

Transnational Issues

We need to address transnational security threats such as proliferation, drug trafficking, terrorism, and irregular migration. These threats need to be managed to avoid the dangers of escalation to military action. Cooperative regional security regimes and dialogues, based on raised confidence and understanding, can reduce the number and intensity of threats to global peace and enhance our capacity to build truly universal rule-based systems to prevent and manage conflicts.

Climate change, deforestation, ocean pollution, biodiversity loss and related global environmental degradation may directly threaten our future security. The irreversibility of species loss calls for urgent action. The long-term nature of climate change, and the equally long lead-time to implement effective domestic and international policies to reduce let alone reverse such change, pose particular challenges for the international community and raise the possibility of serious cleavage along North-South lines.

In the aftermath of the Gulf War, it is clear that there can be no lasting regional or global security unless the dangers of the proliferation of weapons of mass destruction and conventional arms transfers are addressed. Canada will continue to pursue multilateral initiatives in this area.

Poor economic prospects, civil strife and environmental degradation will continue to drive irregular migration flows. Significant claimant demands on the asylum-determination systems by such migrants threatens our sovereignty and imposes a significant fiscal burden on government programs and determination procedures. International, rule-based cooperation among industrialized countries will be necessary to maintain humanitarian assistance and resettlement of refugees while developing procedures and means to assure the system's integrity. Aid policies aimed at reducing poverty and encouraging growth, and trade policy aimed at increasing overall levels of economic activity, can contribute towards alleviating the causes of irregular migration.

Regional and Global Security

In moving towards cooperative security, Canada's focus will be on both regional and global political and security structures. Regional structures, developed by regional players, should be consonant with and supportive of a broader, rule-based multilateral system centred on a strengthened and more effective United Nations.

Canada's participation in defensive alliances will remain essential in the creation of a cooperative security regime. A reasonable defensive capability is a requirement of