

and flexibility that the UN needs to respond to the problems of today and tomorrow. Briefly, we proposed:

- strengthening the UN's prevention capability;
- conducting an in-depth review of the UN's economic and social activities;
- strengthening its rapid reaction capability;
- strengthening the operation of decision-making institutions; and
- putting the UN on a sound financial basis.

We are actively pursuing this agenda. Allow me to explore in detail some of these priorities.

STRENGTHENING THE PREVENTION CAPABILITY OF THE UNITED NATIONS

Faced with the proliferation of conflicts that have arisen following the end of the Cold War – with origins of unprecedented complexity – the international community has realized that the best and least costly solution lies in a preventive approach. Since security is, more than ever before, a transnational and collective issue, we must deal with the root causes of threats to peace in an integrated, concerted and determined manner. The UN must be a preferred forum for ensuring that, when stability is threatened, the international community can use all of the means at its disposal to prevent a conflict from arising, including a progressive series of diplomatic and military initiatives that are flexibly designed and implemented in a co-ordinated fashion.

I am pleased that the Agenda for Peace has given a genuine impetus to a preventive and proactive approach. For its part, Canada is actively working to build the expanded framework that must be established to respond to changing security requirements, and we are continuing our initiatives within the UN and regional organizations. In both cases, we continue to offer the wide-ranging expertise acquired by Canadians in a number of fields. We are also applying this expertise to the reform process.

Human Rights

For instance, Canada has a long tradition of active involvement within the UN in the area of human rights – a tradition started by John Humphrey, whose memory we honoured a few moments ago. Mr. Humphrey's great personal qualities, his eloquence, his enthusiasm and his vision will continue to guide our efforts. I think that all Canadians are proud of the work done by Mr. Humphrey. Allow me to pay my respects and extend my deepest sympathy to Mr. Humphrey's widow, Mrs. Margaret Kunstler.

We have all become painfully aware of how peace and security are directly related to respect for human rights. More than ever,