

Department of Foreign Affairs and International Trade

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CANADA AND NORWAY FORM NEW PARTNERSHIP ON HUMAN SECURITY

Foreign Affairs Minister Lloyd Axworthy today announced in Bergen, Norway, the establishment of a new partnership between Canada and Norway to take action on human security issues. The announcement was made at the conclusion of meetings between

Mr. Axworthy and his Norwegian counterpart, Mr. Knut Vollebæk.

Outlined in the Lysøen Declaration signed by the two Ministers, the partnership commits Canada and Norway to a framework for consultation and concerted action in the areas of enhancing human security, promoting human rights, strengthening humanitarian law, preventing conflict, and fostering democracy and good governance.

"As we saw in the development of the Landmines Treaty, "soft power" techniques, such as ideas, negotiation and bridge building, have become effective new tools of international diplomacy," said Mr. Axworthy. "Canada's partnership with Norway throughout the process that led to the Treaty demonstrates that our shared values and approaches to foreign policy can make a difference in the international agenda. We want to build on that success and expand it to other areas."

Ministers Axworthy and Vollebæk will meet at least once a year to review progress, set priorities and impart direction, and bilateral teams will develop and implement joint activities. Partnerships between governments, international and non-governmental organizations, and other elements of civil society will be developed and enhanced throughout the process.

The two Ministers agreed to an agenda for action including: the landmines issue; the establishment of an international criminal court; human rights; international humanitarian law; women and children in armed conflict; small arms proliferation; child soldiers; child labour; and northern and Arctic co-operation.