

6.0 POLICY SETTING FOR AFRICA

The various bodies within government that specifically relate to Africa include:

- The Department of Foreign Affairs and International Trade (DFAIT);
- The Office of the Secretary of State for Africa and Latin America, and la Francophonie; and
- Canadian International Development Agency (CIDA).

DFAIT and CIDA are the two bodies that assume the strategies and policies development role. DFAIT is a Department with two Ministers, one responsible for Foreign Affairs and the second responsible for international Trade. CIDA is an agency that reports to the Minister of International Cooperation. Thus, in terms of foreign policy, there are three ministers involved.

The policies undertaken by either CIDA or DFAIT, flow from the *Canada in the World* document, the government's foreign policy statement. It began as a promise in the Liberal Party's *Red Book* and was later published following a major round of public consultations. The Government identified three key objectives for its international actions in years to come:

- The promotion of prosperity and employment;
- The protection of our security, within a stable global framework; and
- The projection of Canadian values and culture.

These key objectives are the focus for the full span of the Government's instruments, including the programs of international trade, assistance and diplomacy.

While *Canada in the World* sets the context for the overall foreign policy, we hoped to identify an overarching foreign policy towards Africa that would possibly determine the framework for Canada-Africa relations, and within which relevant political, trade, and cooperation relations, as well as sectoral agreements would be defined. Such continental Africa specific foreign policy was not found.

In contrast, Canada has specific frameworks, such as EU-Canada, Canada-APEC, NAFTA, South Asia Trade Action Plan, and FTAA, with other continents. Africa policies, strategies and programs are developed reactively and on a-as-needed basis defined by short-term commercial and political interests.