

The promotion of human rights and justice, the prevention and abatement of environmental degradation, the alleviation of poverty, and the promotion of development and human security on a global basis—these can be achieved only through multilateral discussion and negotiation. The sole global forum available is the UN. It is therefore no surprise that support for the UN is deeply entrenched throughout Canadian society.

The UN remains as relevant to Canada today as it was in 1945, if not more so. The 1995 Foreign Policy White Paper, *Canada and the World*, put it unambiguously:

The UN continues to be the key vehicle for pursuing Canada's global security objectives. Canada can best move forward its global security priorities by working with other member states. The success of the UN is fundamental, therefore, to Canada's future security.

Canada has participated in virtually every major UN peacekeeping operation. The UN remains a vital instrument through which Canadians and others are working to bolster human security by ridding the world of anti-personnel mines, halting the traffic in military small arms or putting an end to the conscription of children as soldiers. Most recently, Canada chaired the negotiations leading Court, thereby helping to end impunity for war criminals.

Canada gives particularly strong support to the ongoing process of UN reform, in order to help ensure that the organization remains responsive to the interests and concerns of its membership, and capable of dealing with threats to global security. To this end, Canada is pledged to work to strengthen the UN's capacity for preventive action, to enhance the UN's rapid reaction capability, to improve the functioning of the UN's decision-making bodies and to put the UN on a sounder financial footing.

In 1999, Canada was the seventh-largest contributor to the UN budget, after the United States, Japan, Germany, France, the United Kingdom and Italy. Our share amounted to US\$28.6 million, or 2.754 percent of the UN's budget for that year. We always pay our annual assessed contributions in full, on time and without condition.

Canada is a member of many of the UN specialized agencies, including the International Civil Aviation Organization, the Food and Agriculture Organization, the World Health Organization and the UN High Commissioner for Refugees. It also supports and is active in the work of the International Monetary Fund, the UN Development Programme, the World Food Programme, the UN Environment Programme and other bodies.

Canada has seven diplomatic missions accredited to the UN. The New York mission is responsible for overall relations with the United Nations and member countries, including the Security Council and the Peacekeeping Operations Unit.

CIDA photo: Peter Bennett

