

HUMAN SECURITY

MAIN MESSAGES

Canada is advancing a human security agenda which focuses on four central elements:

1. the survival and safety of individuals in the face of threats from both traditional military and other non-military sources;
2. an approach which takes people and their communities as its point of reference, and promotes a foreign and security policy "as if people mattered";
3. an approach which recognizes the complex interdependencies between challenges to human safety and assistance and which seeks out synergistic responses; and
4. an approach which complements traditional state security and ensures that the safety of people is the ultimate objective of national security policy.

We are pursuing this agenda in close collaboration with Norway and together we are also looking to develop a broader human security partnership with other like-minded partners.

We intend to pursue some of these themes during our tenure at the Security Council, and look forward to collaborating with like-minded partners on critical human security issues.

RATIONALE

Canada's human security agenda reflects the evolution in foreign policy from traditional concerns with state behaviour to the complex ways in which humanitarian crises and conflicts affect the daily lives of individuals and their communities. Viewed from this perspective, human security objectives complement conventional security goals by shifting the analysis from a state-centred focus to one that responds to individual human needs - to the safety of the ordinary people and their communities. The human security "optic" demands creative responses and forward looking solutions to threats to international peace and security so that individuals and their communities have the stability needed to build peaceful and prosperous societies.