

Goal 3: Promote international security and respect for human rights, good governance and the rule of law as prerequisites for sustainable development

The tragic events of September 11 dispelled any lingering illusions that security issues could effectively be addressed in isolation. Events that take place outside Canada's borders affect the quality of life for Canadians. In an increasingly interdependent world, nations and their citizens are forced to reconsider how we manage our joint activities, advance our shared interests, and confront our common threats.

New kinds of post-Cold War threats have arisen from the potential proliferation of nuclear weapons and long-range missiles among hostile regimes or terrorist networks, as well as intra-state conflict which now forms the vast majority of conflicts. Political instability, poverty, resource scarcity and breakdown of ecological systems further exacerbate this new global context.

There is growing recognition that SD and issues of security are irrevocably intertwined. Security has come to be widely accepted as more than just the absence of conflict, but an understanding that lasting peace and prosperity requires a broader vision encompassing the non-proliferation of weapons, democracy and human rights, foundations of justice and good governance, eradication of poverty, gender equality, human health, and environmental protection.

The Department of Foreign Affairs is committed to progress in increasing human security and developing a peaceful, inclusive, rules-based international system reflecting Canadian values and one in which Canada and Canadians are secure. As the interface for much of Canada's international activity, the Department has an important opportunity to promote these values and to effect global change in international security, respect for human rights, good governance and the rule of law, as requisite foundations for advancing SD.

The equality of women is a fundamental element of Canada's foreign and domestic policies and of its overseas development assistance policy. This flows from a belief that equal rights for women are an essential component for progress in human rights and democratic development and that sustainable and equitable development will only be achieved if women are able to participate as equal decision makers in, and beneficiaries of, these processes. During recent cross-Canada dialogues with Canadians on updating Canada's foreign policy, there was overwhelming support for one that targets these key values.

In addition to continued active participation and support for multilateral fora such as the