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- establish new ways to build longer-term linkages between Canadians and developing country partners to enhance their self reliance.

Improving effectiveness.

Canadians support international development; however, in a time of fiscal restraint, they are concerned that their investment in development cooperation achieves the best results possible and that Canada's ODA programs are as effective as they can be. To meet these concerns, the Government will take a number of steps to improve CIDA's operational efficiency. These steps, which will be part of CIDA's contribution to Government cost-cutting, will include the continued streamlining of the Agency's project approval and delivery process and measures to improve the cost-effectiveness of its administrative services.

The Government will work to strengthen **program coherence** among the foreign policy instruments pertaining to developing countries and to ensure that development programs and policies within countries and regions work together in a complementary way.

The Government is committed to **focussing** our efforts on a limited number of countries, while maintaining programs in other countries through low-cost, administratively-simple delivery mechanisms. We will also seek to build the capacity of developing countries to address a range of policy matters, such as human rights, including the rights of children, the environment, democratization, and the status of women.

Guidelines for Effective Programming will be adopted. These guidelines, which are based on the lessons of more than 40 years of development experience, will help to ensure that programming is based on:

- ***Developing country needs and participation:*** by responding to the needs and priorities of developing country partners and placing a strong emphasis on local participation and ownership in all stages of programming.
- ***Knowledge of the context:*** by basing program design on a thorough knowledge of local conditions and by drawing on the lessons learned, in order to inform policies and ongoing programming.
- ***Promoting self-sustaining activities:*** by focussing on achieving results that will continue to provide benefits to local citizens and sustain local support after Canadian support ends;