

turn their attention to prevention. They must pool their energies and co-ordinate their actions to improve the conditions that are leading to the increase in irregular migration. Basically, they must work together to improve the "stay" option in countries with high emigration potential.

This will require new efforts and new approaches to long-standing challenges of development, human rights protection, population stabilization, military/arms spending and environmental protection all of which have an impact, direct or indirect, on emigration pressures and forced migration. Comprehensive and co-ordinated strategies are needed to make the "stay" option a viable alternative to flight. Given the range of internal and external factors fuelling irregular migration, such strategies, if they are to succeed, will require the co-ordinated application of a broad range of foreign and development policy interventions, including trade, aid and good governance initiatives. It is in everyone's interest to work toward a future when everyone has the choice of staying in their homeland with the hope of a secure, safe and sustainable future.

Federal-Provincial Relations for Immigration

While the federal government exercises primary responsibility for immigration, it shares jurisdiction in this area with the provinces. Under the Immigration Act, the following are stipulated:

- requires consultations with provinces on immigration levels and on settlement measures;
- provides for federal-provincial agreements to facilitate the formulation, co-ordination and implementation of immigration policies and programs; and
- limits the authority of the federal government to the extent that provinces have selection powers (currently, Quebec is the only province with such powers).

Immigration agreements are currently in place with seven provinces (all but Ontario, British Columbia and

Manitoba), dating from the period 1978-85. They establish formal mechanisms for the provinces to express their views about levels, research and general immigration policies. In addition to these mechanisms, the agreement with Alberta provides for a larger consultative role and for co-ordination between federal and provincial settlement activities. In February, 1991, Quebec signed the most comprehensive agreement to date. The Accord specifically gives Quebec sole responsibility for selecting independent immigrants (with joint responsibility for selecting assisted relatives) and refugees abroad, as well as for providing basic integration services (linguistic, cultural, economic) for permanent residents of Quebec.

In December 1990, the Quebec government adopted a policy of immigration and integration, followed by an action plan in June 1991. The policy rests on the following objectives: demographic recovery of Quebec, economic prosperity, perpetuation of the French fact and openness to the rest of the world. From this perspective, its selection of immigrants aims to increase the percentage of immigrants who already know French; maximize economic spinoffs by the selection of independent immigrants; uphold family reunification and international adoption; receive refugees under the principle of international solidarity; and increase immigration volumes in accordance with needs and ability to receive. To this end, it has developed a series of instruments, including increased presence of its immigration services in about ten countries, and targeted itinerant missions enabling it to adjust its selection to suit the pace of international migratory movements.

Review of Canadian Immigration Program

Objectives

There are three main objectives of the immigration program set out in the Immigration Act. These are:

- family reunification;
- fulfilling Canada's international legal obligations and compassionate and humanitarian traditions with respect to refugees; and