

would allow a special exemption for U.S. nationals. In the end, a compromise rule was adopted that did not undermine the statute and did not provide for an exemption, but did allow the U.S. to remain involved in ICC discussions.

Gender equality

UN world conferences on women have contributed to the progressive strengthening of the legal, economic, social and political dimensions of the role of women. The most recent event was a Special Session of the UN General Assembly in June 2000 to review and appraise the 1995 Beijing *Platform for Action*. Canada chaired negotiations and co-ordinated on behalf of several like-minded countries.

The UN has adopted a dual strategy approach to gender equality: targeted policies and programs for women and girls in conjunction with making a gender perspective a consideration in all UN activities. Despite this progress, the Secretary-General's millennium report highlights gender equality concerns, including the need for governments to narrow the gender gap in education. The feminization of poverty and violence against women are the focus of the upcoming World March of Women, organized by the Federation des Femmes du Quebec, which will culminate at the UN General Assembly on Oct. 17.

The equality of women is a fundamental element of Canada's foreign and domestic policies and of its overseas development assistance policy. Priorities for Canada at the UN include intensifying efforts to integrate women's rights into the UN system, promoting activities to eliminate violence against women, and increasing women's participation in decision making. Canada has supported a range of initiatives, including drafting a resolution to treat gender as a mainstream issue in the UN system. The resolution was adopted by consensus in 1997.

Canada was instrumental in the development of the UN Declaration on the Elimination of Violence Against Women, adopted by the General Assembly in 1993, and in securing the position of UN special rapporteur on violence against women in 1994. Within the UN, a longstanding Canada-Australia-New Zealand resolution at both the General Assembly and the Commission on the Status of Women encourages improving women's status in the UN Secretariat. Canada will take the lead on this resolution at the 55th session of the General Assembly. Canada was also key to ensuring the inclusion of a detailed list of gender-based crimes in the International Criminal Court Statute.

Transnational organized crime

The UN Convention against Transnational Organized Crime is a major UN initiative that includes obligations in such areas as money laundering, corruption, legal aid and extradition, police co-operation, and training. The agreement is