

Ongoing Global Agenda

International institutional reform

Canada believes that continued commitment is essential to revitalizing the United Nations and ensuring its relevance and effectiveness well into the next century. The Halifax and Lyon summits set a wide-ranging reform agenda to strengthen the UN and prepare it to meet new global challenges. The Denver Summit will provide an opportunity to build on these initiatives and outline future steps. Canada is working with other UN members to implement proposals to improve the organization.

Leaders agreed on a substantial reform agenda in the economic and social fields to help clarify the role of the UN in relation to the Bretton Woods institutions (International Monetary Fund and World Bank), to promote clearer mandates for UN bodies, to eliminate duplication, encourage better coherence and co-ordination of UN activities and increase the effectiveness of UN development programs.

In line with these commitments, Canada has pursued reforms to

- simplify the structure of the UN Secretariat involved in development;
- strengthen the Economic and Social Council;
- review the role of specialized agencies with a view to eliminating overlap;
- review the UN's funds and programs to promote better co-ordination of their activities in the field; and
- streamline the UN machinery in the economic and social areas.

Canada has supported ongoing reforms in various UN bodies such as the Economic and Social Council and its organs, and the UN Conference on Trade and Development, and has urged a sustained and expanded reform process.

Democracy, human rights and peacebuilding

The Lyon Summit noted that "democracy, human rights and good governance are indispensable components of development." At the Summit of the Eight in Denver, leaders will take up this same theme in seeking ways to better co-ordinate their efforts to assist transition to democracy, good governance and human rights around the world.

Human rights and democratic development have long been a major focus of Canadian development co-operation and diplomacy. The Government of Canada provides substantial support to initiatives in these areas through programs aimed