

## Assessing Agenda 2003: A Summary

Within the framework of *Agenda 2003: A Sustainable Development Strategy for the Department of Foreign Affairs and International Trade* there were many notable achievements. Personnel can take pride in the groundwork, international negotiating and often leadership role they assumed that culminated in the:

1. *Stockholm Convention on Persistent Organic Pollutants* (2001) that is expected to influence the global reduction, and where possible, the elimination of a number of major persistent organic pollutants.
2. *Amendments to the International Boundary Waters Treaty Act* (2001) that prohibit the bulk removal of water from all major Canadian water basins.
3. *Cartagena Protocol on Biosafety* (2001) that seeks to protect biological diversity from the potential risks posed by living modified organisms resulting from modern biotechnology.
4. *Rome Statute of the International Criminal Court* (2002) that will advance human security through its jurisdiction over genocide, crimes against humanity and war crimes as well as developments under international law for victims and children's rights as well as gender justice.
5. *Canadian ratification of the Kyoto Protocol* (2002), a major step for Canada in reversing the current trend of global warming.
6. *FAO International Plan of Action on Illegal, Unregulated and Unreported Fishing* that provides guidance in the prevention, deterrence and elimination of illegal, unregulated and unreported fishing.

7. *Framework for the Environmental Assessment of Trade Negotiations*, a tool for conducting environmental assessments of the WTO and other international trade negotiations.
8. *Corporate Social Responsibility* (CSR) included in the 2001 Summit of the Americas Action Plan, and the subject of a first hemispheric conference (2002). CSR is a valuable SD tool that encourages companies to pay closer attention to stakeholder relationships in social, economic and environmental areas of concern.
9. *Johannesburg Plan of Implementation* emanating from the World Summit on Sustainable Development (2002) that sets out priorities and specific actions in a wide range of sustainable development sectors for all participant countries.

The achievements above relate to just 9 of the 68 commitments in *Agenda 2003*, 56 of which are fully completed at the time of this publication.

In the interests of gaining a better understanding of the relative effectiveness of *Agenda 2003*, an assessment has been completed. The assessors included the DFAIT SD Task Force, the officers responsible for reporting annual progress on *Agenda 2003* commitments, participants at internal and external consultations, and an outside consultant. While the full assessment report can be found in Appendix I\*, a summary of the four sections of the report is provided below.

The first section, *Sustainable Development and DFAIT*, examines how SD was integrated into business lines and identifies some of the challenges that remain. It notes that while substantial progress has been made on individual departmental strategies, many federal