

Canada will increase its funding of key international institutions needed to promote multilateral solutions to environmental problems. These include:

- the United Nations Environment Program, which, as the principal environmental agency within the United Nations, promotes international co-operation in matters relating to the environment and advances multilateral negotiations on priority issues;
- the World Meteorological Organization (WMO), which facilitates worldwide co-operation on meteorology and climatology services;
- the International Union for Conservation of Nature and Natural Resources (IUCN), which promotes international co-operation on the conservation, protection and management of nature; and
- the UNESCO World Heritage Committee and the International Maritime Organization (IMO), which help maintain world cultural and natural heritage sites and protect the marine environment.

DEVELOPING INTERNATIONAL PARTNERSHIPS

Canada recognizes that protecting the global environment is a shared responsibility and that all countries must be partners in solving world environmental problems. For example, partnerships between rich and poor countries must be strengthened to ensure that developing countries are able to follow environmentally sustainable development paths. The full participation of developing countries in international agreements to curtail carbon dioxide emissions, promote sustainable forestry or conserve the oceans and their living resources requires financial and technological help from the developed countries.

A prime example of this is the Multilateral Fund, established under the Montreal Protocol on Substances that Deplete the Ozone Layer. The Montreal Protocol provides an international framework and timetable by which countries have agreed to substitute more benign chemical products for chlorofluorocarbons and other substances that damage the ozone layer. But it is expensive to make these substitutions — an expense that developing countries can hardly afford. The Multilateral Fund, set at US\$ 240 million for the first three years, will enable these countries to participate in international efforts to protect the ozone layer by helping them acquire the necessary technologies.

Canada's contribution to the Fund has already been approved at \$15 million over three years, including support to establish the UN Secretariat for the Fund, which will be located in Montreal. Canada will support similar funding arrangements under future international environmental agreements.