foreign policy, for the Security Council itself and for the United Nations and international community.

To mark Canada's Presidency of the Security Council, to draw attention to Canada's achievements, and to provide some feedback to National Forum participants, we are pleased to provide the National Forum Report (which includes updates on the issues) and important accompanying documents including excerpts from the Department of Foreign Affairs' "One Year Review".

This is an opportunity not only to report on the National Forum, but to draw attention to recent policy developments and Canadian activities that follow from some of the Forum recommendations.

Organized by the Canadian Centre for Foreign Policy Development and our host university partners, each Forum meeting was a full day, with a discussion paper, speakers and workshops. Each meeting was regional, drawing participants from across Atlantic, Central and Western Canada. (The 1998 National Forum included meetings in Whitehorse, Yellowknife and Iqaluit). More than 200 citizens took part, including youth, Non-Governmental Organizations, business, labour and scholars. Common themes included:

