

A Global Partnership for Development

One of the priority issues for discussion at the Lyon Summit is development. G-7 leaders continue to be concerned about the need for making development sustainable in order to reduce poverty and to contribute to a more secure, equitable and prosperous world. In Lyon, leaders will discuss ways to make development more durable and equitable.

Canada supports a partnership approach to development, as endorsed by the Organization for Economic Co-operation and Development ministerial meeting in May 1996. This is based on the premise outlined at the Halifax Summit that developing countries have the primary responsibility for their own development and that developed countries are responsible for improving the quality of aid and for integrating developing countries into the global economy.

This partnership entails shared responsibilities between developing and developed countries and multilateral institutions. The principle objective is to achieve sustainable development by reducing poverty and social injustice, promoting respect for human rights and for a strong civil society, protecting the environment, and improving health and education.

In the lead-up to Lyon, Canada has sought to build on this approach by encouraging developing countries to develop a policy environment and institutional framework which is conducive to development; supporting measures to integrate the poorest countries into the global economy; reducing the debt burden of the poorest, most heavily indebted countries; and encouraging private sector development, foreign capital flows, trade liberalization and economic stability.

Canada and its G-7 partners believe that developing countries can participate more fully in the global economy and can demonstrate a commitment to development priorities by pursuing responsible political, economic and social governance. This means giving priority to funding social and economic development programs and avoiding unproductive expenditures, including excessive military spending. Realizing that for some developing countries, private capital flows are increasingly more important than traditional development assistance, developing countries' policies should encourage private sector participation by creating favourable conditions for trade and investment. The more prosperous developing countries have a role to play too and are being encouraged to contribute to this partnership by assuming a greater share of development efforts and by helping poorer countries integrate more fully into the global economy.