

N A T I O N S

I N • T H E • N E W S

On the Record

Excerpts from Foreign Affairs Minister Lloyd Axworthy's speech to the National Forum on Canada's Foreign Policy, Montréal, Quebec, January 22, 1999

Canada's Agenda for a Renewed UN Security Council

Canada last held a seat on the Security Council 10 years ago [1989–1990]. The global context in which the Council operates, the membership it represents and the challenges it faces are considerably different than a decade ago. The Council faces challenges to its credibility. It is falling short of the responsibilities entrusted to it by the international community.

Canada's new mandate [1999–2000] comes at a historic juncture. We will work to shape a more proactive Council, broaden its agenda, re-assert its leadership, and make its operations more transparent and responsive to the UN membership.

We will work to enhance the Council's capacity to address new, non-traditional threats to security, such as ethnic conflict, mass refugee flows, illicit small arms trafficking, gross human rights abuses, failures of governance and the rule of law, and abject human deprivation.

We also will seek to ensure that human security concerns are incorporated into the Council's actions and decisions. We could seek opportunities for the Council to draw more systematically on the views and insights of NGOs and other civil society actors with direct experience on the ground. The Council could make more active use of conflict prevention instruments.

To be a leader, the Council must also be ready to act — rapidly. For this reason, Canada continues to support the creation of a UN Rapidly Deployable Mission Headquarters. This will allow the Council to quickly establish an initial beachhead for a UN peace mission, thereby increasing the chances for effective and timely Council action.

We will work with other Council members to explore how and when it may be appropriate for the Council to take action in conflict situations in which it may not have become engaged in the past. ●—



The Canada–Mexico Partnership Takes on New Life

The 13th meeting of the Canada–Mexico Joint Ministerial Committee (JMC), which took place from February 17 to 19 in Ottawa, was hailed as the most successful ever.

The meeting brought together 17 Canadian and Mexican Ministers and Secretaries of State. As a sign of the two countries' increasingly dynamic relationship, the JMC reached into new areas, such as social development, culture, the environment and Indigenous affairs.

Participants showed an interest in fostering exchanges in several areas of the social agenda, including the development and delivery of social and labour market development programs, regional development, and human capital development.

In the cultural sector, the two countries agreed to collaborate on promoting and preserving cultural and linguistic diversity at home and in international forums.

On environmental issues, they agreed to share information, techniques and solutions with respect to global climate change, and to help developing countries meet their development goals in a sustainable manner.

With regard to Indigenous affairs, participants issued a declaration committing them to develop joint co-operation projects, exchanges and other initiatives. These will help foster economic and cultural ties between Indigenous groups in both countries. In addition, it was noted that Canadian Indigenous leaders and businesspeople would undertake an Aboriginal trade mission to Mexico in April to explore new opportunities for co-operation.

Mexico is fast becoming a close partner to Canada in hemispheric affairs. The Canada–Mexico partnership holds many promises and will no doubt continue to expand at a rapid pace. ●—

For the full text of the speech, visit our Web site at www.dfait-maeci.gc.ca and click on "Publications," or call the Media Relations Office at (613) 995-1874.

For more information on the Canada–Mexico partnership, consult DFAIT's Web site: www.dfait-maeci.gc.ca