

A MORE STRATEGIC FOCUS

With Canadian support, developing countries have been working to build stable and effective institutions, improve public sector management, reform their legal and judicial systems, protect human rights including the rights of children, strengthen local civil society and carry out post-conflict peacebuilding. The 2004 elections in Ukraine demonstrated the difference that international participation can make, helping to tip the balance when democracy is contested.

Governance is a broad field. We will focus our efforts, taking into account the criteria of contribution to the MDGs, country needs and priorities, and an effective role for Canada.

Canada Corps will mobilize Canadians to promote good governance on two substantive levels. The first is at the level of statehood—such as governments, courts, and elections. The second involves those institutions that underpin any successful society—systems for health, education, justice, social development and environmental sustainability, as well as the relationship between the State and citizens. (For more details on Canada Corps, please see page 28.)

Through Canada Corps and other channels, the Government will build programming in governance around five main pillars:

- **Democratization.** Canada has been a visible supporter of electoral democracy internationally over the past decade, most recently in Ukraine and Iraq. Future democratization programming will include strengthening democratic institutions and practices, including electoral and legislative systems, citizen engagement (particularly by women) and the role of civil society in the political process.
- **Human rights.** Effectively tackling poverty reduction requires an understanding of issues of discrimination and exclusion. Future programming will include support for the promotion and implementation of human rights, including the rights of women and of children, particularly those affected by conflict, gender-based violence and natural disasters. Canada has a long history of targeting efforts to reach marginalized children, those who often cannot be reached through regular development programming. The Government will build on and integrate the child-

protection experience, research, and tools developed in recent years.

- **Rule of law.** Based on strong Canadian capacity and an international reputation for work in this area, programming will support legal/judicial reform with a focus on institutions, including strengthening the judiciary, the Bar and legal-aid systems.
- **Public sector institution and capacity building.** Development success depends on an effective public sector, as Canada's own experience has demonstrated. Canadian-supported programming will help build core institutions and technical and managerial competencies, including oversight, accountability and anti-corruption measures.
- **Conflict prevention, peacebuilding, and security-sector reform.** The Government recognizes that the costs of rebuilding after conflict are much greater than the investment of effective development cooperation programs that reduce poverty, inequality, exclusion and environmental degradation. As a result, we are already engaged in conflict prevention, post-conflict reconciliation and peacebuilding around the world. Canadian expertise in these areas has been widely sought for decades, based on Canada's founding role and long experience in peacekeeping. Future programming will include integrating conflict indicators and early warning systems; demobilization of former combatants; truth and reconciliation commissions, small-arms collection programs; and policing, transparency and oversight of security organs.

Improving governance is one of the essential cornerstones of development progress, and thus of good development cooperation. It must stand on firm foundations, built up over time in each society. But it cannot stand alone. All experience shows that basic education and health are not only crucial goals in their own right, but they are also vital pre-conditions for effective participation in governance and the economy, especially by the disadvantaged. Building durable development thus means working on these key social pillars, together with an environment for expanding economic opportunities and better governance. The Canadian program will focus on strengthening each of these in specific areas where Canada has proven capacities to respond to developing countries' needs.