

HIGHLIGHTS

Next year will mark the 50th anniversary of the United Nations. A number of recent events have put the UN's preventive and intervention mechanisms to the test.

Canada asks that the reforms of the UN system be augmented and accelerated. More than ever, the community of nations and states needs a strong, credible international institution equipped with the proper tools to face the challenges that await it at the dawn of the 21st century.

In the following speech, the Government of Canada puts forward the five main initiatives that must be undertaken to give back to the UN system all the vigour and flexibility that its creators intended and that are more than ever necessary:

- Strengthening the UN system's capacity for preventive action
- An in-depth review of the UN's economic and social activities
- Strengthening the UN's rapid intervention capability
- Improving the functioning of UN decision-making bodies
- Putting the UN on a sound financial footing

These initiatives aim not only at giving the United Nations the second wind it needs but also at reinforcing its credibility. The 50th anniversary next year must be more than a simple celebration, it must mark the start of a new era for the United Nations.