

on short notice to provide assistance and expertise to international peace support operations organized by the UN and regional organizations.

Closely linked to Canada's efforts to promote peacebuilding is its work to marshal international support for the concept of human security. While traditional approaches to international relations have focussed on the security of states and territory as ends in themselves, human security recognizes that in today's world there are many new threats to the safety and security of people. Small arms proliferation, international drug trafficking and organized crime, environmental degradation, and civil conflict are only some of the threats that extend beyond borders and require truly international solutions. With its two-year term on the Security Council, Canada is striving to expand the UN's role in addressing human security issues, such as the proliferation of small arms, the protection of children in armed conflict and the toll of modern conflict on civilians.

### **Non-proliferation, arms control and disarmament**

As we seek new tools for the UN to respond to threats to security, we must not relax our efforts in traditional areas of concern, such as non-proliferation, arms control and disarmament. With the indefinite extension of the Nuclear Non-Proliferation Treaty in 1995 and the opening for signature of the Comprehensive Test-Ban Treaty in 1996, the international

community took a historic and definitive step forward on nuclear disarmament. Canada is firmly committed to pursuing the goal set out in the Test-Ban Treaty of reducing and ultimately eliminating nuclear weapons.

We are equally concerned that there be no relaxation in the international condemnation of chemical and biological weapons, and in support for treaties dealing with them. Nor should the international community neglect the threats to security arising from excessive and destabilizing accumulations of conventional weapons. We believe that more can and should be done at the multilateral level to address such concerns, including issues related to small arms and light weapons.

### **Elimination of anti-personnel mines**

A deadly legacy of conflicts that may have ended decades before, anti-personnel mines victimize more than 20 000 people every year. Most of the casualties are civilians, many of them children, and almost all live in developing countries.

That is why, in October 1996, Canada hosted the Ottawa Conference entitled "Toward a Global Ban on Anti-Personnel Mines," bringing together more than 70 states to discuss a strategy for achieving a global landmine ban. In the Ottawa Declaration, participating states committed to ensuring "the earliest possible conclusion of a legally binding international agreement to ban anti-personnel landmines." Determined to see this unprecedented

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