

# Canada

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**STATEMENT BY  
THE HONOURABLE LAWRENCE CANNON  
MINISTER OF FOREIGN AFFAIRS**

**TO THE GENERAL DEBATE OF THE 64<sup>TH</sup> SESSION  
OF THE UNITED NATIONS GENERAL ASSEMBLY**

**NEW YORK, 26 SEPTEMBER 2009**

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**DÉCLARATION DE  
L'HONORABLE LAWRENCE CANNON  
MINISTRE DES AFFAIRES ÉTRANGÈRES**

**AU DÉBAT GÉNÉRAL DE LA 64<sup>E</sup> SESSION  
DE L'ASSEMBLÉE GÉNÉRALE DES NATIONS UNIES**

**NEW YORK, LE 26 SEPTEMBRE 2009**

Mr. President,

The creation of the United Nations was a fundamental recognition of our interdependence as peoples and nations.

Canada was amongst the UN's founding nations, inspired by the need to create an international consensus for the stability and security of a world ravaged by war, more than 60 years ago.

So there is no more appropriate forum than this one for me, as Foreign Minister of Canada, to reaffirm my country's commitment to collective action, to working in concert with all nations to pursue shared objectives and confront common challenges.

The global economic and financial crisis, as well as global security and environmental challenges facing us, have underscored the extent of our interdependence.

We have made economic recovery and growth our number one priority and have taken decisive action in Canada to mitigate the impact of the crisis on all Canadians.

But recovery at home will not happen in isolation from economic recovery globally.

And a common threat to all of the world's economies is protectionism.

History has taught us that we cannot hope to emerge from the current crisis if we impede global trade in an effort to protect our national economies. Hence the need for vigorous and effective consultation at the highest levels, so that we can work together to resist the protectionist urge.

### **Peace and Security**

Since the establishment of the United Nations, more than a hundred thousand Canadians have served in UN missions in Africa, the Americas, Asia-Pacific and the Middle East.

And today, thousands of Canadians - soldiers, police, diplomats, aid workers and others - are working in support of UN-led or UN-mandated missions worldwide.

It is part of our responsibility as Canadians - and the responsibility of the United Nations - to eradicate terrorism in all its forms. Canada is committed to fighting terrorism and to holding the perpetrators and supporters of terrorism accountable for their actions. The Taliban is part of the threat to global peace and security and Canada shares the commitment of the United Nations to eradicate that threat.

There is no greater commitment for Canada than our mission in Afghanistan. It is our largest and most important overseas engagement. Canada's mission is an efficient, integrated, civilian-military partnership of approximately 2,800 military personnel and more than 100 civilians working tirelessly, making great sacrifices, in support of the UN-mandated mission for a stable and secure Afghanistan. A stable and secure Afghanistan led by Afghans.

While our Parliament has adopted a resolution to end our military mission in Afghanistan at the end of 2011, Canada will continue its relationship of development and diplomacy with Afghanistan.

In the months ahead, Canada will be looking to Afghan political leaders to make progress on key priorities - from good governance, anti-corruption and reconciliation - to reconstruction, economic growth and regional cooperation - that will foster stability in Afghanistan. As they tackle the many challenges ahead, they must do so in a way that promotes, protects, and improves human rights in a concrete manner - particularly the rights and lives of women and girls in Afghanistan.

As Afghans work to address the difficult challenges ahead, it is crucial to reaffirm support for a self-sufficient Afghanistan, and also to continue to support efforts to bring stability to the region.

Canada is also making a robust assistance commitment in Haiti where our contribution will total \$555 million between 2006 and 2011. We aim to promote democracy, security and economic growth, and above all, secure a better future for Haiti's children and youth.

Many challenges remain. Canada regrets the worsening security situation in southern Sudan and calls for implementation of the Comprehensive Peace Agreement. We encourage all parties to the Darfur conflict to end hostilities through the UN-AU joint mediation. Canada is committed to resolving the conflicts in Sudan. Since 2006 Canada has disbursed over \$640 million in support of international efforts to reach sustainable peace in Sudan.

We are all acutely conscious that a global challenge that touches us all is the threat of nuclear proliferation.

Canada was deeply troubled by the recent revelation that Iran has been building a covert uranium enrichment facility for several years. We condemn Iran's continued refusal to respect UN Security Council resolutions and International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA) requirements. We call on Iran to allow the IAEA immediate and unfettered access to all sites, including this facility, and we expect a full investigation.

We hope that talks between the five permanent members of the UN Security Council plus Germany and Iran on October 1st will address the continued dishonesty surrounding Iran's nuclear program. Our Prime Minister has been clear with President Obama, with Prime Minister Brown, with President Sarkozy, and with our other allies - Canada will be

supportive of actions necessary to deal with what is clearly a threat to international peace and security.

Canada therefore praised President Obama for convening the UN Security Council Summit on Nuclear Non-Proliferation and Nuclear Disarmament. We commit to work with other states to prevent the spread of nuclear weapons and new terror threats. For a diplomatic solution to work, there must be the political will to ensure that states comply with the vision of a world free of nuclear weapons.

### **Environment**

At this time of the year in my country, the leaves on the trees are changing colours. This dramatic display reminds all Canadians of the need to protect our natural heritage, one of the most majestic in the world.

But neither borders nor seasons can stop the havoc caused by climate change.

And so, Canada remains committed to an ambitious post-2012 global climate change agreement that is consistent with the principles and provisions of the UN Framework Convention on Climate Change and supports sustainable, low-carbon global growth.

We are committed to taking domestic actions to reduce our total greenhouse gas emissions by 20 percent from 2006 levels by the year 2020, and 60-70 percent by 2050.

Canada is a world leader in the development of clean technologies to fight climate change, including carbon capture and storage, and we seek to found a new global partnership that will advance the development and deployment of these technologies.

Canada joined other countries at the L'Aquila G8 meeting and the Major Economies Meeting forum in affirming the broad scientific view that the increase in global average temperature above pre-industrial levels ought not to exceed two degrees Celsius.

This global phenomenon needs a global response.

That is why Canada wants to see *all* emitters be part of this international effort.

We congratulate the Secretary-General for calling this productive summit on climate change, assuming the leadership that naturally falls to the UN in this area.

All major economies will be required to meet this global challenge. This must be reflected in the context of a fair, equitable and effective agreement in Copenhagen this December.

Adaptation to the impacts of climate change is an important issue for all countries. It must be a core element of a post-2012 climate change regime if we are to build resilience to climate change impacts. Canada has contributed significantly to a number of

initiatives, including the World Bank Pilot Program on Climate Resilience. We continue to support international action that strengthens the capacity of the poorest and most vulnerable to adapt to a changing climate.

As an Arctic state and an Arctic power, Canada is proud of its long-standing sovereignty over this increasingly promising territory. Canada also recognizes the important responsibility that we have to Northerners and the sustainable development and environmental protection of the region.

Cooperation with our Arctic neighbours and the peaceful pursuit of our interests has and will continue to underline Canada's Arctic Foreign Policy and guide our actions in the region.

Through our bilateral and multilateral engagement, whether at the UN, the Arctic Council, or working with Arctic partners, Canada will continue to show leadership on Arctic issues such as shipping, oil and gas and contaminants, as well as biodiversity.

### **Human Rights**

Since the adoption of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights sixty-one years ago, Canada has worked vigorously to strengthen the UN's human rights machinery to ensure the credibility and integrity of fair and balanced mechanisms to promote human rights and fundamental freedoms.

Human rights are an important part of Canadian foreign policy and our relations with UN member states.

During our recently completed term on the Human Rights Council, Canada worked to make it a forum for constructive international dialogue. We will continue working towards building an efficient, responsive and credible Human Rights Council that is true to its founding principles.

Canada will continue to promote respect for basic human rights and freedom of expression and association. And we will continue to advocate for those unjustly detained in the world's most abusive regimes.

Finding the political will to translate our values into action and ensuring that we continue to hold to account those who would violate basic human rights is in the interest of all member states. Supporting those who are making sincere efforts to advance the human rights of their populations is also in our collective interest.

## **International Assistance**

Canada is meeting its international commitments and we are on track to double international assistance to \$5 billion by 2010.

We have also already met our commitment to double aid to Africa between 2003 and 2009.

And Canada will continue to provide humanitarian assistance to those affected by conflict and natural disasters.

Through Canada's chairmanship of the Sierra Leone country configuration at the UN Peacebuilding Commission, we are working to bridge the gap between humanitarian assistance and long-term development.

As Chair of the G8 in 2010, Canada will put emphasis on making the G8 more accountable and effective. Accountability means fulfilling our commitments. And effectiveness is about strengthening our partnerships – including with the UN – to tackle challenges such as the fragility of states and nuclear non-proliferation.

Canada will also co-host a G20 Summit in June 2010 with our good friend the Republic of Korea. Our priority will remain economic recovery and building the foundation for sustainable growth, including for the most vulnerable. Earlier this week, Prime Minister Stephen Harper announced a concrete and innovative contribution to this effort. Building on our previous G20 commitments, Canada will provide the African Development Bank with approximately \$2.6 billion in additional lending room. This will assist the Bank to respond quickly to the demands of its borrowing members while it continues its poverty reduction efforts.

## **UN Reform**

I would urge representatives not to let the dizzying succession of major events addressed here cause them to lose sight of the importance of reforming the Security Council.

The Council is our most powerful means of collective action.

But we can, and indeed we must, make it more effective, more accessible and more flexible—more adapted, in fact, to the challenges and opportunities of a broader international community.

Canada has long supported efforts to make the Security Council more responsive to today's security challenges and more representative of the world's regions, particularly Africa which has been historically under-represented.

Any real reform must lead to increased transparency and accountability.

This will not be achieved by extending the privileges of a few to a few more, but by more democratically elected access to the Security Council, by more consultation, and more openness to the wider UN membership.

In conclusion Mr. President, this small reminder of the responsibility we all bear for our citizens' economic, environmental and nuclear security can leave us perplexed, worried even.

But what we must never forget is that, in this seemingly uneven battle, we have in our arsenal the most effective weapons ever devised by humankind: freedom, democracy, human rights and the rule of law.

Thank you, Mr. President.