

5.12 The Committee believes that Canadian assistance continues to be too dispersed and recommends that a greater share of ODA should go to fewer countries, bearing in mind the primary purpose of the aid program. In choosing its list of recipients, Canada should maintain the current high share of assistance to Africa, review the balance of ODA allocations for other regions, and work closely with other donors to strengthen the co-ordination and complementarity of international assistance as a whole.

Response

The Government agrees that the effectiveness of ODA can be enhanced by concentrating on a more limited number of priorities and achieving greater targeting and co-ordination of assistance.

Canada does, however, have important interests in all areas of the world. The Government believes that a major portion of ODA resources should be focused on a limited number of countries, with programs maintained in other countries through low-cost, administratively simple delivery mechanisms.

The Government is in full agreement that Africa should continue to receive the highest proportion of ODA. Regional allocations will be reviewed on a regular basis.

Within the OECD and other consultative groups as well as with other donors, Canada will continue to play a lead role in improving the co-ordination and coherence of development assistance. The Government will take steps to strengthen consultations with Canadian development partners and also to ensure greater co-ordination between the various foreign policy instruments that have a bearing on development.