

News Release

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OUELLET PAYS TRIBUTE TO INTERNATIONAL WOMEN'S DAY

On the occasion of International Women's Day, Foreign Affairs Minister André Ouellet today paid tribute to the role and contribution of women to global development and peace.

"The advancement of women at home and internationally remains a priority. Canada will continue to play a leading role in the achievement of political, economic and social equality for women," said Mr. Ouellet.

The Minister cited recent Canadian international initiatives to help enhance the global status of women:

- Canada initiated a United Nations Declaration on the Elimination of Violence Against Women, which was adopted by the General Assembly in December 1993. Canada also played a leading role in the creation, in March 1994, of a new position of Special Rapporteur on Violence Against Women.
- At the International Conference on Population and Development, held in Cairo in September 1994, Canada negotiated actively for consensus on adopting a final document that recognizes that the empowerment of women through education, income generation and improved health services is key to the development process. Canada was also instrumental in getting the Conference to place new emphasis on the reproductive health and rights of women.

Mr. Ouellet further noted that this week a Canadian delegation is in Copenhagen participating at the World Summit for Social Development, where many issues of concern to women figure prominently on the agenda.

The Minister also said that Canada has assumed a leadership role in preparing for the forthcoming Fourth United Nations Conference on Women. The Conference, to be held in Beijing in September



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