
UNIT 15 HUMAN SECURITY AGENDA

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15.1 INTRODUCTION

The end of the cold war was hailed as the beginning of an era of peace and prosperity. There was a widespread optimism that with the easing of the grip of the ideological divide, the world community would be freer than at any time in the past to turn its attention to global problems such as under-development, poverty and the environment. The reality of the past decade has been more sobering: we have seen a wide range of new security threats emerge. These include problems such as transnational crime, pollution, international drug **trafficking** and the proliferation of weapons of mass destruction and small arms.

At the same time, armed conflict has taken on a different shape, often rooted in religious or ethnic discord. While the number of armed conflicts between states has declined over the last 25 years, the number of **intra-state** conflicts has increased dramatically. Of the 103 wars since the end of the cold war, 97 have been fought within rather than between states. The crises in the Great Lakes region of Africa, in Bosnia and Kosovo and most recently in East Timor are only some of the more noted examples in a series of conflicts with tragic implications for the **affected** populations.

A hallmark of the changing nature of violent conflicts and the “**new** generation” of transnational threats is that they have increasingly put people at the centre of world affairs. Now human security is **more** central **than** ever, to national security, regional stability and global peace. Yet for so many, that security has never been at greater risk. Therefore that has become **an** important agenda in international politics. Canada is among those countries that give significant importance to the cause of human security and have made it as one of the core aspects of foreign policy.

15.2 DEFINING HUMAN SECURITY

Human security means freedom **from** pervasive threats to people's rights, safety of lives. Human security goes beyond traditional security concepts, based on defending the state, to focus instead on **protecting** the individual. Canada has provided international leadership

in the development of the human security agenda. Canada's agenda focuses on increasing people's safety from the threat of violence. This approach complements both existing efforts focused on ensuring national security, as well as international efforts to protect human rights and promote human development.

Individuals are **increasingly** the principal victims, targets and instruments of modern war. The forced exodus, the appalling brutality, the state-sponsored murders and disappearances perpetrated against thousands of innocent people — all of this underscores the fact that in our world, civilians suffer the most from violent **conflicts**.

It is a situation with which ordinary people from Sierra Leone to Sudan to central Africa to Angola are all too familiar. Casualties from armed conflict have doubled in just the past 10 years. About one million people lose their lives each year. And whereas during the First World War only 5 percent of casualties were civilians, today that figure is closer to 80 percent.

Civilians are paying the heaviest price, from the rise in intrastate conflicts and from failed states. They bear the brunt of the new practices of war — for example, the deplorable use of child soldiers or savage **paramilitaries**. They suffer most from the inexpensive yet all-too-readily-available weapons of modern war, such as landmines and military small arms and light weapons. As Canada's erstwhile Foreign Minister **Axworthy** said some time back, civilian casualties and mass displacement are no longer mere by-products of today's conflicts, but often explicit in the strategy of combatants.

Threats to individual security are not limited to situations of violent conflicts. For all its promise, globalisation has also shown a dark underside. Transnational phenomena — terrorism, illicit drugs and crime, environmental degradation and infectious disease, financial and economic instability — put all of the world at risk. Indeed, they have already caused tremendous suffering, especially for the most vulnerable.

Instantaneous communications, rapid transportation, increasingly porous borders, and rising business, cultural and academic ties have undeniably and unalterably merged all the lives of all human beings into a **common destiny**. In this world the security or insecurity of others has become very much one's own security or insecurity. As a result, all the countries of the world have both a responsibility and an interest to act when the safety of others is imperiled. Canada's human security agenda is an effort to respond to these new global realities.

15.3 HUMAN SECURITY AND NATIONAL SECURITY

Questions have been raised about the relationship between human security and state security. Contrary to some claims, the two are not mutually exclusive. The security of the state is not an end in itself — it is a means of ensuring security for people. In this context, state security and human security are in fact mutually supportive. Building an effective, democratic state that values its own people and protects minorities is central to promoting human security. At the same time, improving the human security of its people strengthens the legitimacy, stability and security of a state.

Where human security exists as a fact rather than an aspiration, that situation can be attributed, in large measure, to the effective governance of states. For this reason, peacekeeping and peace building efforts that focus on building open and stable societies are an important element in enhancing human security.

Sometimes, however, when states are externally aggressive, internally repressive or too weak to govern effectively, they threaten the security of people. In the face of massive state-sponsored murders, appalling violations of human rights and the calculated brutalisation of people, the humanitarian imperative to act cannot be ignored and can outweigh concerns about state sovereignty.

Canada has worked to move human security forward through different means based on negotiation and co-operation, building coalitions with other like-minded governments and civil society. These techniques have come to be called "soft power". Canada is well-placed to be a leader in a world where soft power is increasingly important. Its "middle-power" diplomacy has always emphasised the importance of coalition-building and consensus. Canada's image abroad as an open, tolerant and strong democratic society is a huge asset as we wield these new tools.

This is not to argue that hard power — even military force — is sometimes not needed to achieve human security goals. Pursuing human security involves using a variety of tools. Some rely more on persuasion — as with the campaign to ban anti-personnel mines, or with peace building initiatives — while others are more robust, such as sanctions or military intervention. Similarly, support for military force does not mean abandoning human security. In Kosovo, clearly the opposite is true. The decision to pursue the military option was made precisely to ensure the security of Kosovo's population. Canada's support for the UN mission deployed in East Timor was based on the same logic.

15.4 CANADA'S HUMAN SECURITY AGENDA

Since 1996, Canada has argued that contemporary security challenges have changed fundamentally from those of the past; the decline in wars between states may have made states more secure, but a growing number of transnational threats coupled with dozens of brutal civil wars have made people more insecure. Of course Canada has not been alone in advancing this perspective. Other governments, as well as international organisations and non-governmental organisations (NGOs), have pointed to the same transition. Recent events - from the attacks on the World Trade Center to the rebuilding of Afghanistan - confirm the salience of these trends.

The nature of armed conflict has changed in recent decades. Wars are fought almost exclusively within states, though their impacts are felt worldwide. Small arms are frequently the weapons of choice; civilians are often the targets. Children are forcibly recruited by insurgent forces, sexual violence is a deliberate weapon of war, and genocide and ethnic cleansing are pursued as part of state policy. The lines between war and crime are blurring, with rebel groups engaging in organised banditry, and economic predation becoming the rationale for continued fighting.

Canada's commitment to human security responds to these new global realities. Human security focuses on the security of people, complementing the traditional emphasis on the

security of states. By broadening the focus in this way, human security encompasses a spectrum of approaches to prevent and resolve violent conflicts, to protect civilians where conflicts do exist, and to increase the capacity of states to ensure security for their populations.

Putting people at the centre of security policy enhances national and international security, and promotes human development and well-being. The security of individual states and the broader international system ultimately requires the prevention and resolution of conflicts within states. Human security is strengthened where open, tolerant and responsive states work to ensure the safety of all within their **borders**. At the same time, human security reinforces the state by strengthening its legitimacy and stability. States, however, do not always guarantee human security. Where states are externally aggressive, internally repressive or too weak to govern effectively, people's security is undermined.

Canada has identified five foreign policy priorities for advancing human security:

Public safety

Canada's objectives in this area include building international expertise and capacity to counter the growing cross-border threats posed by terrorism, the trafficking in illicit **drugs** and the spread of organised crime.

Protection of civilians

Canada's objectives in this area include strengthening legal norms, increasing international capacity and building political will to reduce the human costs of armed conflict, with particular attention to the threat posed by landmines, the plight of war-affected children and the internally displaced, the strengthening of human rights field operations, and the deployment of military forces in extreme situations to stop atrocities and war crimes.

Conflict prevention

Canada's objectives in this area include strengthening the capacity of the international community to prevent and resolve violent conflicts, and building national and local capacity to manage political differences and social tensions without resorting to violence, with particular attention to the proliferation of small arms and to addressing the economic dimensions of civil wars, through means such as the use of targeted sanctions.

Governance and accountability

Canada's objectives in this area include fostering improved accountability of public and **private** sector institutions, with particular emphasis on building an effective **International Criminal Court**, promoting reform of security institutions, including the military, police and the judiciary; reducing corruption; promoting freedom of expression; and encouraging corporate social responsibility.

Peace support operations

Canada's objectives in this area include bolstering international capacity to undertake peace support operations, with particular attention to issues related to women, peace and security, and to deploying the appropriate range of military, police and civilian experts to support complex missions in situations such as Kosovo, East Timor, Sierra Leone and Afghanistan.

15.4.1 Canadian Corps

International Policy Statement issued by the Government of Canada points out that particularly through Canada Corps, and through other programming channels, Canada will assist countries to build the conditions for secure, equitable development by promoting good governance, focusing Canadian efforts on democratisation, human rights, the rule of law, public-sector capacity building, and conflict prevention. Canada Corps was established in 2004 as a vehicle to strengthen Canada's contribution to human rights, democracy and good governance internationally.

Canada Corps will mobilise Canadians to promote good governance on two substantive levels. The first is at the level of statehood – such as governments, courts, and elections. The second involves those institutions that underpin any successful society – systems for health, education, justice, social development and environmental sustainability, as well as the relationship between the State and citizens.

Through Canada Corps and other channels, the government will build programming in governance around five main pillars:

- **Democratisation** Canada has been a visible supporter of electoral democracy internationally over the past decade, most recently in Ukraine and Iraq. Future democratisation programming will include strengthening democratic institutions and practices, including electoral and legislative systems, citizen engagement (particularly by women) and the role of civil society in the political process.
- **Human rights** Effectively tackling poverty reduction requires an understanding of issues of discrimination and exclusion. Future programming will include support for the promotion and implementation of human rights, including the rights of women and of children, particularly those affected by conflict, gender-based violence and natural disasters. Canada has a long history of targeting efforts to reach marginalised children, those who often cannot be reached through regular development, programming. The government will build on an 'integrate the child protection' experience, research, and tools developed in recent years.
- **Rule of law** Based on strong Canadian capacity and an international reputation for work in this area, programming will support **legal/judicial** reform with a focus on institutions, including strengthening the judiciary, the Bar and legal-aid systems.
- **Public sector institution and capacity building** Development success depends on an effective public sector, as Canada's own experience has demonstrated. Canadian supported programming will help build core institutions and technical and managerial competencies, including oversight, accountability and anti-corruption measures.
- **Conflict prevention, peace building, and security sector reform** The Government recognises that the costs of rebuilding after conflict are much greater than the investment of effective development cooperation programmes that reduce poverty, inequality, exclusion and environmental degradation. As a result, we are already engaged in conflict prevention, post-conflict reconciliation and peace building around the world. Canadian expertise in these areas has been widely sought for decades, based on Canada's founding role and long experience in peacekeeping. Future programming will include integrating conflict indicator and early warning systems; demobilisation of former combatants; truth and reconciliation commissions, **small-arms** collection programmes; and policing, transparency and oversight of security organs.

15.5 RECENT INITIATIVES

Human security has been the impetus behind efforts to create the international criminal court, thereby strengthening the arm of international justice; it is behind the Ottawa convention banning anti-personnel landmines [APMs] — a novel, people-based approach to disarmament; **and** it is behind the movement to expand international legal norms — for example, to protect children in armed conflict. It has also helped shape the concept of peace-building, as a natural outgrowth and extension of peacekeeping.

The Criminal Court

The promotion of human security also requires the means to hold accountable those responsible for violating human rights and humanitarian law. There can be no lasting peace without justice. The international criminal tribunal for the former Yugoslavia, as well as a similar tribunal for Rwanda, were established to prosecute individuals responsible for genocide, war-crimes and **crimes** against humanity. Investigators from the Yugoslavia tribunal are now gathering evidence on the atrocities committed in Kosovo, so that **the** perpetrators do not go unpunished. Canada and other NATO allies are assisting the tribunal in this task.

These tribunals provided an inspiration for the creation of the International Criminal Court [ICC]. In June of 1998, the international community adopted the statute of the international criminal court. This achievement will help deter some of the most egregious breaches of international humanitarian law — not only in the Balkans or Rwanda, but everywhere. Negotiations on the details of the court's operations are moving forward. In that regard, the participation of the United States was very encouraging. It is to be hoped that the US will eventually be able to give the ICC the same strong support it has given to the existing tribunals. As the dominant global power the role of the US will be very significant in this regard. Once in place, the court will ensure that justice is done by prosecuting offenders wherever national systems are unable or unwilling to do so.

Landmines

The wide-spread use of anti-personnel mines has a direct impact on the security of individuals. These weapons last for decades after conflicts end and do not distinguish between soldiers and civilians. The use of these weapons has created a humanitarian crisis in dozens of countries — impeding the return of refugees after conflicts end, preventing the use of productive land in some of the poorest countries on the planet and killing or injuring **as** many as 24,000 innocent civilians each year.

In December of 1997, the majority of the world's countries joined Canada in its determination to do something about this human security crisis by signing the Convention on the Prohibition of the Use, Stockpiling, Production and Transfer of Anti-personnel Mines and on their Destruction — the Ottawa Convention. On March 1, 1999, the Ottawa Convention entered into force and by September 1, 1999, **84** states had agreed to be legally bound by the convention.

The Ottawa **Convention** serves as a major step in addressing the humanitarian crisis caused by anti-personnel mines. However, now that the convention has entered into force, the real work begins. The convention must be implemented in an effective manner to ensure that

mined land is cleared and returned to communities, that mine victims receive assistance and rehabilitation services and that the global ban on anti-personnel mines is universalised. Canada is doing its part through the Canadian **Landmine** Fund, by supporting mine action activities in places like Bosnia, Kosovo, Afghanistan, Cambodia, Mozambique, Central America, Peru and Ecuador. In addition, it is **supporting** the on-going advocacy efforts of the International Campaign to Ban **Landmines** and Mines Action Canada.

Protecting War-affected Children

The welfare of the world's children merits special priority in Canada's human security agenda. In the new global environment, it is the most vulnerable — but especially children — whose security is most at risk, who pay the highest price and who consequently demand close attention. Nowhere is this more true than in situations of **armed** conflict. The record of the past decade is grim: close to 2 million children **killed**; more than 4 million children disabled; over 1 million children orphaned; over **300,000 girls** and boys serving in armies and rebel groups as fighters, cooks, porters, messengers, spies, labourers and sex slaves; and over **10** million children psychologically scarred by the trauma of abduction, detention, sexual assault and witnessing the brutal murder of family members.

Canada is working both to improve international legal instruments and to ensure compliance with existing humanitarian standards and **norms** that protect the rights of children. One of the most notorious practices in conflicts is the recruitment of child soldiers. It is a barbarism that defies all standards of moral behaviour. We have been vividly reminded of this during the fighting in Sierra Leone. Outlawing this appalling activity has been a long-standing objective for many of us. To that end, Canada strongly supports the work under way in **Geneva** to develop an optional protocol to the Convention on the Rights of the Child, which would raise the age of recruitment and participation in hostilities.

Raising the international bar against the exploitation of children in conflict is important. Canada is also increasing its efforts to ensure the respect for existing humanitarian norms in conflict situations. Internationally accepted standards already exist for a number of practices, including the targeting of children, child abduction, sexual exploitation, access to **humanitarian** assistance, respect for sanctuaries, and ending impunity. Countries need to be actively encouraged to ratify and then adhere to relevant international agreements.

Promoting children's security is indispensable to promoting human security. Protecting children from the traumas of armed conflict is inescapably linked to our broader objective of building peaceful and stable societies. One **cannot** possibly hope to build a secure world without due regard to those who will inherit it.

Peacebuilding

Canadian Prime Minister Lester **Pearson** was awarded the Nobel peace prize for his leadership in **developing** the concept of peacekeeping. Canadians today feel pride, self-confidence, and a sense of ownership of the peacekeeping process. This has been reflected over the years in broad support in Canada for continued positive responses to calls to provide peacekeepers around the world. Peacekeeping has become an indelible part of Canada's international **image** and Canadians sense of identity. It is an example of how Canada's international **involvement** contributes to an ongoing process of nation-building **at home**,

Given this history, it was natural that Canada should take a leadership role in the evolution of thinking about how the international **community** could and should **expand** its role in protecting civilians in intrastate conflict, and how it can act in the critical period after fighting has stopped to help steer countries toward long-term peace and stability. Peace-building consists of an ensemble of initiatives to develop social and human infrastructure to help break the cycle of violence. It includes such things as civilian policing, free and vibrant media, and an impartial judiciary.

In 1996 the Government of Canada created a Canadian Peace-building Fund to support these activities. By the year 2000 the fund had grown to 30 million dollars over three years in CIDA programming, and three **million** dollars in funding annually for DFAIT programming.

With the support of the government, the Canadian Resource Bank for Democracy and Human Rights (Canadem), an NGO, has put together a roster of Canadian human rights experts available for rapid deployment. The roster currently comprises 815 Canadians with a wide variety of critical skills in the areas of human rights and peace-building. This will ensure the United Nations and other international organisations access to the expertise in times of crisis. This initiative helps to foster activities where Canadians — in NGOs and government — are already taking action in support of human security.

There are a number of concrete instances where peace-building has been used on the ground to support longer-term solutions. Following the restoration of democracy in Haiti, Canadian support for police training was a key part of efforts to build an infrastructure for peace. The situation remains delicate, but Canada's ongoing efforts give hope that a sustainable democracy can be realised. In Bosnia, Canada is supporting the development of free media and the institutional infrastructure for free elections.

The focus on peace-building does not signify the diminishing of traditional emphasis on peacekeeping. Monitoring truce agreements provides the interim stability that makes the realisation of long-term peace **possible**. Canada continues to take a leadership role in peacekeeping through contributions to **international missions** and by strengthening the capacity of the UN to undertake peacekeeping missions.

In 1995 Canada prepared a study on the United Nations rapid response capacity. The study urged the UN and its members to develop a rapid deployment capability which could be swiftly mobilised to respond to crises and humanitarian disasters. A number of the study's recommendations have been adopted and are being implemented. The events in East Timor underline the need for the international community to have the capacity to respond rapidly.

Coalition Building

The success of the human security agenda depends on innovative coalition building. Canada is committed to working with like-minded partners, at home and abroad, to build a world where people are more secure. The success of the human security agenda depends on innovative coalition building and close cooperation with like-minded governments, international organisations, NGOs and members of the broader policy and research communities.

The DFAIT Human Security Programme is part of the overall Canadian Peacebuilding Initiative in partnership with the Canadian International Development Agency (CIDA) Peacebuilding Fund. Created in April in 1997, with an annual budget of \$10 million, the CIDA Peacebuilding Fund supports activities aimed at conflict prevention, post-conflict resolution and reconstruction. It aims to provide a bridge between emergency humanitarian aid and **longer-term** bilateral programmes. Its activities are concentrated in developing countries threatened with armed conflict where peacebuilding initiatives are possible and where intervention cannot occur under other Canadian funding mechanisms.

The IDRC Peace building and Reconstruction Programme Initiative works to enhance knowledge and understanding of three key aspects of post-war transitions: democratisation, human security, and the political economy of peace building. The Initiative promotes peacebuilding research, policy development and capacity building to assist the Southern countries moving beyond conflict and violence. The Initiative currently focusses on programming in Central America, Africa and the Middle East, as well as on select global projects such as Peace and Conflict Impact Assessment.

The Canadian **Peacebuilding** Coordinating Committee (CPCC) is a national network of Canadian NGOs involved in human security activities. Founded in 1994 to articulate policy and directions for the non-governmental peacebuilding community and to facilitate greater dialogue with the Canadian government, the CPCC is a unique vehicle for consolidating and strengthening the Canadian responses to human security threats. The CPCC organises government-NGO consultations, including the annual Peacebuilding and Human Security Consultations, as well as more focused policy dialogues on issues such as gender and peacebuilding, children and armed conflict, small arms, conflict prevention, South Asia and Afghanistan.

The Canadian Consortium on Human Security (CCHS) brings together academic communities, civil society, and officials from governments and international institutions to **promote** policy-relevant **research** on human security. Founded in 2001 in cooperation with four Canadian **universities**, the CCHS is expanding its linkages to research institutes across the country. Ultimately, it seeks to further develop and link the human security research community in Canada and internationally, and to **deepen domestic** and international support for **human** security policy goals. It produces a quarterly bulletin on issues related to human security, offers a series of academic and non-academic research fellowships, and prepares resource materials on **teaching** human security.

Canada cooperates closely with its partners in the **Human** Security Network, a group of more than a dozen countries from regions around the globe, to undertake collective action against threats to human security. Emerging out of a bilateral partnership between Canada and Norway, the Network seeks to build on the governmental coalitions that supported the **landmine** ban and the creation of an International Criminal Court. Network members seek to apply the same energy and commitment to a series of pressing human security challenges, including addressing the needs of war-affected children, enhancing the role of women on issues of peace and security, reducing the widespread availability of small arms, and strengthening the capacity for peace **support** operations.

Canada's Human Security Programme **supported** the creation of the Regional Human Security Centre within the Jordan Institute of Diplomacy in Amman. The **first** of its kind

in the region, the centre collaborates with regional and international partners to promote intellectual and political debate on human security issues in the Middle East. The Centre has focused attention on issues such as war-affected children, security sector reform, and issues of gender and democratisation in the Arab world. It is rapidly becoming the leading authority on the regional challenges posed by the proliferation of small arms.

15.6 AN INTEGRATED NATIONAL APPROACH TO DEVELOPMENT

Canada's overall development cooperation effort includes many actors and instruments to respond to development needs: and it calls on the country's capacities well beyond the field of aid.

Canada has taken significant steps to use non-aid instruments in support of development cooperation goals. Examples include provision of debt relief, the lowering of tariffs to improve developing country access to Canadian markets and the *Jean Chretien Pledge to Africa Act* which allows developing countries to access affordable medicine, helping them in the struggle against HIV/AIDS and other infectious diseases.

The Canadian International Development Agency (CIDA) is the Government's lead agency for development assistance. The International Development Research Centre (IDRC) plays a leading role in supporting research capacities in developing countries. But this undertaking goes far beyond the work of these two agencies. Substantial shares of the government's spending on international assistance are managed by the Department of Finance and by Foreign Affairs Canada: the Department of Finance plays a leading role in Canada's international efforts to alleviate developing countries unsustainable development.

The Government is committed to making Canada a leading-edge development cooperation partner, in terms of the quality, focus, and strength of their efforts – within and beyond the field of aid. To do so, the Government will:

- Fully integrated development cooperation into Canada's international policy framework;
- Ensure **coherence** across aid and non-aid policies that impact development;
- Establish the right balance both within and among aid delivery channels – bilateral, multilateral and partnerships – to best advance their overall objectives;
- Focus bilateral programming in fewer sectors and countries;
- Focus greater support on those multilateral institutions that are most effective in promoting global governance and addressing the MDGs;
- Intensify the engagement of Canadians and civil society as partners in development, through Canada Corps and other programmes; and
- Delivery effective, sustainable development cooperation through a leading-edge development cooperation agency.

This strategy is based on a set of guiding principles:

- The aid-effectiveness principles of local ownership, improved donor coordination, and a results-based approach (as outlined in CIAA's 2002 statement, *Canada making a difference in the World: A Policy Statement on Strengthening Aid Effectiveness*);

- Canada's commitment to effective multilateralism as the basis for effective global engagement on key issues;
- The Government's commitment to effective partnership, an approach that values the essential role played by civil society and the private sector in developing countries and in Canada; and
- Coherence among the government's aid and non-aid policies and actions, with the objective of sustainably reducing global poverty.

A new development approach that delivers significantly enhanced and effectiveness provides a strong foundation for Canada's contribution to achieving the MDGs. To this end, Canada's increasing fiscal health has enabled the Government to increase its provision of Official Development Assistance and other international assistance. In 2004-05 the government allocated \$3.74 billion to international assistance, including the extraordinary humanitarian relief contribution in response to the Indian Ocean tsunami. Even excluding this relief, this amount was 21 percent larger than the previous fiscal year.

In support of Canada's long-term commitment to the internationally agreed target of devoting 0.7 percent of gross national income to ODA:

- The Government is committed at a minimum to doubling (relative to 2001) the international assistance to over \$5 billion per year by 2010, with an increasing focus on Africa. By 2008-09, Canada's aid to Africa will be double its 2003-04 level; and
- Today their commitment to ongoing increases beyond 2010 and to accelerating the projected rate of growth in international assistance as their fiscal position continues to improve.

Humanitarian assistance will remain a key part of Canada's international engagement. To ensure that Canadian assistance is timely, appropriate, consistent with the principles and practices of good humanitarian donorship, and effective in delivering relief and stabilisation to those in situations of crisis, conflict and natural disaster, the Government will:

- Adopt an integrated humanitarian response strategy involving all relevant departments, including Foreign Affairs Canada, the Department of National Defence, Citizenship and Immigration Canada, and CIDA; and
- Consistent with the need for effectiveness, involve and engage Canadians in order to maximise the depth and reach of Canada's humanitarian contributions.

15.7 NEW DIPLOMACY

An emphasis on human security determines not only the objectives of Canada's foreign policy, but also the manner in which it pursues those objectives. While this so-called "new diplomacy" is not exclusively linked to Canada's human security agenda, the mixture of powerful ideas, persistent persuasion, public advocacy and partnership with civil society has proven remarkably effective. It has been developing innovative global partnerships linking countries, institutions and non-governmental organisations with like-minded objectives. Such coalitions between governments and civil society helped make the campaign to ban APMs a success and were instrumental to progress in adopting the statute of the international criminal court. They are harbingers of the future, demonstrating the power of good ideas and pooled resources.

This is not to suggest that traditional foreign policy priorities such as strong effective multilateral institutions are any less important. Fostering human security has likewise been the motive behind the efforts to adapt existing global and regional institutions in order to integrate human concerns into their activities. This is particularly important at the United Nations Security Council. Rather than avoiding engagement, the Council, as the legitimate decision-making body for peace and security, should be actively involved in setting the rules — and limits — for international involvement in the new, admittedly more complex, situations of modern armed conflict. As a Security Council member, Canada has been trying to integrate the human dimension into the Council activities. For example, recently it proposed, and other members accepted, examining concrete steps the Council could take to focus attention and action on protecting civilians in armed conflict.

At the **international** level, Canada remains firmly committed to the United Nations as the cornerstone of the multilateral system, and to action under its auspices. However, their multilateral institutions are under strain. Canada's "Responsibilities agenda" advocates new international commitment to the ideals that the UN Charter represents. As such, the Government welcomed the 2004 UN High Level Panel Report, *A More Secure World*, and the 2005 UN Secretary-General's report, *In Larger Freedom*, which together lay out an ambitious reform agenda, integrating security and development issues, and calling for institutional renewal.

Foreign Affairs' leadership on international security policy will contribute to the following Government priorities in particular:

- dealing with failed and fragile states;
- countering terrorism and organised crime;
- combating the proliferation of weapons of mass destruction (WMD); and
- promoting human security.

15.8 SUMMARY

Recent years have seen global trends move in both negative and positive directions. Many of these are now putting millions of people at risk, though states stand a bit better secured. This has given rise to the concept of Human Security.

At its core, the human security agenda is an effort to construct a global society in which the safety and well-being of the individual is an international priority and a **motivating** force for international action; a society in which international humanitarian standards and the rule of law are advanced, woven into a coherent web protecting the individual, where those who violate these standards, are held fully accountable; and finally, a society in which the global, regional and bilateral institutions — present and future — are built and equipped to promote and enforce these standards. These are indeed grand objectives, and while the international community has made impressive progress in recent years, the daily reports from East Timor, Angola, Colombia or Afghanistan indicate that the world is yet to achieve these objectives in a more effective manner. Canada has provided international leadership in the development of the human security agenda. It has contributed significantly in preventing and ending conflicts, promoting sustainable development, enabling commerce and putting curbs on rogue states. Canada's approach to address the multiple challenges

posed by new threats is focused on prevention through development strategies, support for human rights and democracy, diplomacy to prevent conflict, and contributions to build human security.

15.9 EXERCISES

- 1) What is meant by Human Security? How is it related to National Security.
- 2) Analyse Canada's Human Security Agenda? How is it reflected in its Foreign Policy.
- 3) Describe and evaluate recent initiatives of Canadian government contributing in Human Security.
- 4) Analyse the role of Canadian diplomacy towards attainment of goals of Human Security.