

**Remarks given by H.E. Mr. Paul Heinbecker
before the U.N. General Assembly Fifth Committee
on the Brahimi Report
Monday, November 27, 2000**

Monsieur le Secrétaire Général,
Monsieur le Président,
Chers collègues,

Je voudrais exprimer la reconnaissance du Canada envers le Secrétaire général d'avoir présenté le rapport sur les ressources nécessaires à l'application du rapport du Groupe d'étude sur les opérations de paix de l'Organisation des Nations Unies (A/55/507 et A/55/507 Add.1).

Ma délégation félicite le Secrétaire général pour le rôle dirigeant qu'il joue en ce qui concerne cette question cruciale.

Nul n'est plus conscient que lui de la mesure dans laquelle le monde, en particulier les pauvres et les démunis du monde, ont besoin de l'ONU.

Nul n'est plus conscient du fossé qui sépare ce besoin de la capacité de l'ONU.

Et nul n'est plus en mesure de juger de ce qu'il convient de faire pour combler ce fossé.

Le fait qu'il ait reconnu que des changements s'imposent à la suite du génocide rwandais et des atrocités de Srebrenica et le fait qu'il ait désigné le Groupe d'étude sur les opérations de paix de l'ONU – le Groupe Brahimi – et qu'il ait rapidement présenté son plan d'application constituent autant de témoignages de sa volonté résolue d'aider ceux qui ne peuvent pas s'aider eux-mêmes.

Il a demandé au Groupe de formuler des recommandations précises, concrètes et pratiques pour aider l'Organisation des Nations Unies, et c'est précisément ce que le Groupe a fait.

Ce dernier a présenté des idées concrètes et pragmatiques pour le changement.

Nous accueillons favorablement cette approche et la soutenons sans réserves.

The ability of the UN to improve its capacity to conduct peace support operations depends on effective partnerships between the Secretariat, the various bodies of the UN, other international organisations, local civil societies, and Member States.

Over the past few months, we have seen encouraging signs that this broad partnership can and is coalescing; from the commitments made at the Millennium Summit and Security Council Summit, to the Secretariat's proposed Implementation Plan, to Security Council Resolution 1327.

Equally important, member states, including my own, have begun to evaluate their national capacities to respond and to contribute.

Other Committees of the General Assembly are also studying the report and I look forward to their views.

It is now this Committee's turn.

We all know that a few delegations present attach less importance to the Brahimi report than others do.

For our part, we fear that if Brahimi fails, the UN will fail too.

We recognize that this committee has an important role in determining that success or failure.

In taking responsibility for this issue, let us be clear about one thing: the stakes transcend the diplomatic games and anachronistic ideologies that are often evident here.

The vast majority of us care about the UN.

I appeal to those member states who have the means but apparently not the will to fund UN reform.

It is in your interests too to make these reforms a success.

The acknowledged failures of the institution are not a reason to abandon it.

These failures can be avoided in the future.

The UN can and does perform valuable work.

Refusing to pay assessed contributions on time, and hedging those payments around with extraneous conditions, simply reinforces those who would see the UN fail.

I address a special appeal to the current and prospective consumers of the UN's peace keeping services.

You have more at stake in these crucial reforms than anyone else has.

Most of us in this room are among fortune's favoured; we are unlikely to need the UN's peace support services.

Some of us, particularly, but not exclusively, some of our African members, do and will need these services.

We urge them especially, and the rest of us to see the arguments of the spoilers, the nay sayers, and the nit pickers for what they are – one more round in a diplomatic game that few outside of the precincts of this institution understand or care about.

We all have a stake in the success of the Brahimi exercise.

Consider some of the concerns that have been raised:
that peace keeping and peace building should be kept separate,
that peacekeeping reform will only detract from development funding, and
that the Secretariat's, particularly DPKO's needs, are greatly exaggerated.

I will respond to these arguments in turn.

The environment in which the United Nations typically operates today is very complex.

UN approaches to peacekeeping must therefore respond to the multifaceted needs of countries affected by war.

These needs include good governance practices, the protection of rights, especially minority rights, and the rule of law and economic recovery.

Responding to these needs requires integrating the military, policing, justice, institution building, reconstruction and civil administration functions of peacekeeping operations.

There is no other exit strategy than re-building a nation's ability to manage its internal differences

without recourse to violence.

As for the funds diversion argument, our delegations do not see peacekeeping and development as competing for resources.

In fact, the recent rise in peacekeeping costs, from a low of some \$600M several years ago to over \$2.5B has not resulted in any decreases in development funding.

Better peacekeeping does not equal fewer development funds.

If anything, the reverse is true.

Peace and security are pre-conditions of development.

Beyond the drip feed of humanitarian assistance, no one, public sector or private, is going to invest scarce funds where they risk being consumed in conflict.

There can be no development without peace and security.

The importance of strengthening the UN's peacekeeping capacity was stressed by all Member States at the highest level in the Millennium Declaration.

The request for emergency resources should be considered in that context as a measure to give a quick response to the need to strengthen DPKO and related parts of the Secretariat.

Our delegations have long supported a comprehensive review of DPKO and we welcome the steps already taken by USG Guehenno to start such a review.

The Brahimi report is an important first step in the triggering of this comprehensive review.

Those of you who opposed the use of gratis personnel should welcome Brahimi's call for reforms that address comprehensively the problems that the gratis personnel idea was intended to overcome.

Make no mistake about it.

The UN's reputation is at stake here and quite possibly its future as well.

It is no secret that many governments have lost faith in the UN's ability to run peace support missions.

The UN's recent failures and near failures – Rwanda, Srebrenica, Sierra Leone – dwarf its successes in the public mind.

Governments are accountable to their people for sending their sons and daughters in harms way.

The longer the UN's reputation is left to languish, the less confidence there will be in the UN, the more reluctant governments and populations will become to participate in UN operations.

Of course, there is more to reform than even Brahimi suggests.

We need to rethink quite fundamentally how peace missions are conceived and how they are provided the requisite political and military guidance.

Troop contributing countries must have confidence in both the process and its product.

They need to participate fully, as a matter of right, not grace or privilege, in Security Council consultations germane to the missions in question.

Troop contributors also need access to the analysis and information available to the Secretariat.

Giving the UN the capacity to plan and implement complex operations is also vital to rebuilding the confidence of troop contributing countries.

The Brahimi reforms are far too important to the millions of poor and dispossessed people who depend on the UN for their safety, who invest in the UN their hope for a future, to be decided by diplomatic games in New York.

Of the overall need to implement the recommendations of Brahimi and to find the resources to pay for them there can be no doubt.

With approximately 58,000 personnel in the field, the current small numbers that support these personnel must be increased.

New missions, the demands of ongoing missions and the more complex missions we now face make the reforms proposed by Brahimi and the requisite resources necessary.

In terms of successfully implementing mandates, these necessary resources are a wise and cost-

effective investment.

Canada welcomes the fact that this request has been brought before the Committee expeditiously.

We urge the ACABQ to finalize its advice in a similarly expeditious manner.

Once we receive that advice, we will give this important request our full and considered review.

The UN's future hangs in the balance.

Let us, all of us, resolve to get this job done, in order to ensure that Member States and the Secretary General are able to fulfill the challenges our leaders gave us at the Millennium Summit.

Let us do right by the UN and the poor and dispossessed who depend on the UN – and on us.

Thank you.