

at strengthening the democratic process, respect for human rights and the rule of law, building civil society, conflict resolution and peacebuilding, recognizing that sustainable development depends on a solid foundation of good governance.

But in countries where there is no underlying foundation of peace, establishing democracy poses greater challenges. At the Halifax Summit, G-7 leaders affirmed their commitment to co-ordinate their efforts to prevent, manage and resolve conflicts. Since Halifax, Canada has been strengthening its peacebuilding capacity. In October 1996, the government established the Canadian Peacebuilding Initiative, including the Canadian Peacebuilding Fund. The Denver Summit will provide an opportunity to build on Canada's work in this area and enhance co-operation among Summit participants.

Canada has been instrumental in ensuring that summits address global human rights issues. The international community needs to ensure accountability for gross violations of human rights and Canada supports the position of UN High Commissioner for Human Rights as one means of ensuring this accountability. The elimination of child labour is also of high priority to Canada, which has called for the speedy adoption of an international labour convention on the eradication of intolerable forms of child labour.

Anti-personnel landmines

Canada and other like-minded states are working to address the humanitarian issue caused by anti-personnel mines, which kill and injure thousands of people every year. A total of 156 states supported a United Nations General Assembly resolution in December 1996 which urges states "to pursue vigorously an effective, legally binding international agreement to ban the use, stockpiling, production and transfer of anti-personnel mines with a view to completing the negotiations as soon as possible." No state voted against this resolution and only 10 abstained.

In January of 1996, Canada, in partnership with a global coalition of like-minded states, international organizations, UN agencies and non-governmental organizations, began working toward a global ban on these mines. In October 1996, the Ottawa conference Toward a Global Ban on Anti-Personnel Mines brought together 50 participant and 24 observer states to discuss a strategy for achieving a global ban. In the Ottawa Declaration, participating states committed to ensuring "the earliest possible conclusion of a legally binding international agreement to ban anti-personnel mines." Canada invited all states to work with Canada in negotiating a ban to be signed by December 1997. As of May 1997, more than 60 states had expressed their commitment to sign.