

**Remarks given by H.E. Mr. Paul Heinbecker
before the U.N. Security Council
Open meeting on the situation in Afghanistan
December 19, 2000**

Monsieur le Président,

Comme nous l'avons indiqué ici à maintes occasions et tout récemment lorsque le Conseil a examiné la suite donnée à la résolution 1269, le Canada attache priorité à la lutte internationale contre le terrorisme.

Nous pensons que le Conseil de sécurité a un rôle important à jouer dans l'élimination du terrorisme et nous nous félicitons qu'il continue d'être résolu à le faire.

The Taliban's defiance of resolution 1267 and its continued support for international terrorism is simply unacceptable.

We voted in favour of the resolution before the Council today because of the strong anti-terrorism message that it sends.

The resolution is also a clear signal that the Council is serious about its demands, and that the Taliban must comply with its international obligations.

It is in everyone's interests, not least the UN's corporate interest, that sanctions the UN imposes be respected.

With the inclusion of a number of important provisions in this resolution, the Council is also responding to the growing international consensus on the need to ensure that measures imposed by the Council are both carefully targeted and sensitive to humanitarian considerations.

We believe the resolution could have been stronger on this score but we welcome the establishment of a committee of experts to monitor and report on the implementation of the sanctions, and to provide an early assessment of any humanitarian implications.

As we leave the Security Council, we remind those that will remain, and those that will join them, that they have a responsibility to vigorously and objectively monitor the humanitarian situation in Afghanistan.

And to respond as necessary to ensure that the civilian population does not suffer needlessly as a result of the imposition of these new sanctions.

Failure to do so could call into question the Council's commitment to a smart, targeted sanctions policy and, more importantly have grave consequences in human costs terms.

The long running conflict in Afghanistan has taken a devastating toll on civilians.

In April of this year, former Canadian Foreign Minister Axworthy chaired a meeting of this body devoted to Afghanistan and called for more determined action by the Council to address the conflict itself.

As we have seen over the past months, violations of international human rights and humanitarian law continue unabated by both parties to the conflict.

The violation of the human rights of women and girls is particularly deplorable.

Canada has suggested a number of steps that the Council could take, including increased attention to the issues of humanitarian access and respect for human rights, and enhanced efforts by the UN in the search for peace and reconciliation.

We have also called for Council measures to pressure the warring factions to the negotiating table and to cut off the supply of weapons to the belligerents.

We therefore encourage the Council to address the conflict itself to consider ways to hasten the end of the interminable war and the desperate conditions endured by the people of Afghanistan.