We need to re-establish Canada's foreign policy as one based on thoughtful diplomacy – on being tough when we believe that it's right, while also seeking peaceful solutions to the world's challenges. We will stand strongly behind the multilateralist view that countries must work together to achieve lasting results and that unilateral action is something to avoid. We need to work to bring back the United Nations to what it should be.

It takes decades to build up a good reputation, but fortunately, Canada did so. We have stood up and been tough – beyond expectations – when called upon and when we thought it was right to do so: WW1, WW2, and the Korean War are poignant examples. Yet we have used that reputation of strength and principle to our advantage when promoting peacekeeping, diplomacy, and balanced foreign policy. We have always preferred to find peaceful solutions where possible. We played a significant role in the establishment of the United Nations. We are seen as having 'invented' the concept of peacekeeping (for which one of our own, Lester Pearson, was awarded the Nobel Peace Prize). We said 'no' when it was the right thing to do (the invasion of Iraq).

Once upon a time, the world looked to Canada with respect.

But we don't keep the peace anymore. We lost what should have been a Canadian seat at the Security Council of the UN at a time when the world has needed responsible thought, analysis, diplomacy, and yes, persuasion (Libya and Syria being glaring examples of this). Indeed, what a depressing irony it is that Canada was not there as a member of the Security Council, when the Council, for the first time in history, invoked the Canadian-inspired and developed concept of Responsibility to Protect in the case of the no-fly zone over Libya.

Canadians have stepped up in other ways – another example is the Land Mines Treaty.

But what have we done lately? The Harper government has clearly been far more ideological in its approaches to the rest of the world – whether it was their disastrous first few years with China; whether it is their uncompromising and unquestioning support of Israel to the detriment of Canada's reputation as a country of diplomatic balance; whether it is their often open disdain for the United Nations.

With regard to the United Nations in particular, it was created after WW2 because people believed that a strong, internationally supported multilateral body was the only way to prevent the kind of unilateral aggression that had been so devastating. I'm proud that Canada helped in the process. I believe in multilateralism as the most effective way to avoid war and to promote peaceful

solutions to international challenges. We all recognize, however, that the UN is suffering. It has a bloated bureaucracy, and there are far more members now, which has created acknowledged problems with voting rights versus the actual populations represented. But is the answer to simply turn our backs on it? That's exactly what Stephen Harper would prefer. No.

We need, on the contrary, to ensure that Canada steps up and does what Canada can, to restore the UN to a body that can effectively promote peaceful resolution of the world's problems. We stepped up the first time, we should do so again.