

cepts of guaranteeing and building human security are being put into practice. And as the practice of human security develops, the general theory behind it - that removing sources of conflict prevents conflict - gains coherence and its definition sharpens.

Recommendation: An important component to Canada's contribution to international security would be to reinvest part of Canada's budget surplus in international aid.

Prime Minister Jean Chrétien's Nov. 9 announcement that Canada would increase its \$2.52 billion foreign aid budget is a signal of the government's resolve. "We are a fortunate nation, and we have to be able to share with others," said Prime Minister Chrétien, during a visit to Senegal, Africa.

As Canada moves into the second year of its Security Council mandate, the challenges for the Security Council remain the same. Unilateral action by states, the threat of the veto, the expression of narrow national self-interest, the use of national sovereignty as a shield of impunity for perpetrators of human rights violations, and the challenge of reacting quickly to protect civilian populations from attack.

"A human security agenda highlights the urgent need to face clearly the Council's representation and its decision-making processes -- especially the inappropriate use and persistent threat of the veto -- where it can compromise, complicate and slow down determined, urgent international action to protect people," said Minister Axworthy during the opening session of the UN General Assembly on September 23, 1999.

Despite these and other challenges, Canada will continue to promote its core values and the human security concept in an international community generally receptive to the Canadian approach to diplomacy. Canadian citizens have helped map the course and reinforce the resolve of Canada's officials and diplomats in their promotion of a "human security" approach to resolving humanitarian problems and increasing the transparency of operations and decision-making within the UN Security Council.

"The demands of Council membership are fully proving to be as challenging and as unpredictable as we had anticipated," said Minister Axworthy at the Montreal National Forum. "The future promises to be no less active."

"Efforts to broaden the Council's horizons in its words and deeds need to be complemented by a reassertion of the Council's leadership. This means that the Council's authority, especially concerning the possible use of military force, be respected. We sideline the Council at our own risk."

-- Foreign Affairs Minister Lloyd Axworthy

"There were the kinds of gruesome things we got involved with in Rwanda and Bosnia and other places where peacekeepers were standing, unsure of their mandate in how to protect innocent civilians."

-- Lloyd Axworthy, Toronto Star, Feb. 12, 1999

"Globalization has pushed insecurity down to sub-national levels. Many conflicts have been internalized between factions struggling for power within nations ... Individuals and groups face a riskier world characterized by a widening gap between rich and poor, dwindling middle classes, steep and rapid devaluation of labour and the resurgence of such colonial issues as ethnic and indigenous identity politics."

-- Robert Bragg, Calgary Herald editor, March 21, 1999