

Goal 4: Implement the two Departments' priority commitments related to the World Summit on Sustainable Development: Johannesburg 2002

In 1992, the United Nations Conference on Environment and Development (UNCED) was held in Rio de Janeiro, Brazil. UNCED, also known as the "Earth Summit", brought global attention to the linkages between social, economic and environmental issues, and resulted in *Agenda 21*, a programme of actions to achieve SD in the 21st century.

To mark the 10 year anniversary of the Earth Summit, government, civil society and private sector representatives held the World Summit on Sustainable Development (WSSD) in Johannesburg, South Africa in August 2002. The international community gathered to review progress, discuss SD issues and to solidify an action plan for further implementation of *Agenda 21*. The result of the negotiations at the WSSD was the Johannesburg Plan of Implementation (JPOI), agreed to by participating governments.

Canadian preparations for, and participation in, the WSSD were coordinated by the Department of Foreign Affairs and International Trade (DFAIT), in cooperation with Environment Canada (EC) and the Canadian International Development Agency (CIDA). Efforts were made through the Canadian WSSD Secretariat to engage civil

society and business at all stages to build understanding among interested Canadians in WSSD objectives, outcomes and follow-up action. These efforts also provided the Government with the perspectives of civil society and the business community.

Since the Johannesburg Summit, the Secretariat and departments involved have analysed the JPOI and extracted 46 specific commitments for Canada from the 602 paragraphs. The Department of Foreign Affairs and the Department of International Trade have taken the lead on nine of those commitments, which are outlined in the following chart. The style of the chart is different from those of the three preceding goals because a decision was made for JPOI tracking purposes to include the exact wording of the JPOI commitments in the Objectives text. It should also be noted that the two Departments will participate in 24 other JPOI commitments, which are outlined in Appendix IV, *World Summit on Sustainable Development: Commitments in which the Departments of Foreign Affairs and International Trade are Participants*.

On the international level, follow-up to the WSSD is being overseen by the UN Commission on Sustainable Development