

At the Summit of la Francophonie and at the Commonwealth Heads of Government Meeting last fall, Canada announced it would forgive development assistance debts for 13 countries in Sub-Saharan Africa. This measure follows an undertaking Canada made at the 1986 United Nations Special Session on Africa to contribute to relieving the debt burden in that region. Even with these recent initiatives, a special UN advisory group estimates that an additional US\$2 billion is needed annually over the next few years to restore prospects for development and growth in the poorer countries of Sub-Saharan Africa.

Canada will seek to ensure, as has been its tradition in past summits, that the interests and perspectives of developing countries are taken into account at Toronto, particularly in light of Canada's role as host to la Francophonie and the Commonwealth in 1987.